

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Name of your organisation

Cirad

1.2 What is/are the primary activity(ies) or product(s) of your organisation?

- Palm Oil Grower
- Processor and/or Trader
- Consumer Goods Manufacturer
- Retailer
- Bank and/or Investor
- Social and/or Development NGO
- Environmental and/or Conservation NGO
- Affiliate

1.3 Membership number

8-0004-04-000-00

1.4 Membership category

Organisations

1.5 Membership sector

Affiliate

Affiliates

1. Operational Profile

1.1 What are the main activities of your organisation?

CIRAD is the French agricultural research and international cooperation organization working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions. Along with its partners, CIRAD promotes the pivotal part played by agriculture in the major transitions required to guarantee a sustainable future for every country in the global South. Generating and sharing new knowledge, contributing to innovation processes and building the capacity and skills of stakeholders in these countries to support their sustainable development are the drivers of CIRAD's operations. In particular, CIRAD activities focus on issues such as biodiversity, the agroecological transition, climate change, health (of plants, animals and ecosystems), the development of rural territories, and food systems. CIRAD works in some fifty countries on every continent, thanks to the expertise of its 1650 staff members, including 800 researchers, backed by a global network of partners.

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

CIRAD is engaged in partnership for the generation of knowledge on sustainable palm oil production, thus providing science-based evidence to the certification process and related activities. CIRAD and the Alliance for Preservation of Forests have recently 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 program, 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. A decision Support Tool for Pesticide Management How to assess the risks of pesticide leakages in order 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 favoring or not the risks of leakage. The indicator has been 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. B. 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 being treated. 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. C. Socioeconomic mapping of bushfires over the 2009-2015 period including the El Nino episode (in partnership with WRI) This project focusses 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 from the oil palm industry. The idea is that replacing rural practices (getting rid of biomass residues by using fire) 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. D. Harvesting of biomass and peatland restoration at a pilot District level The project under discussion with Ogan Komering Ilir district - OKI in South Sumatra and Bureau of Peatland Restoration of Indonesia). A R&D Project BIGHGDEAL: Biorefineries, GHG and DEgraded Agricultural Landscapes, is presently under design with Universiti Putra Malaysia. The aim is to innovate sustainably to fight against the outbreak of fires: to give value to the biomass to push to harvest it on the village exploitations. The project is also based on the restoration of peatland areas in agreement with their inhabitants, giving villagers a sustainable economic activity with a high ecological impact: the valorization of biomass for the production of energy and / or biomaterials. E. The SALSA Platform In order to realize this ambition, 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, family farming, etc.). SALSA (Sustainable Agricultural Landscapes in Southeast Asia) aims to federate and mobilize regional scientific and training skills in the sustainability of perennial crops sectors. SALSA will promote, within a framework of collective action, the concrete integration of disciplines and multi-stakeholder teams into research, training and development projects that will be conducted on the ground through shared experimental networks and academic and training curricula tailored to the needs for present and future skills. F. Cost and Benefit Analysis of RSPO Certification for Smallholders in Malaysia This research was granted RSPO funding and it is implemented by CIRAD and Universiti Putra Malaysia. In order to close knowledge gaps, this study aims to investigate, using a comprehensive industry cross section, the financial costs and benefits of RSPO certification. It will include certified, prospective, non-certified and uncertified scheme and independent smallholders. The overarching objective will be segmented to address the research questions below: • To what extent and in what way is RSPO certification profitable for Malaysian smallholders? • Do different types of smallholders experience varying outcomes over time and what is the extent of the difference? • If any are identified, for what reasons do different categories of smallholders experience different outcomes? • If certifications costs are self-funded by smallholders, will RSPO certification still be profitable to them? G. TRAILS - climaTe Resilient Landscapes for wildLife conservation. "TRAILS" is a research project which aims to contribute to the establishment of innovative agroforestry systems, combining perennial crops and forests, intended to meet both environmental challenges (preservation of biodiversity and fight against climate change) and the objectives of improving the living conditions of rural populations, which the models of economic development followed in South-East Asia, and in particular in Malaysia, have not yet managed to achieve entirely satisfactory results. This project draws on the expertise of CIRAD (main partner) and its Malaysian partners from academic circles (University Putra Malaysia, University Malaya), Civil Society (the French NGO Hutan for the protection of orangutans in Borneo) and the oil palm plantation sector (Melangking Oil Palm Plantations-MOPP).

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

4.0%

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?

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 are derived from R&D projects supported by a variety of funding agencies, ranging from governments to European Commission and the private sector.

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. Major research topics include : - Jurisdictional approaches and challenges in governance - Imported deforestation in Europe and palm oil commodity chain - Implementation of oil palm-based agroforestry - Root causes of recurrent forest fires in Indonesia and Malaysia - Promotion of agroecological conciousness and improved field practices with outgrowers ___

3. Challenges

3.1 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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3.2 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?

- Engagement with business partners or consumers on the use of CSPO
- Engagement with government agencies
- 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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3.3 If your organisation 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>