

Eagle High Plantations

Visible Improvement in Operations and Sustainability

We recently visited BWPT's plantation managed by its subsidiary PT Jaya Mandiri Sukses (JMS) in Samarinda, East Kalimantan, covering a full breadth of the company's upstream and midstream CPO supply chain and gaining a first-hand perspective on its operational capabilities, EUDR compliance approach, and commitment to sustainable and community-oriented practices.

Anchored at Mahakam

Upon arriving at Samarinda, we took a 2.5-3 hour drive from the airport to our first destination, which was the Mahakam bulking station. This facility functions as the primary logistical endpoint in the company's CPO distribution chain, aggregating output from the processing mill before onward shipment via river transport. The facility holds up to 10k MT across two storage tanks, segregated between EUDR and non-EUDR product, and dispatches shipments via its river jetty approximately once every ten days. The EUDR is a legally binding EU regulation that requires companies to prove their commodities are free from deforestation through plot-level traceability, for exports to the European market. This differs from voluntary RSPO certification, which covers a broader set of environmental and social sustainability standards but does not carry the same legal weight as a condition of EU market access.

Estate Operations Walkthrough – A Prudent Approach to Improving Future FFB Yield

The day opened with a visit to the oil palm nursery, where seedlings progress through a pre-nursery and nursery stage before field transplantation, with watering carefully calibrated at each phase and genetic selection maintained throughout to ensure only healthy, high-yielding material enters the plantation. This level of care at the earliest stage of the value chain reflects BWPT's disciplined agronomic approach. Management highlighted that several blocks within the JMS estate are achieving FFB yields of ~23 MT/Ha, providing a benchmark for the broader estate. Ongoing agronomic improvements are focused on replicating these best-performing practices across the remaining blocks, which management expects will support a gradual uplift in overall estate productivity over time. Ripe FFB are manually harvested using long-handled sickles with ripeness assessed carefully at the point of cutting, before each batch is scanned and recorded in real time via a QR code and AI-based documentation system that creates a traceable supply chain link in support of BWPT's EUDR compliance obligations, and subsequently loaded onto dump trucks via a palm crane fitted with a scissor dump system. On the agronomic side, empty fruit bunches from the mill are applied as organic mulch alongside scheduled NPK fertilizer applications, while barn owls bred on-estate are deployed across the plantation to control rat populations, reducing reliance on chemical rodenticides.

Update on El Nino

The conditions on the ground reflected what site personnel described as the early onset of a potential El Niño. The heat was immediately palpable upon arrival, and the roads leading to the plantation were dusty, a telling sign of how dry the area had been. We were told that when rain does come, it tends to be brief, typically lasting between 15 and 30 minutes, and patchy enough that not all areas receive coverage at the same time. To mitigate the effects of El Niño, BWPT implemented a water retention system across the estate whereby small dams are constructed along each plantation block, designed so that excess water overflows naturally while a portion is retained within the area, allowing it to seep gradually into the soil and maintain ground moisture levels during dry spells. Water levels are monitored on a regular basis as part of the company's drought mitigation measures, and should levels fall too low, water can be pumped in from a reservoir to sustain the plantation through a prolonged dry period. Management expected the peak of El Niño to occur around August-September, with effects potentially lasting until 2027F and may marginally affect FFB yield.

New operated mill

The visit concluded at the processing mill, which recently expanded to two milling lines: the original 60 tph line dedicated exclusively to EUDR compliant FFB, and a newly commissioned 30 tph extension handling non-EUDR fruit alongside plasma smallholder and third parties supply, mirroring the same compliance segregation seen at the bulking station. This 30 tph extension adds ~7.5% towards the existing installed capacity of 400 tph. CPO production follows a sequential process in which incoming FFB is sterilized under high pressure steam to soften the fruitlets and loosen them from the bunch, before passing through a thresher, digester, and presser to extract the crude oil, which is then clarified through settling, centrifugation, and drying to yield the final CPO ready for storage and onward transport.

