



| Rediscover Palm By-Products

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# Post-Conference Report

1<sup>st</sup> World Conference on By-Products of Palm Trees and their Applications

15 – 17 December 2018 | Aswan, Egypt

## EVENT SUMMARY

### Conference Organizers

The main organizing institution is the Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University in Cairo – Egypt.

Conference Chairman, Professor Dr. Hamed El-Mously, Ain Shams University

Conference Co-chair, Dr. Mohamad Midani, German University in Cairo

### Funding and Technical Support

The event was supported by funding from;

- The Egyptian Ministry of Environment
- The Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Misr El Kheir Foundation
- The European Union

Academic Sponsors;

- Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) office in Cairo
- Clusters of Scientific Innovation in the Middle East and North Africa (COSIMENA)

The event was supported technically by;

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

### Venue

Helnan Aswan Hotel and Convention Center, Aswan, Egypt

### Number of Attendees

250+ attendees registered for the conference, from 94 research institutions, companies, NGOs and international organizations, representing more than 30 countries.

## OVERVIEW

Over the three days of the conference, 15-17 December 2018, ByPalma brought together scientists, experts, researchers, palm growers, designers, artisans, and policy makers. ByPalma combined expert short presentations by specialists with structured discussion panels on palm by-products utilization.

The objective of the conference was threefold:

1. To bring together leading academic scientists, researchers, artisans, entrepreneurs and industry professionals active in the area of palm by-products R&D, manufacturing, and crafts from all around the globe to exchange recent developments, technologies, innovations, trends, concerns, challenges and opportunities.
2. To rediscover palm by-products and maximize their added-value and create an economical resource that can help in the sustainable development of vast rural areas in different countries in the world.
3. To establish an international network of scientists, artisans, and industry professionals active in the area of palm by-products R&D, manufacturing, and crafts.

### Conference Format

The three-days conference comprised a welcome note, 7 plenary sessions, 6 discussion panels, 5 keynote talks, and poster session. In addition to other concurrent events such as, Palm By-Products Innovation Exhibition, Palm By-Products Photo Gallery, and the finals of Zero Agro“Waste” Competition.

40 oral presenters, 10 poster presenters, 5 keynote speakers, 6 panel moderators and 24 panelists.

The conference was structured to foster discussion between participants around the core themes of the conference which is “Rediscovering Palm By-products”. This was achieved by the discussion after each talk and during the discussion panels. Moreover, each day of the conference also allotted 75 minutes for lunch, and 30 minutes for morning and afternoon coffee breaks to allow participants to continue their discussions after each session.

### Opening

The opening of the conference started by the National Anthem of Egypt, followed by a welcome message by the conference chairman Prof. Dr. Hamed El-Mously. Dr. El-Mously invited the VIP attendees and representative from government agencies, and international organizations to give an opening message. The sequence of the opening messages was as follow;

- Representative of the Egyptian Engineering Syndicate
- Dr. Hussein Gadin – FAO Representative in Egypt
- Representative of the Ministry of Environment
- Representative of the Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Representative of Ain Shams University
- H.E. Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ghallab, president of Aswan University
- H.E. General Ahmed Ibrahim, Governor of Aswan
- H.E. General Mohamed El-Zamlout, Governor of New-Valley.

The opening was followed by a keynote talk by the conference Chairman on “Rediscovering Date Palm By-Products: An Opportunity for Sustainable Development” and then a talk by Dr. Irene Xiarchos, FAO regional office NENA on the “FAO Contributions to the Bioeconomy”.

