

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Name of your organization

Cirad

1.2 What are the main activity(ies) of your organisation?

- Oil Palm Growers
 - Palm Oil Processors and/or Traders
 - Consumer Goods Manufacturers
 - Retailers
 - Banks and Investors
 - Social or Development Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)
 - Environmental or Nature Conservation Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)
 - Affiliate Members
 - Supply Chain Associate
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1.3 Membership number

8-0004-04-000-00

1.4 Membership category

Affiliate

1.5 Membership sector

Organisations

Affiliates

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.

CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) is a public establishment (EPIC) under the joint authority of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development. Its activities concern the life sciences, social sciences and engineering sciences, applied to agriculture, the environment and territorial management.

Its work centres on six main topics: food security, climate change, natural resource management, reduction of inequalities and poverty alleviation.

CIRAD works with its partners in southern countries to generate and pass on new knowledge to support agricultural development. It puts its scientific and institutional expertise at the disposal of policymakers in those countries and global debates on the main issues concerning agriculture. It also supports French scientific diplomacy operations.

CIRAD has one main objective: to build sustainable farming systems capable of feeding ten billion human beings by 2050 while preserving the environment.

It considers that to develop long term and draft appropriate public policies, societies have to participate in generating the knowledge they need. That development through research relies on the ability of the countries concerned to build a suitable higher education and research system that is supported by the authorities but remains independent.

On a local and a global level, through its long-term partnerships, it contributes to the development of farming systems that benefit all, and particularly smallholders, who make up the majority of farmers.

In this way, it responds to the global challenges of food security and climate change, and also the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris agreement on climate change.

Training, dissemination of information and knowledge and innovation sharing naturally complement agricultural CIRAD's research mandate by giving its partners and development players the means to make the choices incumbent upon them.

Diploma and vocational training in southern countries is an essential part of this, and relies on a commitment on the part of each and every researcher.

CIRAD is also a major player in talks between Europe and the South. It belongs to numerous European and international networks, and facilitates access for its partners in the South to EU programmes and their involvement in international scientific cooperation networks.

CIRAD has a network of partners on three continents, and 14 regional offices, from which it works with more than 100 countries. Its long-term partnership strategy centres on 23 platforms in partnership for research and training (dPs), associating 200 organizations in southern countries, to which 200 of its researchers are assigned (100 in Africa, 50 in Asia and 50 in South America).

In France, it provides the national and global scientific communities with extensive research and training facilities, primarily in Montpellier and the French overseas regions.

CIRAD is a member of two French consortiums: Agreenium/IAVFF and AllEnvi .

CIRAD in figures

A staff of 1650, including 800 researchers.

Joint operations with more than 100 countries and 200 organizations.

Three scientific departments: Biological Systems (BIOS), Performance of Tropical Production and Processing Systems (PERSYST), and Environment and Societies (ES).

33 research units.

14 regional offices throughout the world.

Some 30 collective research Tools open to partners from the South and from Europe.

Almost 5 million euros spent on PhD courses.

More than 400 PhD students supervised each year, 60% of them from southern countries.

International Masters courses set up with grandes écoles or universities in the South.

800 researchers and technicians from all over the world received and trained each year.

An annual budget of 220 million euros in 2018.

1.2. Does your organization use and/or sell any palm oil?

NO

1.3. Activities undertaken to promote sustainable palm oil, the RSPO and/or 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 certification.

During the Paris International Agricultural Show in February 2017, Michel Eddi, President Managing Director of the French Agricultural Research

Centre for International Development (CIRAD), and Guillaume Réveilhac, President of the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil, announced the signing of a three-year partnership agreement, in front of an audience of NGOs and representatives of public authorities. The partnership will draw on CIRAD's expertise to support the Alliance's work with its members to develop the sustainable palm oil chain and protect biodiversity in Southeast Asia.

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.

A mission chaired by French Ambassador for the Environment, HE Xavier Sticker, visited Malaysia and Indonesia from 20 to 27 January 2018. In addition to the Ambassador, the delegation was made up of representatives of the following French Ministries: Foreign Affairs, Ecological and Solidary Transition, Agriculture and Food, the French Development Agency AFD, the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil and Cirad.

The objective of this mission was to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with Malaysia and Indonesia on palm oil issues, in conjunction with the objectives of the Group of "The Amsterdam Declaration in Support of a Fully Sustainable Palm Oil Supply Chain by 2020" that France will chair for the first half of 2018.

This mission provided delegates from various different backgrounds with the opportunity to meet and dialogue with all stakeholders involved in palm oil issues: ministries, producers' organizations (large and small), private sector, environmental and social NGOs and research centers in both countries.

The mission went very well, in an atmosphere of friendly and constructive dialogue despite a tense climate after the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) by the European Parliament on 17 January 2018. Indeed, the European Parliament seeks that the contribution from biofuels and bioliquids produced from palm oil shall be zero from 2021. The vote by the European Parliament does not mean that the EU has adopted a final decision. It is one step in a complex legislative procedure.

The mission led by HE Xavier Sticker allowed the members of the delegation to gain firsthand information directly from key stakeholders of the sector in both countries.

The long term involvement of Cirad and its R&D partners in providing science-based approaches on the ground, our active networks of partners, the scientific approaches and concepts developed by the SALSA Platform under construction have met a clear support from the Delegation and French Ambassadors in both Malaysia and Indonesia.

1.4. What percentage of your organization's overall activities focus on palm oil?

10%

1.5. Did members of your staff participate in RSPO working groups/taskforces in the reporting period?

Yes

1.6. Do you have any collaborations with the industry players/private sector to support them in the market transformation towards CSPO?

Yes

If yes, please give details:

Private partenrsip is the backbone of Cirad collaborative work on sustaiable commodity chains.

Its current major partners in the oil palm industry are:

FELDA (Malaysia)

Universiti Putra Malaysia (Malaysia)

PT SMART (Indonesia)

PT Socfindo (Indonesia)

PT Austindo (Indonesia)

Daemeter (Indonesia)

SIAT (Ghana and Nigeria)

If not, please explain why:

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1.7. How is your work on palm oil funded?

CIRAD budget is 60% from French Government and 40% from R&D contracts with third parties (both public and private).

Actions for Next Reporting Period

2.1. Outline actions that will be taken in the coming year to promote sustainable palm oil.

Finalizing the construction of the SALSA platform and circulating its Roadmap and Consortium Agreement will be the major target for 201_, which means reinforcing partnership links between Cirad and Universities, Research Institutions and plantation companies in South East Asia for advanced research on sustainable commodity chains, including palm

oil.

Collaboration with French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil will provide a basis for long term research programs focusing on smallholders practices and livelihood.

Cirad officers will continue to actively participate in RSPO working groups

Challenges

1 What significant economic, social or environmental obstacles have you encountered in the production, procurement, use and/or promotion of CSPO and what efforts did you make to mitigate or resolve them?

Not Applicable

2 In addition to the actions already reported in this ACOP how has your organization supported the vision of RSPO to transform markets in other ways? (e.g. Funding; Engagement with key stakeholders; Business to business education/outreach)

Producing research books and articles, policy briefs and communications is part of Cirad mandate. Cirad also interacted with French Government and European Institutions about taxation of palm oil imports. The aim is again to provide decision-makers with science-based evidence on key figures and practices along the commodity chain.

3 File -Please attach or add links to any other information from your organisation on your policies and actions on palm oil (EG: sustainability reports, policies, other public information)

- Uploaded files:
[Oil palm New title information.pdf](#)

Link: www.cirad.fr/en/our-research/tropical-supply-chains/oil-palm/context-and-issues
