



Dear RSPO Members,

## Appeal to RSPO Members to Purchase Unsold Volumes of Independent Smallholder Credits

RSPO Certified Independent Smallholders are appealing to all Members to purchase a **significant volume of unsold Independent Smallholder Credits (IS-Credits)** in the RSPO marketplace.

**IS-Credits** is a direct market mechanism that allows RSPO Members to connect directly with certified independent smallholders. The purchase of IS-Credits is a crucial way for RSPO Members to **help smallholders achieve and maintain RSPO Certification**, which is necessary for the palm oil sector to become more sustainable.

### Who can purchase IS-Credits:

- These credits can be purchased by **RSPO Processors and Traders, Consumer Goods Manufacturers, and Retailer members** (both Ordinary and Associate members) through the RSPO marketplace in the *prisma* platform.
- They represent conventional palm oil and oil palm products sourced by such members, or voluntary purchases to directly support smallholders and their livelihoods.

### IS-Credits can support your organisation's sustainability footprint:

- Achieve a **higher certified uptake percentage**, calculated in your RSPO ACOP reports and referenced as an important component of the RSPO Shared Responsibility Scorecard.
- Be reflected in your RSPO ACOP reports as a public statement of **supporting smallholders and their livelihoods**, as well as noting your own progress towards sustainability.
- Contribute to your **RSPO Shared Responsibility requirement** in supporting smallholders, shown in your annual RSPO Shared Responsibility Scorecard.

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### Other RSPO Offices

Jakarta, Indonesia	London, United Kingdom
Beijing, China	Bogota, Colombia
Zoetermeer, Netherlands	New York, USA

**RSPO remains firmly committed to supporting smallholders on their path towards sustainability.**

There are over seven million smallholders who cultivate oil palm worldwide. Their sustainability journey is long and challenging, which makes their certification a critical achievement demonstrating their strong and serious commitment to sustainably transforming the palm oil industry. Research shows that certified smallholders become champions of sustainability in their communities, advocating the benefits of responsible agricultural practices.

## Buying IS-Credits Keeps RSPO Independent Smallholders Certified & More Sustainable

**77%** of RSPO Certified ISH groups depend partially or entirely on sales of **IS-Credits** for their livelihoods\*

Since 2017, RSPO members have contributed over **US\$21 million** to ISH incomes through the cumulative purchase of over **850,000 IS-Credits\***

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**46,248** individual farmers represented by **123 RSPO ISH groups** are RSPO Certified (**400%** growth since 2020)

RSPO Certified ISH groups are present in **10 countries** **3** continents

The single-largest RSPO Certified ISH group is in **Sierra Leone**, with over **4,700 individual certified farmers**

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The RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard guides farmers to cultivate palm oil sustainably through **regenerative agriculture practices**

Since 2013, certified ISH groups have seen average **productivity gains** of **15-50%**

Visit the [RSPO Smallholder Engagement Platform \(RSEP\)](#)  
Download the [RSPO Impact Report 2024](#).

All data is as of 31 December 2024, except \* which is as of 31 December 2023.

[rspo.org](https://rspo.org)

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To date, RSPO has certified over 46,248 independent smallholders worldwide in 9 countries. Nearly 30% of them are women. In Thailand, 42% of independent smallholders are women. Moreover, RSPO Certified smallholders have shown annual increases in their productivity and yield. Some of these smallholders are directly supported by RSPO Certified palm oil mills, but the majority depend on IS-Credits as their only means of financial support.

Each IS-Credit available on the RSPO marketplace represents the hard work of an individual smallholder farmer, as well as an average of four to six years of investing their time and finances, alongside additional resources and support by RSPO and multiple stakeholders. These efforts work towards leading that smallholder towards social, environmental, and entrepreneurial sustainability, which ultimately benefits the sector as a whole.

We therefore ask all eligible members to consider supporting RSPO Certified Independent Smallholders by purchasing IS-Credits, especially during the ACOP 2024 reporting cycle (running **from 10 March 2025 to 2 May 2025**).

For more information on how you can support RSPO certified Independent Smallholders, please contact the RSPO Smallholder Unit at [su@rspo.org](mailto:su@rspo.org). For more information on how you can access the RSPO marketplace to purchase IS-Credits, please contact the *prisma* Helpdesk at [prismahelpdesk@rspo.org](mailto:prismahelpdesk@rspo.org).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Naranjo'.

**Francisco Naranjo**  
**Director, Technical and Smallholder**  
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil