



TOGETHER TOWARDS INCLUSIVE PALM OIL SUPPLY CHAINS



Solidaridad works together with players throughout the palm oil sector to build sustainable and smallholder inclusive palm oil supply chains. We develop innovative and scalable farmer-first business cases focused on improving agricultural and business practices.

JOIN US

Together we can move towards an inclusive palm oil supply chain. If your organization is interested in joining us, please get in touch with our palm oil team:

Marieke Leegwater, International Palm Oil Programme Coordinator,
marieke.leegwater@solidaridad.nl
Elise Muijzert, Programme Manager Palm Oil
elise.muijzert@solidaridad.nl

More information
www.solidaridadnetwork.org/palmoil

Solidaridad



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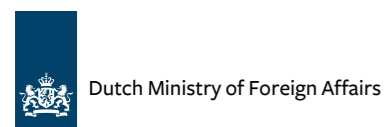
For information about Solidaridad and the Solidaridad office in your region:
www.solidaridadnetwork.org

OUR WORK

The Solidaridad palm oil programme sets up and manages coalitions of partners and projects to:

- Develop **National Initiatives** to transition palm oil sectors towards RSPO;
- Stimulate **Best Management Practices** by smallholders and mills;
- **Improve Labour Conditions** through RSPO implementation;
- Develop innovative models for (independent) **Smallholder Inclusive** supply chains.
- Stimulate **Sustainable Market Linkages** & influence international sustainability policies.

Solidaridad's major partners providing financial support are:



Solidaridad



DEVELOPING NATIONAL INITIATIVES TO TRANSITION PALM OIL SECTORS TOWARDS RSPO

Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua

The MesoAmerican Palm Oil Alliance (MAPA), launched in 2016, is a regional multi-stakeholder platform working towards a sustainable and smallholder-inclusive palm oil sector in Central America. MAPA accelerates the implementation of RSPO best practices and facilitates an effective policy environment in Central America.

Honduras

The Sustainable Honduran Palm Oil project (PASH) stimulates countrywide implementation of RSPO. PASH includes 10 companies representing 80% of Honduran palm oil production as well as 11,000 families of palm oil producers and workers. PASH fosters Integrated Landscape Management by piloting a jurisdictional certification approach in Honduras.

Colombia

Producers representing 40% of Colombia's national palm oil production have already committed to sustainably producing 200,000 MT of CPO by the end of 2016 through the national Sustainable Trade Platform, managed by Solidaridad. We are also supporting 15,000 hectares of smallholdings in becoming sustainably managed.

CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

Europe

Solidaridad develops smallholder support through supply chain innovations with leading European companies.



STIMULATING SUSTAINABLE MARKET LINKAGES

China

Solidaridad has set up the China Sustainable Palm Oil Working Group, which includes key stakeholders in China, the EU and Indonesia, including importers / traders and downstream buyers. The working group promotes sustainable palm oil supply chain practices through the facilitation of dialogue, consensus-building and alignment of strategies on responsible procurement.

India, China, Indonesia & Malaysia

The Asian Sustainable Palm Oil Network (ASPEN) is a multi-stakeholder platform supporting alignment of sustainable production, trade and consumption of palm oil among main palm oil producing & consuming countries. ASPEN facilitates sustainable policy development and develops context-specific solutions for producers to implement sustainable practices.

POLICY INFLUENCING THROUGH SUPPORT FOR RSPO, ISPO AND OTHER SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Worldwide

- Co-lead of the RSPO Smallholder Working Group, Member of the Complaints Panel and the Standing Committee Trade and Traceability.
- We support the RSPO National Interpretation processes in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Nigeria.
- We support the development of the Sustainable Palm Oil Initiative and Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil standard.



STIMULATING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) AND UPTAKE OF RSPO CERTIFICATION BY SMALLHOLDERS AND MILLS

Ghana

Average yields more than doubled among 1,000+ smallholders trained in best management practices under the Sustainable West Africa Palm Oil Programme (SWAPP). Over 1,500 smallholders in the supply bases of Benso & Twifo palm oil mills trained.

Ghana

A 'Business Incubator' provides small and medium-sized businesses in the oil palm sector with access to seed capital, business development services and coaching to stimulate palm oil sector development in West Africa. €1.5 million invested in 8 businesses for new mills & upgrades.

Ghana and Nigeria

We are preparing 2,000 independent smallholders in Ghana and 1,000 independent smallholders in Nigeria to attain RSPO certification through RSPO Smallholder Support Fund (RSSF) grants by the end of 2017.

DEVELOP INNOVATIVE MODELS FOR (INDEPENDENT) SMALLHOLDER INCLUSIVE SUPPLY CHAINS

Brazil

In partnership with ADM, Solidaridad customized Rural Horizons, a toolset which allows small farmers to benchmark and monitor their farms against the RSPO P&C and receive tailored advice for a step-by-step improvement plan. 267 smallholders, managing 2,030 ha. have benefited from improved technical assistance.

