

## Particulars

### About Your Organisation

#### 1.1 Member Name

Cirad

#### 1.2 Membership Number

8-0004-04-000-00

#### 1.3 Membership Sector

Organisations

#### 1.4 Membership Category

Affiliate

#### 1.5 Country

France

#### 2.0 Does your company or organisation produce, process, consume or sell any palm oil or any products containing derivatives of palm oil?

No

#### 2.2 Please select all the sectors that best describe the business activities of your company or organisation, including your primary RSPO membership sector. You may select multiple sectors and will be required to complete the ACOP form for the relevant sectors

- I am a bank or financial institution that finances or supports companies or organisations that produce or manufacture palm oil, palm kernel oil or related products
- I am a conservation and environmental NGO supporting the sustainable development of the palm oil industry
- I am a social and human development NGO supporting the sustainable development of the palm oil industry
- I am an Affiliate member of the RSPO, indirectly involved in the palm oil industry

## Affiliates

### 1. Operational Profile

#### 1.1 What are the main activities of your organisation?

CIRAD (the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) works with its partners to build knowledge and solutions and invent resilient farming systems for a more sustainable, inclusive world. It mobilizes science, innovation, and training in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Its expertise supports the entire range of stakeholders, from producers to public policymakers, to foster biodiversity protection, agroecological transitions, food system sustainability, health (of plants, animals, and ecosystems), sustainable development of rural territories, and their resilience to climate change.

CIRAD was founded in 1984 as a public establishment (EPIC), following a merger of French tropical agricultural research organizations, and is under the joint authority of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. As such, it supports French science diplomacy operations.

CIRAD works in some fifty countries on every continent, thanks to the expertise of its 1650 staff members, including 1140 scientists, backed by a global network of some 200 partners.

#### Key figures

- 1650 staff
- 200 partner institutions
- 13 regional offices
- 200 staff members based outside metropolitan France
- 200 million euros annual budget
- 800 ongoing projects

<https://www.cirad.fr/en/about-us/cirad-in-a-nutshell>

#### 1.2 What activities has your organisation undertaken to promote sustainable palm oil, the RSPO and/or RSPO members in the reporting period?

For almost 80 years, CIRAD is engaged in international partnerships for the generation of knowledge on sustainable palm oil production: the institution is able to provide science-based evidence to the certification process and related activities. CIRAD and the Alliance for Preservation of Forests have renewed their three-year partnership agreement, which draws on CIRAD's expertise to support the Alliance's work with its members to develop the sustainable palm oil chain and protect biodiversity in all oil palm growing regions globally.

CIRAD is currently working on the gradual strengthening of a network of technical, scientific, and technology transfer projects conducted in partnership in South East Asia on the sustainability of perennial cropping systems. This initiative, called SALSA (Sustainable Agricultural Systems in southeast Asia), supported by the Alliance for the Preservation of Forests, should allow a concrete integration of disciplines and multi-stakeholder teams on a network of experimental platforms in South-East Asia.

#### A DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT:

How to assess the risks of pesticide leakages and to improve practices? Research is aiming at adapting an agri-environmental indicator derived from the INDIGO, I-Pest-Palm method, taking into account the very specific palm oil practices and the culture conditions favouring or not the risks of leakage. The indicator was validated using herbicide loss measurements on experimental plots over several years. The idea is to provide science-based information against the belief that the oil palm is a big consumer of pesticides.

#### LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS OF COMPOST FROM OIL MILL RESIDUES:

How to recycle oil palm waste to reduce the carbon impact of CPO production while improving soil quality? The process of composting mill residues allows the concentration of residual nutrients in the waste to optimize the logistical cost of return to the field; it reduces the external input of synthetic mineral fertilizers and limits the generation of greenhouse gases emitted during the anaerobic treatment of effluents because they are injected into the composting process without any previous treatment. On the other hand, the composting process itself requires energy and can emit greenhouse gases. The life cycle analysis approach, through its holistic perspective, allows for a complete assessment of whether the final impact is indeed positive and where the process can be improved to reduce its negative impacts.

