

Short Communication

THE OIL IS FOR BURNING!!

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Palm Oil and its Products as Boiler Fuel

An interesting development concerning the uses of palm oil was the decision taken early in 1986 by one of the leading Malaysian palm oil refineries to convert its steam boiler plant to burn palm oil products instead of the conventional mineral fuel oils.

The economics of the exercise can best be judged by comparing the prices of palm oil products with that of the fuel oil previously used, as shown below. All the prices given are per tonne as quoted on 3 March 1986.

Crude Palm Oil	—	M\$ 425
Crude Palm Stearin	—	M\$ 315
Palm Acid Oil	—	M\$ 120
Mineral Fuel Oil	—	M\$ 446 (Ex Refinery)

It is interesting to note that the calorific value of the palm oil products is only 7% less than that of the fuel oil normally used.

Extensive tests have apparently shown that any of the above palm products can be used as boiler fuel with excellent results. The conversion of a plant to handle palm products can be carried out very quickly; the modifications necessary and the costs involved are minimal.

If this scheme was adopted throughout Malaysia then perhaps the world at large would no longer be able to run away with palm products at a price well below the cost of production.