Sumatra, Indonesia

Together with the NGO Setara in Jambi, Sumatra, we organized, trained and facilitated RSPO certification of 175 independent smallholders in 5 villages. We linked them to RSPO mills and developed local institutional capacity to provide smallholder support.

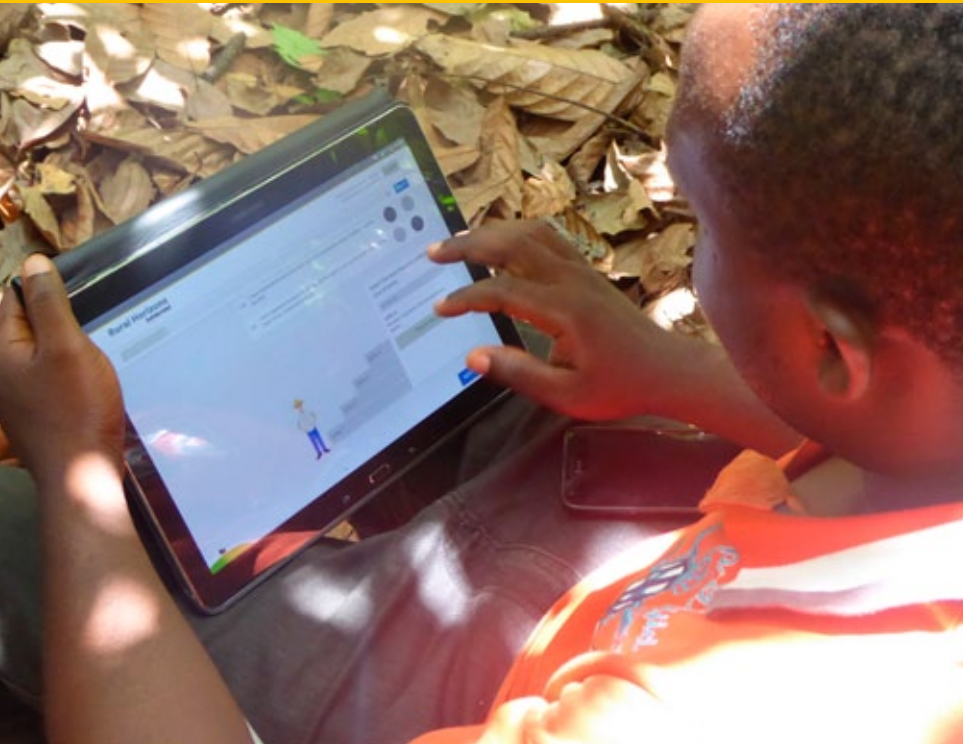
Kalimantan, Indonesia

We're developing the capacity of Credit Union Keling Kumang (CUKK) to train their members in sustainable palm oil production and financial literacy. So far, 2,000+ members are benefiting from higher yields, reduced environmental impact and improved market access.



RURAL HORIZONS

A Platform to Support the Continuous Improvement of Agricultural Production



More than **4,000 participants** self-assessed



1.7 Million hectares covered

18 context adapted versions

3 languages (PT, ES, EN)

Used in different sectors:

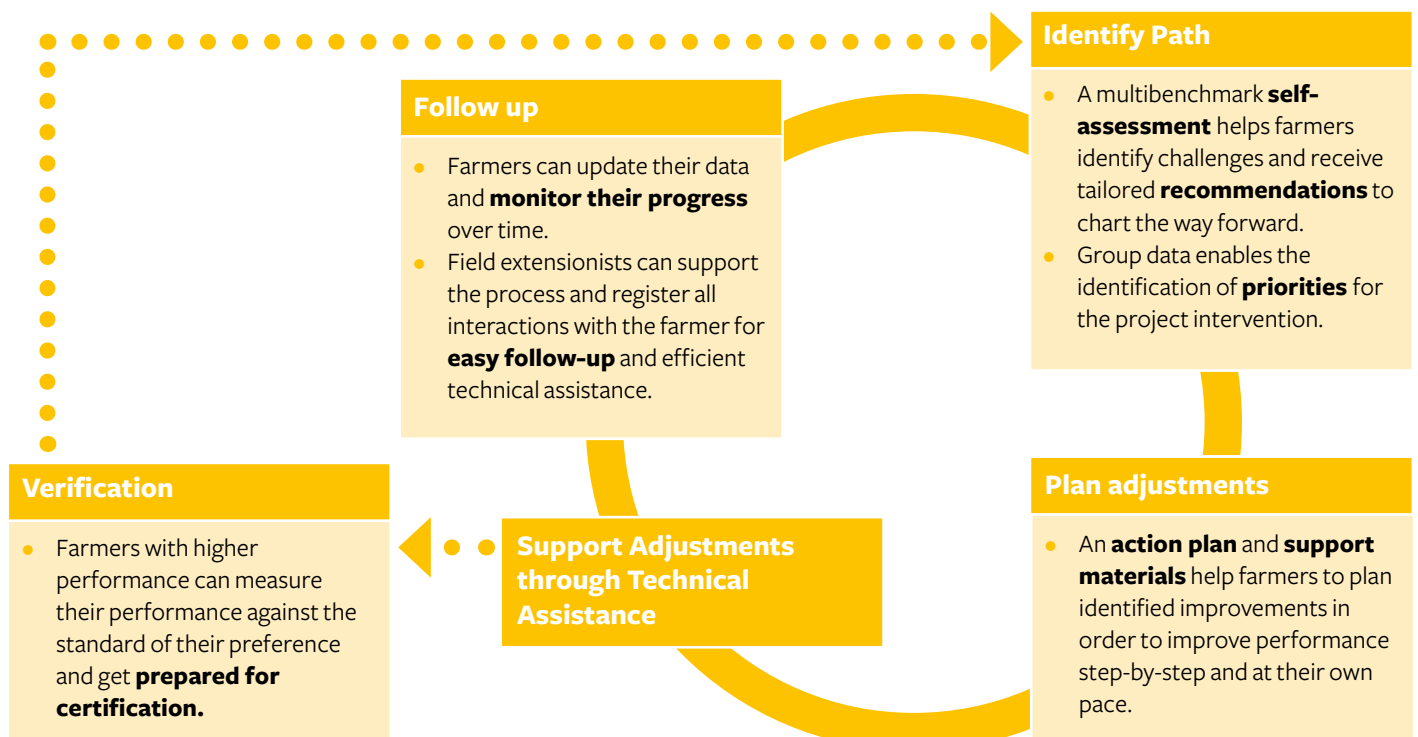


Solidaridad has developed an innovative and easy toolset to support the continuous improvement of agricultural production. Rural Horizons offers a set of solutions for farmers, farmers associations and value chain partners to identify challenges in sustainable production, plan adjustments and monitor progress over time.

Rural Horizons provides a framework for a step-by-step intervention that engages and benefits the whole value chain through the exchange of information. For **farmers**, it is an easy way to access knowledge as it combines data

gathering with the delivery of tailored recommendations and benchmarking. **Farmers' organizations** can target support interventions and technical assistance and communicate progress across different standards. For **value chain partners**, it is a cost-effective way to reach out to large numbers of farmers in an integrated supply chain model and support their improvement.

Rural Horizons supports all the steps of the continuous improvement cycle:



A STEP-BY-STEP INTERVENTION FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN BRAZIL



In Pará state in Brazil, Solidaridad and ADM partnered to accelerate learning on management, social and environmental issues among 267 independent smallholder palm oil producers. Rural Horizons was

chosen to help structure the intervention. The targeted smallholders are living in recently established palm oil production areas in Pará state and have direct selling contracts with ADM for the fruit they produce. They individually own land up to 50 hectares and dedicate between 5 to 10 hectares to palm oil. Palm oil smallholders in Brazil have a hard time conforming with strict legislation due to limited knowledge and income to invest.

In partnership with ADM staff, Rural Horizons was customized for Brazilian palm smallholders' reality. Farmers were then able to benchmark and monitor their farms against RSPO Principles & Criteria and receive tailored recommendations for a step-by-step improvement plan. Systematized information about smallholders' sustainability performance allowed for analysis of group performance.

It also helped ADM improve its interventions for smallholders in the field, providing intensive skill and knowledge training and in-field follow up technical assistance. This in turn has enhanced smallholders' knowledge and implementation of sustainable field practices, facilitating continuous improvement. Smallholders have organized themselves into small farmers associations which has empowered them and improved the quality of life in the community.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

PARÁ STATE, BRAZIL



267 smallholders
engaged in continuous
improvement



2,030 hectares of
smallholder farms under
good agricultural management



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Joyce Brandao

Programme Manager Brazil

JoyceBrandao@solidaridadnetwork.org

"ADM is always looking for the continuous improvement of the producers at the basis of the supply chain, of the local community and of our team of technical assistants. The project with Solidaridad was carried out in a participatory and inclusive manner. The data collected and processed with Rural Horizons became an essential tool for the development of sustainable supply chain in social, economic and environmental pillars. This information forms a clear baseline from which we can define mid and long-term goals. Rural Horizons enables us to analyse information and efficiently prioritise our technical assistance and capacitation efforts for the individual and collective development of the family farmers integrated in the project."

