

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Member Name

MVO

1.2 Membership Number

2-0137-09-000-00

1.3 Membership Sector

Palm Oil Processors and/or Traders

1.4 Membership Category

Ordinary

1.5 Country

Netherlands

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?

MVO represents 95% of companies in the Netherlands that are active in the production, processing and trade of vegetable and animal oils and fats. We represent the interests of the sector in contacts with the government, politics, social organizations, science and media. For our members we have a platform function and offer services. In addition, we act as the spokesperson of the sector

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

We promote the sustainable production of raw materials. We promote biorefining and the use of renewable raw materials for the production of food, feed, materials and energy. We encourage a sustainable and energy-efficient way of working. We are committed to the transition to a circular economy. We have been supporting RSPO from the start. We do this in various ways, for example through means of the following:

Dutch Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil (DASPO)

The DASPO (joint alliance involving MVO, VERNOF, FNLI, VBZ, IMACE-NL, Nevedi, AKSV, VAVI, CBL and IDH) is the successor of the TaskForce on Sustainable Palm Oil. DASPO's ambition is to adhere to the goal of having 100% sustainable palm oil for the Dutch market. Over the coming years the emphasis will be on increasing physically certified sustainable palm oil and on improving the standards for sustainable palm oil. DASPO publishes an annual monitoring report. MVO is chairing the DASPO and provides the secretarial services. MVO is also the spokesperson for sustainable palm oil in the Netherlands.

European Sustainable Palm Oil (ESPO)

MVO and IDH, the sustainable trade initiative, are the initiators of the ESPO project. Now the collaboration is between EPOA and IDH (see below). The objective was to realise 100% sustainable palm oil in Europe by 2020. The project provides support to, and aligns between national initiatives working on sustainable palm oil in Europe. Although the target has not been achieved the project will continue in the coming years.

Furthermore, there are a number of actions to broaden political and governmental support for this approach within and outside Europe (for example, by increasing the number of Amsterdam Declaration signatories) and to gain support among social and environmental organisations for sustainable palm oil. At the same time this sends an important signal to markets like China, India, Malaysia and Indonesia.

European Palm Oil Alliance (EPOA)

The image of palm oil in Europe is under

severe pressure in the food industry, among retailers, politicians, the public and social organisations due to questions concerning sustainable production, as well as health aspects. EPOA is an initiative of European palm oil refiners and palm oil producers (Indonesia/Malaysia) and helps to create a balanced and objective debate about palm oil and promotes the production and use of sustainable palm oil in foods.

EPOA closely works together with ESPOAG (European Sustainable Palm Oil Advocacy Group) in Brussels and various national palm oil initiatives to lobby the EC and EP. MVO is chair and secretary of EPOA. Furthermore MVO is linked to and contributing to SPOC, Sustainable Palm Oil Choice, promoting the use of sustainable PO worldwide.

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

35.0%

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

Yes

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

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

MVO is a member organisation. Funding via members.

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)

MVO will continue the work within the Dutch Alliance on Sustainable Palm Oil. Furthermore it will continue the work done within the EPOA framework and work together with organisations like IDH etc. Also within the SPOC framework, MVO will contribute to promoting sust PO. This includes lobbying at National and international level (including Brussel EU).

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

For years already, the reputation of PO is negative. In the Netherlands we were/are also confronted with brands like the Flower Farm. This negative image hampers the uptake. This is something we need to change at national and international level. MVO, DASPO, EPOA are working on all levels with all stakeholders. This also included outreach to policy makers. Especially related to the EC proposal on only allowing prproduct on the markets that are deforestation free and the Sustainable Corporate Due Diligence proposal.

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

See above. This is actually at the heart of our (lobbying) activities. Also refer to the reports issued by DASPO and EPOA.

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

MVO: <https://mvo.nl/sustainable-development>

DASPO: <https://www.taskforceduurzamepalmolie.nl/>

EPOA: <https://palmoilalliance.eu/>

and

<https://palmoilalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/New-Palm-IG-6.5.pdf>

SPOC: <https://www.sustainablepalmoilchoice.eu/>
