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Q52

With reference to 'palm oil', consider the following statements: 1. The palm oil tree is native to Southeast Asia. 2. The palm oil is a raw material for some industries producing lipstick and perfumes. 3. The palm oil can be used to produce biodiesel. Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2021 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

1 and 2 only. Oil palm is West African in origin; SE Asia is the later plantation belt.

(b) Official key

2 and 3 only. Cosmetics and biodiesel use palm oil. Native-to-SE-Asia is false.

(c)

1 and 3 only. Statement 1 fails.

(d)

All three. Wrong native range.

Summary

Official key is (b) 2 and 3 only. *Elaeis guineensis* is native to West Africa. It is a feedstock for lipstick, perfume bases and biodiesel. Southeast Asia is the production map, not the origin.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Elaeis guineensis

Guinea oil palm; later huge in Indonesia/Malaysia.

National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm

India's later planting push.