Leonardo Dutra

Coordinator of family
agriculture
ADM do Brasil



Project Partners:



Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Solidaridad

For more information:

www.solidaridadnetwork.org/palmoil

COLOMBIA'S SUSTAINABLE TRADE PLATFORM: A SOLIDARIDAD INITIATIVE




PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

COLOMBIA



15 mills committed to the STP

40% of national production represented in the STP

 **44,068 hectares** RSPO certified / 98,416 tons CSPO

1,088 producers benefiting from good agricultural practices

3,581 workers benefiting from better working conditions



A national initiative to transition the palm oil sector towards RSPO

The Sustainable Trade Platform in Colombia is a Solidaridad initiative which brings together stakeholders to facilitate the transition to environmentally and socially responsible sectors for the nation's key export commodities. Producers representing 40% of Colombia's national palm oil production have already committed to sustainable production, as well as supporting 15,000 hectares of smallholdings in becoming sustainably managed. Supported by Solidaridad and partners, five palm oil producers are already implementing sustainable practices and moving themselves and their independent suppliers towards RSPO certification. The participating companies have created a proven model that mills supporting their independent suppliers can lead to a win-win situation.



Background

In Colombia, the palm oil sector is growing at a rapid pace: in 2015, production increased 15% compared to 2014 as a result of newly planted areas and improvements in productivity, and both demand and production of this commodity are expected to further climb in coming years. Through the Sustainable Trade Platform (STP), Solidaridad is working together with a broad coalition of partners in the sector to ensure that this growth takes place in an environmentally and socially responsible way.

Partnership

The Sustainable Trade Platform, managed by Solidaridad in Colombia, links the public and private sectors to establish sustainable agriculture in the country. It seeks to strengthen sustainable production, trade and consumption of Colombia's key export commodities: coffee, palm oil, banana and flowers. In 2014, 25 Colombian palm oil stakeholders formally joined the STP and publically committed to work towards the development of a sustainable palm oil sector. The STP's membership currently includes 15 palm oil mills representing 40% of national production, the Ministry of Agriculture, international traders and brands, and civil society organizations. The STP has become a space where stakeholders join forces to implement strategies to help close the gap between sustainable production and demand.

Our achievements

Up to 2016, the STP was able to reach:

- 1,088 producers that today are applying good agricultural practices,
- 3,581 workers benefiting from better working conditions,
- 44,068 hectares became RSPO certified, amounting to
- 98,416 tons of sustainable CPO production.

What our partners say

José del Carmen Peña, smallholder supplying to Indupalma: "Indupalma has not only helped us to establish and manage a productive palm oil project, but it has also provided us with trainings. I dare to say that since I took the time to go to the training sessions, I feel capable of running any palm oil farm without problem."

Carlos Arturo Vides, mill operator, Palmaceite S.A.: "I can be a good example for my children, showing them how to cultivate palm without polluting the environment, destroying the forests or altering the environment in a bad way."



Future of the STP

Supporting smallholders to implement sustainable practices on farm and achieve RSPO certification continue to be priorities for the STP and its member producers. For smallholders, social compliance, such as providing formal employment to farm workers, and access to technical assistance and financing to implement the RSPO standard remain key bottlenecks to achieve certification. Supported by Solidaridad and partners Agrobiz and Fedepalma, five Colombian mills have already started moving their own plantings, covering 39,000 hectares, and their 500 independent suppliers towards RSPO certification. These interventions have shown that mills that provide training and support for their independent smallholders directly benefit from suppliers' increased productivity and higher quality FFB. This creates a true win-win situation where mills enjoy higher output, small producers improve their skills and their income, and field workers benefit from improved labour conditions.

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Join us

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Maria Goretti, Programme Manager
Palm Oil – Andes region
mgoretti.esquivel@solidaridadnetwork.org

Solidaridad

For more information:

www.solidaridadnetwork.org/palmoil

Financed by:



Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOODS OF OIL PALM FARMERS



Henkel, BASF and Solidaridad support 5,500 smallholders in West Kalimantan, Indonesia

Solidaridad collaborates with Henkel and BASF to improve the livelihoods of palm oil smallholders in West Kalimantan. The project is implemented by Solidaridad in cooperation with partners Good Return and Credit Union Keling Kumang (CUKK), Indonesia's second largest credit union. The project partners aim to establish sustainable supply chains for palm and palm kernel oil that both effectively improve smallholder farmers' living conditions and are eligible for certification according to the RSPO Principles & Criteria. In addition, Good Return provides education in financial literacy so that farmers learn about responsible savings, spending, lending and investment. The project aims to improve the living conditions of the people in the farming areas by improving agricultural practices, increasing yields and helping preserve forests.

Project Partners:



Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Status September 2016

WEST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA



2,400 farmers farmers have access to e.g. high quality seedlings and products for plant protection through CUKK sister cooperative K77



3,400 farmers completed financial literacy training (of which 58% were women)

1,700 farmers completed the Farmer Field School



Background

West Kalimantan is one of the most economically disadvantaged provinces in Indonesia. Palm oil is a significant driver of agricultural output in the region but smallholder farmers regularly find themselves in a position of relative weakness due to their limited knowledge on good farming practices and lack of access to high quality inputs. CUKK has 164,000 members and is operating in a region containing more than 130,000 ha. of smallholder oil palm farms. About 14,000 CUKK members provide FFB to mills in Sanggau, Sekadau and Sintang districts.

