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Nota di contenuto	The Oil Palm; Contents; Preface to the fourth edition; Preface to the third edition; Preface to the second edition; Preface to the first edition; Acknowledgements; Abbreviations; 1. The origin and development of the oil palm industry; 1.1 Origin of the oil palm; 1.1.1 Physical evidence; 1.1.2 Historical evidence; 1.1.3 Natural habitat; 1.2 The oil palm in africa; 1.2.1 Geographical distribution; 1.2.2 African palm groves; 1.2.3 Early trade; 1.2.4 Development, use and improvement of the African palm groves; 1.3 Development of the oil palm plantation industry 1.3.1 The African plantation industry1.3.2 The Deli palm; 1.3.3 The Asian plantation industry; 1.4 World-wide development of the industry, 1950-2001; 1.4.1 General; 1.4.2 Price structures and competitiveness; 1.4.2.1 Changes in the past; 1.4.2.2 Future changes; 1.4.2.3 Competition between regions; 1.4.2.4 Competition between products; 1.4.3 Single-country developments; 1.4.3.1 Indonesia; 1.4.3.2 Malaysia; 1.4.3.3 Other Asian countries; 1.4.3.4 Nigeria; 1.4.3.5 Democratic Republic of the Congo; 1.4.3.6 The Ivory Coast; 1.4.3.7 Other West African countries; 1.4.3.8 Brazil; 1.4.3.9 Colombia

1.4.3.10 Costa Rica; 1.4.3.11 Ecuador; 1.4.3.12 Other South and Central American countries; 1.5 Development methods; 1.5.1 Main mechanisms of oil palm development; 1.5.2 Plantations; 1.5.3 Smallholders; 1.5.4 Research; 1.6 Trade in and use of oil palm products; 1.6.1 Trade in oil palm products; 1.6.2 Traditional uses of oil palm products; 1.6.3 New uses of palm oil; 1.6.3.1 As oleochemicals; 1.6.3.2 As biomass and internal combustion fuels; 1.6.4 The conflict over 'tropical oils'; 2. The classification and morphology of the oil palm; 2.1 Classification of oil palms; 2.2 The african oil palm, *Elaeis guineensis* Jacq; 2.2.1 Morphology and growth; 2.2.1.1 The seed; 2.2.1.2 The seedling; 2.2.1.3 Development of the stem and stem apex; 2.2.1.4 The leaf; 2.2.1.5 The root system; 2.2.1.6 Oil palm chromosomes; 2.2.2 Flowering and fruiting; 2.2.2.1 Inflorescences; 2.2.2.2 The female inflorescence and ower; 2.2.2.3 The male inflorescence and ower; 2.2.2.4 Mixed inflorescences; 2.2.2.5 Pollination; 2.2.2.6 The fruit; 2.2.2.7 The fruit bunch; 2.3 The American oil palm, *Elaeis oleifera* (HBK) Cortes; 2.3.1 Distribution; 2.3.2 Morphology; 2.3.3 Uses; 2.4 The *Elaeis guineensis* *Elaeis oleifera* hybrid; 3. The climate and soils of the oil palm-growing regions; 3.1 General; 3.2 Climate; 3.2.1 Temperature; 3.2.2 Rainfall, evaporation and water balance; 3.2.2.1 Evapotranspiration; 3.2.2.2 The water balance and soil water; 3.2.2.3 Water deficits; 3.2.3 Water relations and palm yield; 3.2.4 Radiation and its effects; 3.3 Total climate and oil palm growth; 3.3.1 Climatic requirements for the oil palm; 3.3.2 Longer term weather variations; 3.3.3 Country and region experience; 3.4 Soils; 3.4.1 Soil classification in the equatorial tropics; 3.4.1.1 Types of classification

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Sommario/riassunto

The oil palm is the world's most valuable oil crop. With palm oil production increasing by more than 50% in the last decade of the twentieth century and set to double in the next twenty years, it has never before been so important to understand the history, use and cultivation of this fascinating crop. There have been many new developments since the third edition of *The Oil Palm* in 1988, particularly in the fields of clonal propagation, agronomy, breeding and molecular genetics. This new edition has been completely rewritten, and is the first book to record and explore these and m

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