

Factsheet on Social Requirements for Independent Smallholders



RSPO/Jonathan Perugia

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTED, RESPECTED AND REMEDIED

Achieving a sustainable palm oil supply chain that respects biodiversity, natural ecosystems, deforestation, local communities, and workers in palm oil producing countries is a global challenge. The RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard is applicable to a large variety of independent smallholders in terms of geography, type, size and demographic characteristics. To secure the protection of local communities' and human rights, the RSPO ISH Standard requires compliance with local and national law, and respect for communities' rights. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is the right of indigenous peoples and other local communities to give or to withhold their consent to any project affecting their lands, livelihoods and environment. FPIC has been a central requirement of the RSPO Principles and Criteria since they were first adopted in 2005. Respect for the right to FPIC is designed to ensure that RSPO certified sustainable palm oil comes from areas without land conflicts or 'land grabs'.

In addition, the RSPO ISH Standard presents rigorous requirements on labour to prevent labour abuses and make these practices applicable to groups across all regions. An increased risk of not following safe and decent labour practices exists in smallholder farms that use workers from outside the household. The requirements and approach adopted in the RSPO ISH Standard will increase adoption of better labour practices at a larger scale and increase RSPO's impact.



Ensure Legality, Respect for Land Rights and Community Wellbeing

Criteria 2.1 Smallholders have legal or customary rights to use the land in accordance with national and local laws, and customary practices.

Criteria 2.2 Smallholders have not acquired lands from indigenous peoples, local communities or other users without their free, prior and informed consent, based on a simplified FPIC approach.

Criteria 2.3 The right to use the land is not disputed by indigenous peoples, local communities or other users.

Criteria 2.4 Smallholder plots are located outside of areas classified as national parks or protected areas, as defined by national, regional or local law, or as specified in National Interpretations.

Criteria 2.5 For new planting, smallholders do not clear or acquire any land without obtaining the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples and/or local communities and/or other users, based on a simplified FPIC approach.



Respect human rights, including workers' rights and conditions

Criteria 3.1 There is no use of forced labour.

Criteria 3.2 Children are not employed or exploited. Work by children is acceptable on family farms, under adult supervision and when not interfering with education programmes. Children are not exposed to hazardous working conditions.

Criteria 3.3 Workers' pay complies with minimum legal requirements, mandatory industry standards as defined by national law or collective bargaining, whichever takes priority in local regulations.

Criteria 3.4 Workers understand their rights and freedom to file a complaint/grievance to group manager or relevant third parties, including RSPO.

Criteria 3.5 Working conditions and facilities are safe and meet minimum legal requirements.

Criteria 3.6 There is no discrimination, harassment, or abuse on the farm.

Find out more at rspo.org