Our partners in this project

- Good Return/ World Education coordinate project development and delivery, including Farmer Field School training, financial education and institutional strengthening of CUKK and its sister cooperative K77.
- CUKK and K77 provide training through the Farmer Field School and access to high quality agricultural inputs.
- The two multi-national companies BASF and Henkel monitor and verify project deliverables.

Our activities

- The Farmer Field School (FFS) provides smallholder training in good agricultural practices and sustainable farm management, and has established a dedicated 18 person training unit.
- The Financial Literacy programme teaches CUKK members about money management, responsible use of financial products and services, and stimulates farmers to save for replanting.
- FFS graduates have formed alumni group APKS-KK (Keling Kumang Palm Oil Farmer Association), which has developed a collective business strategy for improving yields, income and access to agricultural inputs and markets. The FFS alumni have defined a joint ambition to achieve RSPO certification for independent smallholders and have already started P&C training.
- Capacity-building of CUKK's sister cooperative K77 to provide member access to agricultural inputs, particularly subsidized fertilizer.
- FFS alumni farmers and K77 are collaborating on joint agri-business development by setting up palm oil nurseries and producing organic fertilizer. Local demand for quality seedlings and



fertilizer provide revenue-generating options for both activities.

- Investment in professionalization of CUKK by improving its organizational structure, management information system, and to increase the quality of its products and services for members.

Our achievements

- 2,400 CUKK members have access to high quality fertilizer, plant protection and seedlings.
- 3,400 farmers completed financial literacy training (of which 58% were women).
- 1,700 farmers completed the Farmer Field School.
- More efficient use of products to protect plants and enhance growth (pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer).

Future of the project

This project's model aims to demonstrate that a credit union can facilitate farmer access to better agricultural practices and encourage sustainable palm oil farming among its members. CUKK and K77 have become well-managed and financially self-sustaining cooperatives with strong outreach to their membership base through their FFS and financial literacy training units. K77 is also able to provide improved and sustained access to markets and agricultural inputs. Through training of trainers, a professional group of core farmers is able to disseminate best practices among a wider group of smallholders. The mechanisms for continued development have thus become embedded in existing organizational structures, creating a conducive environment for adoption of good agricultural practices and allowing the

project to achieve a multiplier effect in the number of farmers reached in the future. A pilot group of 200 FFS alumni farmers will start the process to achieve RSPO group certification for small producers by 2019.

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Rianto.Sitanggang@solidaridadnetwork.org

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THE SOLIDARIDAD PALM OIL PRODUCER SUPPORT PROGRAMME



Two goals with one kernel

In July 2016 Solidaridad launched a pilot programme to **improve smallholder livelihoods** while **reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** through sustainable smallholder palm oil production in West Kalimantan. The project aims to increase farmers' capacity through trainings, workshops, and installments of Best Management Practices (BMP) plots in order to increase productivity and to prevent further conversion of forest and peat land. By producing more efficiently on existing lands, encroachment into new (forested) areas would be avoided, thereby avoiding emission of greenhouse gases.

Project Partners:



Financing Partner:



PROJECT TARGETS 2017

WEST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA



2,000 smallholders with a total area of 4,000 ha. mapped

1,350 farmers covering **3,000 ha** implementing Good Agricultural Practices 

 Total of **79,000 tons FFB/year** sustainably produced

Greenhouse gas emissions **significantly reduced** by project end



Background

West Kalimantan is one of the most economically disadvantaged provinces in Indonesia, yet also suffering from one of the highest rates of deforestation and forest conversion. Palm oil is a significant driver of agricultural output in the region but due to a lack of technical knowledge, poor agricultural practices, under-investment in farms and aging trees, the majority of smallholders have significantly lower yields than plantations.

Social and environmental benefits

This pilot project aims to demonstrate that farmer productivity and incomes can be increased while mitigating negative environmental impacts. The project is carried out in conjunction with the Indonesian Independent Oil Palm Smallholders' Union (SPKS) and Indonesia's second largest credit union, Credit Union Keling Kumang (CUKK), which facilitates farmer access to better agricultural practices and encourages sustainable palm oil farming among its members. The programme encourages greater efficiency and productivity amongst smallholder farmers so that their yields and resulting incomes increase without the need to further expand and degrade peatlands, forests and watersheds.

Our partners in this project

- CUKK provides smallholders with trainings on best agronomic & environmental management practices and financial education, as well as access to financial products tailored to small farmers.
- SPKS leads the establishment and capacitation of farmer groups to support smallholders in market access, FFB price negotiations and monitoring of compliance with environmental principles. It also leads local policy influencing and the initiation of a district platform.

