

Unilever response to grievances raised against Astra Agro Lestari

WALHI and the wider Friends of the Earth network raised grievances against palm oil producer Astra Agro Lestari (AAL) and its subsidiaries PT Agro Nusa Abadi, PT Lestari Tana Teladan, and PT Mamuang regarding alleged human rights violations and environmental degradation in Central and West Sulawesi.

AAL is not a direct supplier to Unilever. However, as a major palm oil buyer, we see our role in helping find solutions to grievances in the landscapes where we source, as a critical part of our wider work to transform the industry for the better.

Where there is evidence of positive engagement by suppliers on issues raised, we believe it's important to leverage that in a participatory approach, engaging with relevant stakeholders to obtain a clear understanding of the matter. The ultimate objective of this approach is to support a pathway towards an independent mediation process and find solutions for all parties involved.

We have had regular and constructive dialogues with Friends of the Earth about the allegations against AAL. Alongside our engagement with Friends of the Earth, Unilever has convened several meetings with both AAL and EcoNusantara – an independent third-party contracted to investigate the allegations and facilitate the implementation of an associated action plan.

While we acknowledge the concerns of stakeholders with regards to the investigation processes, we recognise that progress has been made. We appreciate and are encouraged by the ongoing engagement from the Government of Indonesia at various levels.

We also welcome AAL's open invitation for all parties including civil society to engage through a mutually agreed third-party mediator. We see fair and impartial dialogue as the critical instrument for delivering a just and equitable resolution.

Unilever would like to underscore the critical importance for all parties to the grievances, including WALHI and the wider Friends of the Earth network, to be engaged constructively, and for the continued leadership and involvement of the Government of Indonesia at appropriate levels in the process.

Unilever will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders to help create the most conducive space for these important conversations.

For more information about our approach to sustainable palm oil see our [website](#).