



RSPO is an international non-profit organisation formed in 2004 with the objective to promote the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders.

Factsheet on

Enhancing the Position of Local Communities, Smallholders and Labors Through Capacity Building for IMO in Accessing and Using the RSPO System”



About

The Institute for Development and Peace Studies (INDEPAZ) is a Colombian NGO founded in 1984, dedicated to fostering peace through training, research, dialogue, and advocacy. It strengthens grassroots organizations, particularly ethnic and youth groups, and facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogues involving companies, unions, governments, and social organizations.

Through its Human Rights and Conflict Observatory, Indepaz monitors armed conflict dynamics, the reorganization of armed groups, the paramilitary network, victimization of civil society, and resistance efforts.

Background

Colombia, the largest palm oil producer in the Americas and the fourth globally, cultivates nearly 450,000 hectares and produces over one million tons of crude palm oil annually. Palm oil accounts for three-quarters of the country's oleaginous seed harvest, with oil palm showing significant growth dynamics.

Plans to expand palm oil production aim to boost job creation and renewable energy growth, underpinned by legal environmental and community protections. Increasingly, Colombian producers are adopting sustainability standards, including RSPO guidelines, to ensure market access and promote sustainable practices in palm oil production.



Objectives

1. Improved Access for Local Communities:

Ensuring that local communities can interact with and utilize the RSPO system with greater ease and efficiency.

2. Capacity Building for IMOs: Equipping Independent Mediating Organizations (IMOs) with the knowledge to effectively use the RSPO system to address the needs, priorities, and rights of local communities.

3. Strengthened RSPO Engagement:

Enhancing the RSPO's capacity to engage with and support local communities in addressing their needs and protecting their rights.

Project Approaches

RSPO project, implemented by Indepaz, aimed to strengthen the capacity of local communities, smallholders, and labourers to engage with the RSPO system and effectively address conflicts through mediation and grievance mechanisms.

The project effectively enhanced stakeholder engagement with sustainable palm oil practices by building local capacities, promoting the use of grievance mechanisms, and fostering collaboration. To sustain and expand these achievements, ongoing engagement and follow-up actions are necessary to address unresolved challenges in conflict-affected areas.

Project Area



Deliverables

Conflict Resolution: RSPO standards provided a practical framework for resolving disputes over land ownership and labour rights. Some communities acknowledged the RSPO system as a valuable tool for rebuilding relationships.

Environmental and Labor Advocacy: Afro-descendant communities, environmental organizations, and unions actively utilized RSPO processes to address grievances, including fracking-related water resource concerns.

Strengthened Trust: Face-to-face meetings and targeted communication strategies enhanced trust among stakeholders, fostering collaboration and capacity building.

Find out more at rspo.org