Our activities

- Mapping & surveys: collecting smallholder farm data in order to understand gaps in sustainable practices.
- Smallholder capacity building: promoting Best Management Practices (BMP) through trainings, workshops and BMP demo plots, supplemented



by financial and managerial skills development and access to finance.

- Establish farmer groups to support smallholders in accessing the market, negotiate better FFB prices and provide an internal control system to monitor compliance with agreed environmental and land use principles.
- Develop landscape planning: supporting the development of the District REDD+ Plan through the Sustainable Green Village scheme.
- Policy advocacy: attract partners (public/private/NGOs) to adopt a scalable model at district level, and feed into the development of local government GHG reduction plans.
- Initiation of a District Platform to mobilize a collective commitment from local government, palm oil companies and smallholders to increase productivity and protect forests and peatland.

Future of the project

Monitoring tools will be developed to measure the effectiveness of the project strategy. If successful, the pilot areas will become a model for other villages and districts to follow. Integral to the project's success and continuation is the role of the farmer groups and CUKK, which are both trained to provide technical assistance to farmers and facilitate access to the market. In this way the project aims to embed its knowledge and methodology for continued development through these institutional structures. In the long term, the farmer groups also have the ambition to set up a smallholder-owned cooperative CPO-mill in

Sekadau, which will provide a new and fairer market for smallholder FFB.

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THE SOLIDARIDAD PALM OIL PRODUCER SUPPORT PROGRAMME




PROJECT TARGETS 2020

MEXICO



50,000 ha under Best Management Practices



RSPO  By 2020, at least **5** companies RSPO certified and **3** working towards compliance

1.1 million tons of FFB/ 200,000 tons of CPO sustainably produced



9,000 smallholders implementing sustainable agricultural practices

Average increased productivity of **25%** for companies and **50%** for smallholders

A multi-stakeholder initiative for sector-wide transformation in Mexico

The Mexican palm oil sector is relatively small, but provides significant potential for rapid expansion, posing a threat to forests, fragile natural ecosystems and the food security of communities. There is an opportunity to develop RSPO-oriented national sustainability policies and institutional capacity at this critical point in the sector's development. In August 2016, Solidaridad launched the MesoAmerican Palm Oil Alliance (MAPA), a regional knowledge and exchange platform which aims to accelerate the uptake of best practices, orient the sector towards RSPO certification and bring innovation and visibility to Mesoamerican producers as global leaders of sustainably produced palm oil.



Financing Partners:



Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Background

There is a relatively limited area of existing oil palm plantations in Mexico (90,000 ha.), however, the considerable potential for rapid expansion represents a grave threat to the future of remaining forests and other fragile natural ecosystems, and to the food security of communities. Although there is a master plan for oil palm expansion in Mexican states where palm oil is cultivated, there is no clear federal policy on cultivation practices or national strategy for the palm oil sector. Furthermore, to date there is little sense of industry responsibility in ensuring a transfer of technical knowledge and skills to smallholders cultivating palm oil. This presents a unique opportunity to develop national policies and capacity to orient the entire sector towards the implementation of sustainability measures before further expansion occurs.

An innovative partnership

Building on its success in engaging and moving the Honduran and Guatemalan palm oil industries towards RSPO compliance, in August 2016 Solidaridad launched the MesoAmerican Palm Oil Alliance (MAPA). MAPA aims to develop a sustainable, RSPO-oriented and smallholder-inclusive palm oil sector in Mexico, which contributes to integrated landscape management, improved smallholder livelihoods, food security and climate change resilience in Mexico. This includes strengthening the national regulatory framework (e.g. RSPO National Interpretation), promoting sustainable land use through in-depth participatory landscape assessments and improving the knowledge and capacity of policy-makers to develop spatial planning. The programme also aims to develop a multi-stakeholder palm oil platform to facilitate dialogue and improve the capacity of producers to implement sustainable practices.

Activities to be developed

- Support 8 private companies and 4 smallholder associated enterprises in achieving RSPO certification.
- Conduct gap assessments on best management practices at mills and on farms.
- Capacity-building and technical support related to RSPO certification, including on social & environmental issues, management capabilities and business skills.
- Farmer Field Schools (FFS) providing



smallholder training in good agricultural practices and sustainable farm management.

- Development of a mobile technology platform to facilitate agronomic, economic, social and environmental data collection, management and analysis on farm.
- Establishment of a national multi-stakeholder palm oil platform to facilitate exchange and accelerate the design and implementation of interventions that contribute to resilient and sustainable (palm oil) landscapes.
- Develop a regional pool of trained, accredited HCV lead assessors, lead auditors, social & environmental experts and other service providers to meet increasing demand for (RSPO-oriented) services.
- Facilitate the development of an RSPO National Interpretation for Mexico together with relevant stakeholders.

