

The use of Paraquat at United Plantations

Strict safety guidelines are in place when employees work with the herbicide Paraquat. During the last many decades United Plantations has not had any serious incidents with this usage.

Paraquat is one of the most widely used herbicides in the world. It is used to suppress weed growth in the field thus protecting crop production.

Over the years United Plantations has implemented initiatives to reduce the usage of Paraquat which has now declined to around 5% of our total usage of pesticides.

In this connection the Board of United Plantations has agreed to totally cease using Paraquat from the 1st of January 2011. This goal will be met.

- Paraquat is a broad spectrum herbicide, killing green plant tissue on contact. In nature Paraquat breaks down to un-harmful substances very quickly.
- In Malaysia and Indonesia palm oil producers are by law permitted to use Paraquat.
- The Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) does not forbid the use of Paraquat but insists on a continuous improvement program to gradually phase out its use.
- In the EU, Paraquat was used until 2007. Since then the usage within the EU has been forbidden.
- Paraquat is one of the most used herbicides globally, used in more than 100 countries to protect major crops like corn, soy, apples, bananas, olives, oranges – and also oil palms, rubber and coconuts.
- Already today the use of Paraquat at United Plantations is reduced to approximately 5% of its total pesticide usage. Its use has always been under very strict safety regulations.
- During the last many decades United Plantations has not had any serious incidents with this usage.
- As Paraquat is only used to protect the immature plants it has never been a food safety issue. Our Customers have an extensive monitoring program covering all relevant risk factors of the palm oil from United Plantations. In this program they have never detected Paraquat in any palm oil from United Plantations.
- United Plantations believes in full openness and the absolute importance of correctly handling any use of Paraquat.
- The Board of United Plantations has agreed to totally cease using Paraquat from the 1st of January 2011.