



Shara Ticku, Co-Founder and CEO, C16 Bio New York

# Addressing CO2 Emissions in the Palm Oil Industry



April 7, 2024

Environmental realities shared by [Shara Ticku](#) the CEO and co-founder of [C16 Biosciences](#) during our meeting in Miami about the oils industry emissions were arresting. Shara is solving for the palm oil industry, valued at \$61 billion and widely used in food clothing and cosmetics , that is contributing to deforestation in Costa Rica and Indonesia:

- Deforestation has contributed to about a third of all carbon dioxide emissions since 1850, stated by MIT ecologist [Jerry Melillo](#) .
- The climate pollution from palm oil plantations is half that produced by the entire aviation industry.
- Fats and oils production from animals and plants account for 7% of the 51 billion tons of greenhouse gases released globally.

C16, her New York-based biotech company is producing sustainable alternatives to conflict palm oil using age old

fermentation process from microbes. It received funding from the [Gates Foundation - United States](#) , [Elemental Excelerator](#) , [Breakthrough Energy](#) , [DCVC Bio](#) and \$36.3 million in equity funding along with \$2 million in grant funding from the [U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\)](#) and [Agile BioFoundry](#) .

Ms. Ticku highlighted:

We develop biodesigned ingredients focusing on fats and oils. The fats and oils market currently stands at \$250 billion and is projected to reach \$900 billion by 2050. We have recently made significant strides, including our foray into the food sector and a blog post from Bill Gates endorsing his investment in fats and oils and why C16 is his top choice. The EU Deforestation Regulation is expected to greatly benefit our business.

As per MIT Climate Portal, the CO 2 we emit today will stay above us reflecting heat for **hundreds of years**. Even if we stop all new CO 2 emissions tomorrow, it will take many lifetimes before the warming effect of our past emissions fades away.

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I enjoyed meeting [Shara Ticku](#) the CEO and co-founder of [C16 Biosciences](#) in [#Miami](#) and learning how the high environmental cost of conflict palm oil motivated her to solve for a \$61bn industry. And being top choice for Bill Gates investments in fats and oils.  
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