A landscape approach

MAPA aims to develop an inclusive palm oil supply chain rooted in principles of Integrated Landscape Management. One of the key innovations under MAPA is the ambition to pilot the development of RSPO jurisdictional certification in Chiapas, which has the highest level of oil palm production in Mexico. This provides the opportunity to bring economies of scale to smallholders and reinforce relevant policies such as incentives for avoiding deforestation, developing payment for eco-system services and the establishment of diverse production systems that reduce vulnerability in the face of market fluctuations and climate change. A key aim is also to achieve a zero

deforestation commitment from producers participating in MAPA.

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Flavio Linares, Operations and Programme Manager Central America & Caribbean
Flavio@solidaridadnetwork.org

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THE SOLIDARIDAD PALM OIL PRODUCER SUPPORT PROGRAMME



Creating a smallholder education hub in Jambi, Indonesia

Solidaridad supported the set-up of a 'smallholder education hub' in the province of Jambi, Indonesia. This palm oil training and knowledge center for independent smallholders facilitates the organization of smallholders into cooperatives, provides training programmes on good agricultural practices and RSPO certification, and creates relationships with mills so farmer groups enjoy direct buying relations and improved prices and conditions. With improved support, farmers can improve yields and the quality of their fruit, leading to higher incomes.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

JAMBI PROVINCE, SUMATRA, INDONESIA




486 independent smallholders organized into 5 gapoktans (cooperatives)

1,113 ha. benefiting from best management practices



Yields increased from **10-12 ton FFB/ha/yr** to **13-15 ton FFB/ha/yr**



RSPO  **174** smallholders / **504 ha.**
RSPO compliant, audited in Oct. 2016

Smallholders receive **7-15%** better FFB prices through cooperatives



Project Partners:



Financing Partners:



Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Background

Jambi is the 5th largest palm oil producing province in Indonesia, with a total production area of more than 500,000 hectares. Besides over 30 mills and estates, there are about 75,000 independent smallholders, who manage over 120,000 hectares of land. In general, these oil palm smallholders have low yields, produce lower quality fruits, and have limited access to agricultural knowledge and high quality inputs. This makes it difficult for them to comply with RSPO standards.

Cooperative structure

To address these problems, Solidaridad supported the development of RSPO-oriented institutional capacity with NGO Setara and government extension services in smallholder areas where other forms of support are lacking. The independent smallholder education hub has been established and has become a first point of reference for palm oil farmers in the area. Thus far, the hub has provided support in the formation of 5 GAPOKTANs (farmer cooperatives), with 486 member farmers. Of this group, 174 smallholders, managing 504 ha., are compliant with the RSPO P&C and have undergone auditing in October 2016.

Our partners in this project

- NGO Setara is setting up and managing the hub and has developed expertise on sustainable palm oil production, RSPO certification and community organization.
- PT Inti Indosawit Subur (PT. IIS, a member of Asian Agri Group), provides good agricultural practices trainings for smallholders.
- Jambi District Government Training Facilitator (FASDA) provides RSPO trainings.

Our activities

- Capacity-building of the Setara team through trainings in management, documentation, Internal Control Systems and RSPO Principles and Criteria.
- Organizational support for farmer groups through development of institutional capacity, group management, documentation and organization.
- Smallholder training in good agricultural practices, technical assistance and mapping of farmers' lands.
- Support towards RSPO group certification, including formation of Certification Management Units,



compliance with the RSPO P&C and HCV training.

Our achievements

- Smallholder yields increased from 10-12 tons FFB/ha/yr to 13-15 tons FFB/ha/yr.
- Improved use of fertilizer, decreased use of pesticides and herbicides through integrated pest management.
- Zero burning in 5 project villages since 2015.
- Innovative approaches to protection of High Conservation Value (HCV) river areas in Sungai Rotan.
- Farmer cooperatives enjoy benefits such as: subsidized fertilizer, access to high quality seeds and access to government funding and credits from Asian Agri.
- Smallholders produce better quality FFB, leading to higher FFB grading, priority direct sales to the Asian Agri mill (no queuing) and higher FFB prices by 7-15%.
- Android app (Jala Setara) developed to help independent smallholders document their on-farm costs and activities and trace production back to farm.
- Driven by the project, policy changes have taken place at the local and provincial level: the local government initiated a 'free STDB policy' (letter of business registration), benefiting 5,000 farmers in Tanjung Jabung Barat.

Future of the project

The project aims to upscale and increase the number of farmers benefiting from the smallholder knowledge and training hub as the effects of the programme become visible to neighboring communities. This will require increased involvement from local mills to support good agricultural practices trainings and the off-take of smallholder FFB.

Setara also has the ambition to establish a 'Sustainability Academy' (Sustainable Palm Oil Research Academy, SPORA) in Jambi in collaboration with Jambi University. SPORA would facilitate training in sustainable palm oil production for NGO's and farmers throughout Sumatra.

