



## NEWS RELEASE

### **WILMAR 1Q2019 NET PROFIT IMPROVES 26% TO US\$257 MILLION; CORE NET EARNINGS INCREASES 36% TO US\$250 MILLION**

- **Stronger performance in Tropical Oils, Sugar and Consumer Products**
- **Weaker crush margins and lower volumes for Oilseeds & Grains**
- **Strong cash flows from operating activities of US\$1.69 billion**

#### Highlights

In US\$ million	1Q2019	1Q2018*	Change
Revenue	10,444.5	11,137.5	-6.2%
EBITDA	645.4	558.8	15.5%
Profit before taxation from continuing operations	326.4	309.3	5.6%
Net profit	257.0	203.3	26.4%
Net profit – excluding discontinued operations	269.7	203.3	32.7%
Core net profit	250.3	183.5	36.4%
Earnings per share – fully diluted (US cents)	4.1	3.2	28.1%
Earnings per share – excluding discontinued operations – fully diluted (US cents)	4.3	3.2	34.4%

\* Prior period figures were restated upon adoption of SFRS (I) 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

Singapore, May 10, 2019 – Wilmar International Limited (“Wilmar” or “the Group”), Asia’s leading agribusiness group, reported a 26% increase in net profit to US\$257.0 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2019 (“1Q2019”) (1Q2018: US\$203.3 million). The stronger performance was driven by better results in Tropical Oils, Sugar and Consumer Products. These improvements were partially offset by weaker performance in the Group’s crushing business as well as lower contributions from associates in Africa and China.

While overall sales volume increased 5% during the quarter, lower commodity prices reduced total revenue by 6% to US\$10.44 billion (1Q2018: US\$11.14 billion).

## **Business Segment Performance**

**Tropical Oils (Plantation, Manufacturing & Merchandising)** recorded an 81% increase in pretax profit of US\$183.8 million in 1Q2019 (1Q2018: US\$101.7 million) boosted by stronger performance from the manufacturing and merchandising businesses due to better sales volume and margins. This was partially offset by lower crude palm oil (CPO) prices and production yields, which reduced the contributions from the plantation business.

Production yield in 1Q2019 decreased 6% to 4.6 metric tonnes ("MT") per hectare (1Q2018: 4.9 MT per hectare) due to unfavourable weather conditions, resulting in an 8% decline in the production of fresh fruit bunches to 905,261MT (1Q2018: 984,998 MT).

Sales volume for Tropical Oils Manufacturing and Merchandising increased 8% to 6.2 million MT in 1Q2019 (1Q2018: 5.7 million MT).

**Oilseeds & Grains (Manufacturing & Consumer Products)** saw stronger contributions from the Consumer Products, rice and flour milling businesses. These helped offset the weaker results from the crushing business, which had been impacted by the African swine fever outbreak in China and a sharp drop in Brazilian soybean basis. Nonetheless, the negative impact was mitigated by reduced crushing activities and good management of the Group's soybean position. Overall pretax profit for the segment was lower at US\$91.1 million (1Q2018: US\$172.6 million).

Overall sales volume declined 4% to 8.5 million MT in 1Q2019 (1Q2018: 8.9 million MT) as a result of lower meal demand due to the African swine fever outbreak.

**Sugar (Milling, Merchandising, Refining and Consumer Products)** reported a pretax profit of US\$1.7 million in 1Q2019 (1Q2018: US\$39.0 million loss), driven by stronger performance from Refining and Merchandising activities. The improvement was further enhanced by contributions from Shree Renuka Sugars Limited, in line with the ongoing sugar milling season in India.

Sales volume for Sugar increased 30% to 2.9 million MT in 1Q2019 (1Q2018: 2.2 million MT) supported by stronger sales across all Sugar businesses.

The **Others** segment recorded a pretax profit of US\$36.4 million in 1Q2019 (1Q2018: US\$36.1 million) mainly from positive contributions from the Shipping and Fertiliser businesses as well as gains from the Group's investment portfolio.

Share of results of **Joint Ventures & Associates** saw a 50% decrease to US\$20.9 million in 1Q2019 (1Q2018: US\$41.5 million). The stronger performances by the Group's Europe and Vietnam investments were offset by weaker contributions from the African associates and investments in China.

### **Strong Balance Sheet**

As at March 31, 2019, total assets stood at US\$46.35 billion while shareholders' funds was US\$16.53 billion.

Lower working capital requirements in 1Q2019 led the Group to record a net cash inflow from operating activities of US\$1.69 billion. Correspondingly, net debt decreased by US\$1.20 billion to US\$12.26 billion, while net gearing ratio improved to 0.74x from 0.84x in December 31, 2018.

### **Prospects**

Mr. Kuok Khoon Hong, Chairman and CEO, said, "The Group reported a reasonably good set of results in 1Q2019, given the tough operating environment. The improved performance by both Tropical Oils and Consumer Products businesses since 2Q2018 has been encouraging. With the exception of sugar milling and palm plantation, most of our businesses are doing reasonably well. Further, crushing margins are also expected to improve in 2Q2019. We are cautiously optimistic that performance for the rest of the year will be satisfactory."

## **About Wilmar**

Wilmar International Limited, founded in 1991 and headquartered in Singapore, is today Asia's leading agribusiness group. Wilmar is ranked amongst the largest listed companies by market capitalisation on the Singapore Exchange.

Wilmar's business activities include oil palm cultivation, oilseed crushing, edible oils refining, sugar milling and refining, manufacturing of consumer products, specialty fats, oleochemicals, biodiesel and fertilisers as well as rice and flour milling. At the core of Wilmar's strategy is an integrated agribusiness model that encompasses the entire value chain of the agricultural commodity business, from cultivation, processing, merchandising to manufacturing of a wide range of branded agricultural products. It has over 500 manufacturing plants and an extensive distribution network covering China, India, Indonesia and some 50 other countries and regions. The Group has a multinational workforce of about 90,000 people.

Wilmar's portfolio of high quality processed agricultural products is the preferred choice of consumers and the food manufacturing industry. Its consumer-packed products have a leading share in many Asian and African markets. Through scale, integration and the logistical advantages of its business model, Wilmar is able to extract margins at every step of the value chain, thereby reaping operational synergies and cost efficiencies. Wilmar is a firm advocate of sustainable growth and is committed to its role as a responsible corporate citizen.

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