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Driving Sustainability: Waste Management and Agro-Ecotourism in Sabah's Oil Palm Sector

Che Wan Nur Safraa and Albattat Ahmad

This chapter examines sustainable waste management behaviours (SWMB) within the oil palm industry, namely through a case study of oil palm mills in Sabah, Malaysia. It analyses the determinants affecting the adoption of ecologically sustainable waste management strategies, including attitudes towards sustainability, societal norms, and perceived behavioural control. The chapter examines the obstacles and advantages of these approaches, highlighting their potential to improve agro-ecotourism and bolster the local economy. Furthermore, it underscores the significance of stakeholder collaboration and community engagement in advancing sustainable waste management in the oil palm industry.

Introduction

The worldwide oil palm sector plays a crucial role in economic advancement while also posing environmental issues. Palm oil, one of the most extensively farmed crops, particularly in tropical regions such as Malaysia, functions as a fundamental raw resource for many products, including food, cosmetics, and biofuels. The swift proliferation of oil palm farming has resulted in significant environmental issues, especially concerning waste handling. Effective and sustainable waste management strategies are essential for alleviating the environmental consequences of this sector.

Sabah, a prominent palm oil-producing state in Malaysia, provides a distinctive framework for analysing sustainable waste management. The environmental health of the region is profoundly linked to the garbage generated by its 133 operational oil palm mills. The management of palm oil mill effluent (POME) and biomass waste poses significant difficulties and potential for sustainability.