The palm oil industry has grown to become a very important component of Malaysia's agriculture sector. Oil palm covers nearly a third of Malaysia's total cultivated area and contribute about 10% of the country's export earnings. Palm oil has become a major commodity in the world market for oils and fats. Malaysia is not only the leading exporter of palm oil but also the largest single exporter of oils and fats in the world.

The paper discusses recent developments in the Malaysian palm oil industry with reference to agriculture, milling, refining, quality assurance, product development, nutrition, downstream activity and by-product exploitation. These developments are being undertaken to ensure the continued success of the Malaysian palm oil industry.