

THROUGH TIME

CHESTER ZOO



ORIGINS

It's originally from West Africa and has been **INTRODUCED TO SE ASIA**. There's also a *distinct* but closely related species native to *Latin America*.

People in **WEST AFRICA** were farming palm oil as early as about **3,500 YEARS AGO**

ALL of the palm oil trees in SE Asia are descended from the seeds of **ONLY FOUR TREES PLANTED IN JAVA IN 1848**

3200BC

Palm oil residue has been found in **5,000 YEAR OLD EGYPTIAN TOMBS**



James Welsh first brought **32 BARRELS** of palm oil to England in 1590



19TH CENTURY

By early 19th Century, palm oil was used to make **SOAP** and **CANDLES**, later it was used for **HEATING** and **COOKING** and in products ranging from **DYNAMITE** to **MARGARINE**



TODAY

IT IS NOW ESTIMATED THAT PALM OIL HAS BECOME THE **MOST WIDELY USED VEGETABLE OIL IN THE WORLD**

65% OF THE VEGETABLE OIL TRADE IS PALM OIL



50% of products in a weekly supermarket shop **CONTAIN PALM OIL**



1930-2000

THE PRODUCTION OF PALM OIL RAPIDLY INCREASED **WORLD TRADE**

250,000 tons/year → **50 MILLION** tons/year

due to the development of industrial techniques and an increasing worldwide demand for oil

2020

World production of palm oil is expected to **INCREASE** to **60 MILLION** tonnes by 2020

Worldwide **DEMAND FOR OIL** **KEEPS INCREASING**

and is expected to reach **240 MILLION** tonnes by 2050. **IF PALM OIL ISN'T PRODUCED SUSTAINABLY** TO MEET THIS DEMAND, other crops **MORE DEMANDING ON THE ENVIRONMENT** will take its place