About Solidaridad

Solidaridad is a not for profit network organization operating from ten regional offices on five continents. We envision a world in which all we produce, and all we consume, can sustain us all while respecting the planet, each other and the next generation. We bring together commodity supply chain actors and engage them in innovative solutions to improve production, ensuring the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy that maximizes the benefit for all.

Join us

Only together we can move towards an inclusive palm oil supply chain. Please become our partner in cracking this nut and get in touch with our palm oil team: **Rianto Sitanggang**, Senior Palm Oil Manager Indonesia
Rianto.Sitanggang@solidaridadnetwork.org

Solidaridad

For more information:
www.solidaridadnetwork.org/palmoil

THE SOLIDARIDAD PALM OIL PRODUCER SUPPORT PROGRAMME



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

LIBERIA, COTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, NIGERIA



2,000+ smallholders trained in good agricultural practices 

Average yield increase from **5.3 → 16.6 tons FFB/ha/yr** in 3 years 

1,500+ smallholders trained in the supply bases of BOPP & TOPP

€1.5 million seed capital invested in **8** businesses for mill upgrade & new processing mills 

91 RSPO lead auditors trained in West Africa

Stimulating Best Management Practices and uptake of RSPO certification in West Africa

Solidaridad's Sustainable West Africa Palm Oil Programme (SWAPP) aims to improve incomes and livelihoods from oil palm production throughout West Africa. The programme is helping smallholder farmers in Ghana, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire implement best management practices to increase farm productivity and supports small and medium-sized mills in Ghana to increase their processing efficiency. SWAPP also invests in sector development and regional information exchange through its Business Incubator, which provides access to finance, and its online portal disseminating information relevant to farmers, processors and other supply chain actors.



Project Partners:



Financing Partners:



Background

Demand for palm oil in West Africa is majorly outstripping local supply, meaning producing countries import 1.5 million tons of CPO annually. The oil palm tree is native to West Africa and the region has a very large potential for increasing its production, including on the land already under development. Current oil palm yields in Ghana, for instance, are less than 6 tons FFB/ha/year, while SWAPP has shown that these could reach 18-20 tons FFB/ha/year on well-managed smallholdings. Smallholders produce about 80% of FFB in West Africa, and there is thus a huge potential to transform the lives of millions of smallholders. However, small and medium sized farmers as well as palm oil enterprises have limited knowledge of good agronomic and management practices, resulting in low farm and mill productivity, low quality FFB and poor oil extraction rates. SWAPP supports innovations and best practices in oil palm production and processing to reduce the gap between actual yield and maximum yield potential, thus improving profitability and sustainability.

Our partners in this project

- Proforest Initiative is providing technical support on RSPO certification.
- The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) is demonstrating Best Management Practices on farms and plantations.
- AIPH, the Interprofessional Association of the Palm Oil Sector in Cote d'Ivoire.
- Dekel Oil, Cote d'Ivoire
- Palmafrique, Cote d'Ivoire.

Key activities

- Implementing Best Management Practices (BMP) with farmers: cost-effective techniques to increase yields and minimize impacts on the environment. 100 BMP plots have been established and 2,000+ smallholders trained.
- Trained over 1,500 smallholders in the supply bases of Benso and Twifo palm oil mills (BOPP & TOPP).
- Development & strengthening of farmers organizations.
- A 'Business Incubator' provides small and medium-sized businesses in the oil palm sector with access to seed capital, business development services and coaching to stimulate sector development. A total of €1.5 million has been invested in 8 oil palm processing mills and refineries.



- Launched an online portal to disseminate information on good agricultural practices & processing technologies. www.oilpalmwestafrica.info
- Development of training materials (posters, handbooks, videos) for use by the oil palm industry.
- Supporting RSPO National Interpretation processes in Ghana, Ivory Coast and Nigeria.

Achievements

- Average yield increase from 5.3 tons FFB/ha/yr in 2012 to 16.6 tons FFB/ha/yr in Dec. 2015 among participating farmers.
- Smallholder incomes increased by more than 100% due to higher yields and FFB quality.
- Improved knowledge in BMP for oil palm cultivation among smallholders.
- Improved knowledge and capacity of growers and millers to implement RSPO standards.
- Supported BOPP and its scheme smallholders in becoming the first RSPO certified oil palm mill in Ghana.
- 91 RSPO Lead Auditors trained in West Africa.

SWAPP's future activities

RSPO Smallholder Support Fund (RSSF) grants are allowing for training and support of 2,000 independent smallholders in Ghana and 1,000 independent smallholders in Nigeria to attain RSPO certification by 2016 and 2017, respectively. Solidaridad aims to further upscale SWAPP in a follow-up "SWAPP 2" programme, which will build on its successes and lessons learned. One important lesson from SWAPP has been that farm service companies are key to

the development of the palm oil sector in West Africa. Solidaridad aims to set up and support such companies to further disseminate and implement best practices.

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Rosemary Addico, Oil Palm Programme Manager, Ghana
Rosemary@solidaridadnetwork.org

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