

CoreFour Consulting

<u>Team Member</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major</u>
Micah Bayle	3rd	International Business
Jessica Kaszubski	2nd	Economics & Business Management
Dasha Krumer	2nd	Business Administration - Real Estate
Jaïm Steele	3rd	Economics & Sustainability Studies

Advisor(s): Dr. Brian Ray

Topic Title: “Forest to Table: A Sustainable Future for Palm Oil”

Audience: Cargill, Inc. Executive Team

Sustainable Development Goal

SDG # 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

SDG # 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Executive Summary

Palm oil is the most widely used vegetable oil in the world, appearing in over 50% of all consumer products, yet its production is a major driver of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation. Cargill, the largest private American company, is a dominant force in the industry, and has faced extensive scrutiny due to its association with unsustainable palm oil practices. This negative reputation poses long-term financial and operational risks, as global regulations tighten and consumer preferences shift towards more sustainable options.

As long as palm oil remains in demand, so will the need for alternatives that bypass oil palms and their environmental costs. To safeguard its market position and promote long-term profitability, Cargill must transition toward affordable synthetic palm oil alternatives. Advancements in biotechnologies have resulted in synthetic palm oil derived from yeast, presenting a viable, scalable, and eco-friendly solution. We recommend Cargill adopt these technologies, using synthetic palm oil biotechnologies to align with their sustainability goals, maintain market competitiveness, and gain a first-mover advantage in an industry that is rapidly evolving. By leveraging its existing resources and supply chain expertise, Cargill can integrate synthetic palm oil production into its operations, reducing environmental harm while securing its leadership in a more sustainable agricultural future.