Walking the Streets



Mahakam Bulking Station



Watering the Pre-Nursery Oil Palm



Numbers on the Field



BLOK		W0043	
TAHUN TANAM		2007	
LUAS		25,80 Ha	
JENIS BIBIT		SOCF	
TAHUN	YPH(TON/Ha)	TBS	CPO
2023	28.50	7.13	
2024	24.86	6.22	
2025	25.38	6.35	
2026			

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Mahakam Bulking Station

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At its core are two large capacity CPO storage tanks, each with a holding capacity of 5,000 MT, bringing the facility's total storage to 10,000 MT, and the two tanks are operationally segregated according to regulatory compliance status, with one dedicated exclusively to CPO that satisfies the traceability and sustainability requirements of EUDR and the other receiving CPO destined for markets outside the regulation's scope.

Onward shipment takes place via a dedicated river jetty adjacent to the facility. We observed that the river water level stood at approximately 13.2 meters, a level that site personnel indicated to be relatively elevated despite early signs of El Nino is already looming. Shipments depart on a cycle of roughly once every ten days, a cadence maintained steadily since the start of the year, reflecting a steady and reliable throughput of CPO from the plantation.

Figure 1. CPO Storage Tank



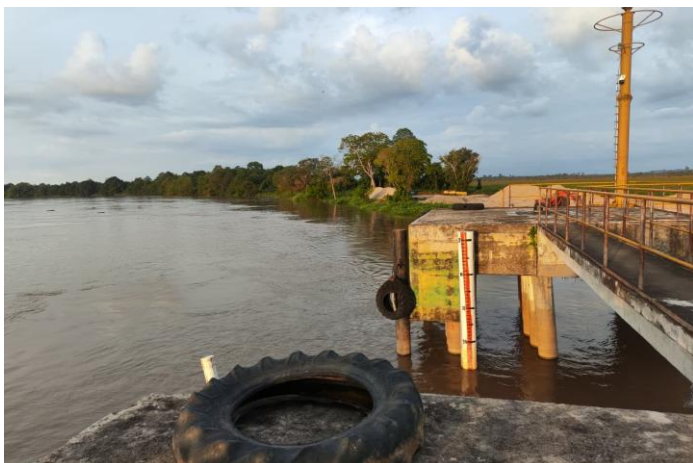
Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 2. Discharging CPO into the tank



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 3. Jetty



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 4. Operations in Mahakam Bulking



Source: Trimegah Research

Plantation

The day commenced at the oil palm nursery, where BWPT manages seedling development across two sequential stages, the pre-nursery and nursery stages, before transplantation into the main plantation field. The pre-nursery stage involves the initial germination and early-growth management of oil palm seeds in a controlled environment. Seeds are individually planted in small polybags of 10cm in diameter. Particular attention was given to the irrigation and watering techniques employed at this early stage. Water delivery is carefully managed to provide consistent, measured moisture to each seedling.

Upon reaching sufficient size, typically after two to three months, seedlings are now in the nursery stage, where they continue to grow in larger polybags of 30cm in diameter. This stage lasts approximately nine to twelve months in total before the seedlings are ready for field transplantation. Throughout both stages, quality control and genetic selection are key priorities to ensure healthy and high-yielding material is planted.

Figure 5. Pre-Nursery



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 6. Nursery



Source: Trimegah Research

We were given a comprehensive overview of the FFB harvesting process during the walk, encompassing the entire workflow from harvesting, fertilizer application, to transporting the FFB to the mill. The plantation itself is situated in a low-lying area, a topographic characteristic that facilitates efficient logistics and supports the estate's overall water and drainage management. Dust-laden roads and relentless heat were observed throughout the visit, with site personnel attributing the dry conditions to the early onset of El Niño. Rain still fell on a daily basis, usually lasting around 15-30 minutes, though not in a range wide enough to cover the whole estate.

During harvest, ripe FFB are manually reaped by trained field harvesters using long-handled sickles, with ripeness assessed carefully at the point of cutting since it affects oil extraction rates and free fatty acid content. A notable feature of BWPT's harvesting operations is the deployment of a digital documentation system integrating QR codes and AI to scan and record each harvested batch in real time, creating a traceable link back through the supply chain that supports the company's EUDR compliance obligations. The FFB is then loaded onto the dump bed of a dump truck with the help of a palm crane with a scissor dump system that lifts the container vertically to speed up loading.

