

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/cirad-news/news/2025/2024-annual-report>
<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. A multidisciplinary team of oil palm researchers is implementing the CIRAD's 10-year roadmap for the sustainable development of the global palm oil sector.

The best way to find out about CIRAD's 2024 activities is to consult our publications platform: See CIRAD's publications on oil palm

As an example of CIRAD's activities in 2024, Cirad is promoting alternative to deforestation like in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where a CIRAD Team is supporting Belgian cooperation (ENABEL) in a project to develop oil palm smallholdings on savannahs by family farms. CIRAD is in partnership since 2015 with Alliance for the Preservation of Forests which is funding research and training projects on sustainable oil palm cultivation. See <https://www.trails-project.org/> and <https://www.talent-programme.org/>.

The Cirad team is also running long-term and mid-term projects on: Pest biological control, Insect pollinators in relation to fruit set, Modelling of available light for intercropping according to the oil palm spacing design, Agronomical performances, Fertilizer trials, K fluxes in the different oil palm tissues, Seed storage and germination capacity, Regulatory mechanisms underlying oil palm fruit development and lipid metabolism, Natural diversity of red palm oil composition, Resistance and tolerance to the 3 major diseases, Genetic trials, Genomic approaches for breeding, Worldwide oil palm development models towards greater sustainability, inclusiveness and attractiveness. The CIRAD team presents the products of its activities at conferences and publishes its scientific results in sector and scientific journals.

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 is derived from R&D projects supported by a variety of funding agencies, ranging from governments to the European Commission and the private sector. In addition, PalmElit SAS, the Cirad's subsidiary, finances some Cirad R&D projects. See <https://www.palmelit.com/>

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. CIRAD will continue to implement its ambitions for which work is already underway: promoting agroecology (ambition 1), proposing more sustainable development models (ambition 2), designing the selected palms of the future (ambition 3), and starting up a new dynamic to promote the consumption of red palm oil (ambition 4).

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 the end consumers : i) awareness of RSPO certification, ii) Reputation of oil palm, iii) lack of knowledge on the nutritional qualities of red palm oil containing many healthy vitamins in high content, iv) low red palm oil consumption level in comparison with refined palm oil

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-activities-our-impact/tropical-value-chains/oil-palm/context-and-issues>

See CIRAD's publications on oil palm

<https://www.cirad.fr/en/press-area/press-releases/2024/oil-palm-roadmap-summary>