## SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

FIG. S1: Illustration of the views used for quantitative analysis. (A) Positions of the 'snapshots' taken for the different histological zones inside the meristematic dome: 1, the central zone (see B); 2, the peripheral zone (see C); 3, the rib meristem-like zone (see D); 4, the P1 leaf primordium (see E). (B–E) Closer views of the central zone (B), the peripheral zone (C), the rib meristem-like zone, (D) and the P1 leaf primordium (E). The periphery of the cells and nuclei used for the quantitative analysis (see Table 1 in the main text) are indicated by blue lines and numerals.

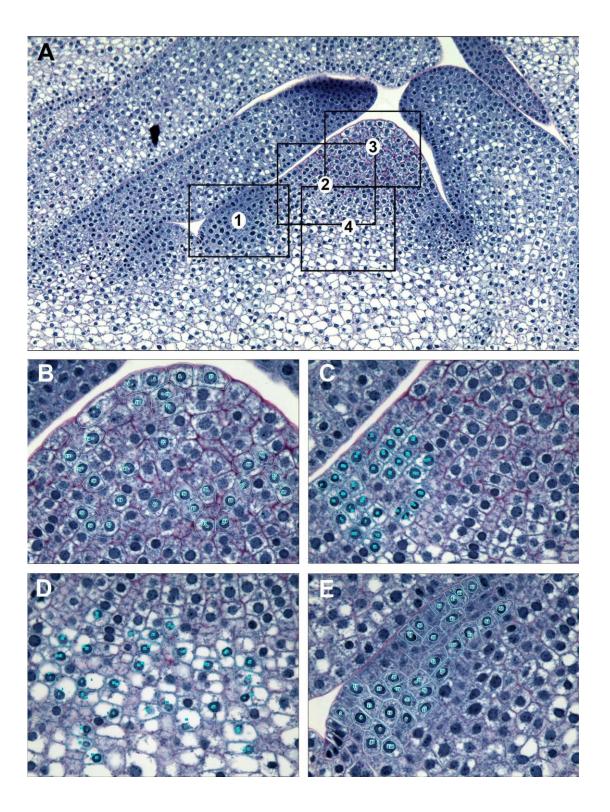


FIG. S2: Shoot apex organisation during the late establishment growth phase of oil palm. (A) Shoot apex median longitudinal-section from a 15-month-old plant. The inset in (A) shows the corresponding plant used for the shoot apex preparation. (B) Closer view of (A) in the meristematic dome region. Note the presence of histological zonation. Abbreviations: P1–P3, leaf primordia; \*, meristematic dome. Scale bars: (A) = 250  $\mu$ m and (B) = 100  $\mu$ m.