### Conference Topics

The 7 plenary sessions were classified based on the applications of the palm by-products as follow;

1. Sustainable Energy and Bio-Fertilizers
2. Bio-Composites
3. Wood Alternatives and Panels
4. Bio-Medicine and Bio-Technology
5. Fiber, Paper and Textiles
6. Food Applications
7. Design and Architecture

The discussion panels were based on emerging trends and issues related to palm by-products utilization, as follow;

1. Government Vision and Policies on the Utilization of Palm By-Products
2. Role of Design in Rediscovering Palm By-Products
3. Inclusive Innovation in Agro Waste Management: Focus on Palms
4. Present Status and Future Prospects of Date Palm By-products Utilization
5. Present Status and Future Prospects of Oil Palm By-products Utilization
6. Palm By-Product Development: Social and Economic Opportunities

This panel was developed and moderated by FAO, the moderator was Dr. Mohamed Yacoub, Assistant FAO Representative in Egypt, and included prominent panelists to discuss the social and economic opportunities involved with palm by-products development. Following is the list of panelists;

- Irene Xiarchos, FAO
- Annachiara Scandone, UNIDO
- Sosal Art Center
- Napata
- Jereed

### **Registration**

Registration for the conference was open to academics, researchers, students, industry professionals, artisans, designers, government officials, and palm growers from around the world. Registration was opened online on [bypalma.com](http://bypalma.com) through bank transfer, and online payment, as well as on-site. A number of complimentary free registration was offered to the organizing committee members, scientific committee members, sponsors and guest speakers. Discounted registration (50% off) was offered to participants from African countries and students, in addition to, a special registration rate was offered to Egyptian participants and delegates (85% off).

### **Social Programme**

Social Gathering on the Nile Terrace, all conference participants were invited to attend the social gathering in the evening following the second day programme.

Day Tour in Aswan, an optional payed tour in Aswan attractions was administered on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the conference, the tour included the Botanical Island, Philae Temple, and the Nubian Village.

### **Media Coverage**

The conference had very good media coverage from many specialized as well as main stream media, including, CBC Xtra, Shrouk News, Al-Ahram, SciDev, Abudhabi News, Al-Ain, Al-masry Al-youm, Asharq Al Awsat, Alfalah Alyoum, Scientific Arab...etc.

### **Published Proceedings**

Papers abstracts were printed in a book of abstract and distributed among all conference attendees, moreover, full papers will be published in the periodical "Materials Research Proceedings" as an open access, indexed in CPCI part of the web of science

## CONCURRENT EVENTS

### **Palm By-products Innovation Exhibition**

The exhibition showcased traditional and modern products and crafts made from palm by-products. The exhibition included more than 30 exhibitors in addition to the entries of the Zero Agro“Waste” Competition winners.

### **Palm By-Products Photo Gallery**

A photo gallery with more than 200 photos showcasing the culture of utilization of palm by-products in Egypt. The gallery included photos from the ancient Egyptian era, traditional crafts, and modern products and practices.

### **Zero Agrowaste Competition**

Young researchers and artisans from around the globe were invited to showcase their innovative products and creative crafts from palm by-products. The competition followed the same theme of the conference which is rediscovering palm by-products as a resource for the sustainable development of rural communities.

10 finalists from 7 countries have been selected to pitch their projects at the finals at ByPalma Conference. The pitches were juried by experts from the conference in addition to the conference attendees. Plaques were awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Issuing of legislations to encourage palm owners to regularly prune and serve palms
2. Support of civil societies in recycling palm byproducts.
3. Assessment of the palm by-products value chain with the purpose of identifying the best avenues of utilization of these by-products.
4. Conduction of technical & economic feasibility studies to identify projects to be established using the palm byproducts.
5. Dissemination of technologies & business incubators to support entrepreneurs to adopt new projects based on palm byproducts.
6. Documentation, collection and preservation of cultural and technical heritage, associated the palm by-products.
7. Provision of support and Venture capitals for new projects associated with palm by-products.
8. Conduction of studies to evaluate the available quantities of palm by-products nationally, regionally and internationally.
9. Call for designers to get in live interaction to rediscover the identity of their native palm by-products for sustainable development.
10. Establishment of awareness programs of the economic and developmental value of palm by-products as a renewable sustainable material base.
11. Establishment of the first of its kind in the world association for palm by-products to guarantee the efforts, devoted to the propagation of use of palm by-products for sustainable development.
12. Continuation of holding by-Palma conferences for the sake of support of use of palm by-products for sustainable development on the global level.