Figure 7. Dump Bed



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 8. Palm Crane with Scissor Dump System



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 9. Lifting the Container



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 10. Sample QR Code Usage in the Estate



Source: Trimegah Research

We also had the opportunity to observe both organic and inorganic fertilization programmes in active operation during the field visit. For organic fertilization, BWPT applied empty fruit bunches as organic mulch around the base of the oil palm trees. This practice delivers a range of agronomic benefits, namely the empty fruit bunches decompose gradually to release nutrients into the soil, improving the soil structure and retain moisture. This is one of the ways by which BWPT reuses wastes coming from its mill. For inorganic fertilization, NPK fertilizer is applied on a programmatic schedule to supplement soil nutrients and support optimal palm productivity. This is done using a fertilizer spreader, ensuring a uniform and precise application across soil.

Figure 11. Organic Fertilizer Application



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 12. Inorganic Fertilizer Application



Source: Trimegah Research

One of the ways BWPT is executing its biological pest control is via operating an active barn owl breeding and field deployment programme as a cornerstone of its integrated pest management strategy. By breeding barn owls in controlled enclosures on the estate and systematically releasing them across the plantation, the company leverages the owl's natural predatory behaviour to suppress rat populations, considered among the most economically damaging pests in oil palm cultivation.

Update on El Nino

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CPO Processing Mill

The latter part of the day was spent at the processing mill, which had recently undergone a significant capacity expansion. The estate now operates two distinct milling lines: the original facility, running at 60 tph, which is exclusively dedicated to processing EUDR-compliant FFB; and a newly commissioned extension with a capacity of 30 tph, which handles non-EUDR FFB alongside output from plasma smallholders and third parties. The segregation of milling lines mirrors the tank segregation at the bulking station, ensuring that the integrity of the EUDR supply chain is preserved at every stage of processing.

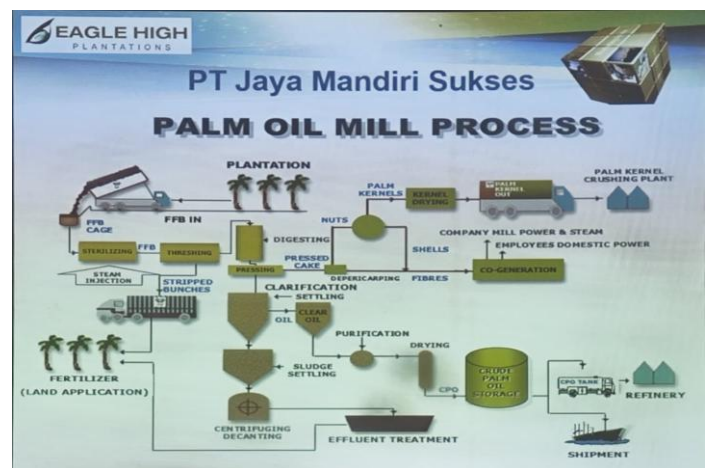
The CPO production process follows a well-established sequence of unit operations, each of which was observed during the mill tour. Incoming FFB is loaded into vertical sterilizers and subjected to high-pressure steam. This sterilization step helps soften the fruitlets to facilitate oil release during pressing and loosens the fruit from the bunch stalk to aid threshing. The sterilized bunches are then fed into a rotating drum thresher, which mechanically separates the individual fruitlets from the empty fruit bunches. The detached fruitlets then passed through a digester and a presser, which extracts the CPO from the fruitlets under high mechanical pressure. The output from pressing is a crude press liquor alongside a press cake comprising palm kernel and fibre. The crude press liquor is then directed to the clarification station, where it undergoes a series of settling, centrifugation, and drying steps to separate the palm oil from residual water, fine solids, and non-oil impurities. The output of this process is the final CPO product, ready for storage and onward transport to the bulking station.

Figure 13. Bangkirai Mill Overview



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 14. CPO Mill Process



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 15. CPO Mill Storage Tank



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 16. A Tour around the Mill



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 17. Sterilizer



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 18. Thresher



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 19. First-Hand Look into the Sterilization Process



Source: Trimegah Research

Figure 20. CPO Dispatch Station



Source: Trimegah Research

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