**THE BIGHGDEAL PROJECT:**

The socioeconomic mapping of bushfires over the 2009-2015 period - including the El Nino episode. This project focuses on the economic and social typology of fire outbreaks and on the identification of risk areas and families of probable causes. Ongoing research relies on the establishment of prospective models. The aim is to address the misconception that fire outbreaks and their regional consequences (haze) are mainly due to activities in the oil palm industry. The idea is that replacing rural practices (getting rid of biomass residues through open air burning) through the purchase of biomass from villagers could prevent up to 42% of fires. This study presently focuses on the impact of industrial concessions exploiting the oil palm, certified RSPO or not, on fire outbreaks.

**THE SALSAL PLATFORM**

In order to realize its regional ambitions, CIRAD is setting up a Platform in partnership for the construction of scientific projects and training curricula with its public and private partners in Southeast Asia, a region of the world where problems related to the sustainability of major agricultural sectors are particularly prominent (deforestation, rural poverty reduction, inclusive family farming, etc.).

SALSAL (Sustainable Agricultural Landscapes in Southeast Asia) aims to federate and mobilize regional scientific and training skills in the sustainability of perennial crop sectors. SALSAL will promote, within a framework of collective action, the concrete integration of disciplines and multi-stakeholder teams into research, training and development projects.

**TRAILS - climaTe Resilient lAndscapes for wlldLife conservation.**

"TRAILS" is a research project aiming at contributing to the establishment of innovative agroforestry systems, combining perennial crops and forests, designed to meet both environmental challenges (preservation of biodiversity and mitigation of climate change). The project aims at planting 300+ of oil palm-based agroforest in the Kinabatangan region of Sabah. This project draws on the expertise of CIRAD (main partner) and its Malaysian academic partners (University Putra Malaysia), the Civil Society the HUTAN French NGO for the protection of orangutans in Borneo ), and the oil palm plantation sector (Melangking Oil Palm Plantations-MOPP).

HUTAN Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Programme is a member of RSPO :6-0025-13-000-00 (<http://www.hutan.org.my>).

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**1.3 What percentage of your organisation's overall activities focus on palm oil?**

4%

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**1.4 Did members of your organisation participate in RSPO working groups and/or taskforces in the reporting period?**

Yes

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**1.5 Does your organisation have any past or on-going collaborations with public or private sector palm oil industry players to support them in their efforts to increase the production or consumption of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)?**

Yes

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**1.6 How is your organisation's work on palm oil funded?**

Cirad is a French public research institution, funded by the French Government for up to 60% of its budget. The remaining part of its resources is derived from R&D projects supported by a variety of funding agencies, ranging from governments to the European Commission and the private sector.

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## 2. Actions for Next Reporting Period

### 2.1 Please outline activities that your organisation will take in the coming year to promote the production or consumption of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)

Cirad will continue to play an original role in the sustainable palm oil Community while providing science-based evidence to many initiatives supported by RSPO.

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## Challenges and Support

### 1.1 What significant obstacles or challenges has your company encountered in the promotion of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)? What efforts has your company taken to address these obstacles or challenges?

- Awareness of RSPO in the market
- Difficulties in the certification process
- Certification of smallholders
- Competition with non-RSPO members
- High costs in achieving or adhering to certification
- Human rights issues
- Insufficient demand for RSPO-certified palm oil
- Low usage of palm oil
- Reputation of palm oil in the market
- Reputation of RSPO in the market
- Supply issues
- Traceability issues
- No challenges faced
- Others

Others

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### 1.2 In addition to the actions already reported in this ACOP report, what other ways has your company supported the vision of the RSPO to transform markets to make sustainable palm oil the norm?

- Communication and/or engagement to transform the negative perception of palm oil
- Engagement with business partners or consumers on the use of CSPO
- Engagement with government agencies
- Engagement with peers and clients
- Promotion of CSPO through off product claims
- Promotion of CSPO outside of RSPO venues such as trade workshops or industry associations
- Promotion of physical CSPO
- Providing funding or support for CSPO development efforts
- Research & Development support
- Stakeholder engagement
- No actions taken
- Others

Others

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### 1.3 If your company has any other publicly-available reports or information regarding its palm oil-related policies and activities, please provide the links here

<https://www.cirad.fr/en/our-research/tropical-value-chains/oil-palm/context-and-issues>