



**RSPO Outreach Working Group (OWG)
Meeting 12: 29th November 2021**

Agenda (Minutes)

1. Introductions (new participants) (0-5)
2. Anti-trust statement and approval of minutes of the last meeting (5-10)
3. Updates related to the 'Communication, Claims and Trademark' document revision process (10-20)
4. Regional updates for BIG4 (India, China, Indonesia, Malaysia) to increase CSPO uptake and RSPO's impact (20-40)
5. Highlights from the introductory meeting for the formation of a global network of national/regional sustainable palm oil platforms (40-45)
6. Updates related to the 'Global Youth for Sustainable Palm Oil Summit' on 4 Dec 2021 (45-50)
7. Discussion on key topics highlighted during RT2021 (50-80)
8. AOB and Next Steps (80-90)

Questions/key topics and upcoming events for a common discussion (50-80):

1. Suggestions for socialising Shared Responsibility to RSPO members and what tools or communication assets could be developed by the secretariat.
2. Ways to improve the credibility of the RSPO assurance system – specifically for risks highlighted in SE Asia.
3. What more can be done to encourage more independent smallholders to join the RSPO system – specifically in Thailand and India?
4. Encouraging regional representatives to fill the spots vacated by a couple of OWG members so that we have a more localised approach.

OWG Participants

Constituency	Name (Substantive/Alternate)
Grower/Processor	Lesley Marson, Olam
Grower ROW	Cristian Carrillo, Palmaceite S.A.
Grower - MY	Mark Wong, Sime Darby Plantations
Grower -Indo	Anita Neville and Ian Suwarganda, GAR
P&T	Jonathan Escolar, AAK Global, Bo Porsgaard Pedersen, AAK Regional, Raymond Due, AAK China, Dheeraj Talreja, AAK India
P&T	Caroline Moussou Dit Bourdalle, IFF
CGM	Paula Kasprzyk, Natura & Co (moving to Oleo Task Force)
SCA	Manoj Jha, Sai Tripti Chemtrade Pvt Ltd, India
eNGO	Michelle Desilets and Judith Murdoch, Orangutan Land Trust (OLT)
eNGO	Xin Yu, WWF – China, Karishma Vohra, WWF-India
eNGO	Tracey Gazibara, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

Secretariat Participants:

Region	Name
Global/India	Kamal Prakash Seth
Assurance	Aryo Gustomo and Prabhkirat Kaur
Shared Responsibility	Ashwin Selveraj and Joyce Van Wijk
India	Shivnayan Aggarwal



China	Feifei Teng
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1. **Updates related to the 'Communication, Claims and Trademark' document revision process**
 - The [public consultation](#) is going on from 24 Nov 2021 for a 60-day period. The secretariat will share more updates and information once this is done, to receive further feedback and finalise the document.

2. **Regional updates for BIG4 (India, China, Indonesia, Malaysia) to increase CSPO uptake and RSPO's impact**
 - Secretariat shared key updates from BIG4 as highlighted in the presentation used during the meeting (attached).
 - Ian/GAR mentioned that the event organised by IDH-India in New Delhi will have participation from key Gov representatives and it will be a good opportunity for RSPO to raise awareness on sustainable trade and certification in general and the relationship between producing and consuming countries.
 - Godrej Industries has joined I-SPOC.
 - Updates related to the 'Global Youth for Sustainable Palm Oil Summit' on 4 Dec 2021.
 - Kamal thanked OWG members for their support in promoting the summit on social media and otherwise. More details in the slides.

3. **Common discussion on key topics**
 - **Suggestions for socialising Shared Responsibility to RSPO members and what tools or communication assets could be developed by the secretariat.**
 - Ashwin mentioned that approx. 600 members have not complied with SR targets for last year, but a much higher number has complied with 95% or more of the targets. To make SR more mainstream amongst members, the SR unit is developing some comms assets like one-pagers, videos etc. which will be ready in the first half of 2022.
 - Joyce mentioned that the translated documents and other resources can be accessed at the RSPO [website](#).
 - Paula/Natura mentioned that resources related to topics like carbon footprint impact of certified and non-certified palm oil – this kind of resource will be very valuable for the members because on top of sustainable sourcing commitments, companies also have carbon footprint commitments/targets. Many companies struggle to understand the uptake targets related to derivatives – it is challenging to measure where hundreds of derivatives are involved. Some tools could be developed to measure CSPO in oleochemicals, especially for people who don't have that background. Ashwin mentioned that some of this information is there in RSPO's impact report, but it tends to not get noticed or used by members – the SR unit can develop this messaging through the comms assets. Kamal mentioned that Paula could mention this in the Oleo Task Force meetings as well and see what the solutions could be. Ashwin said we can follow up based on the suggestions from the Oleo Task Force.

 - **Ways to improve the credibility of the RSPO assurance system - specifically for risks highlighted in SE Asia.**
 - Kamal mentioned that this topic was discussed during the RT APAC session and the importance of highlighting certification as one of the tools for meeting due diligence was highlighted by the speakers.
 - Areas for improvement for RSPO's assurance system was also discussed and more work needs to be done in this direction, specifically based on the findings from the gap analysis exercise done earlier.
 - Aryo mentioned that the gap analysis is helping us to determine the solutions as well as the next steps (improvement projects and initiatives). Some of the hot topics highlighted



as gaps have been – social auditing, labour auditing, capacity of auditors etc. not only for P&C standard but also for the supply chain standard.

- **What more can be done to encourage more independent smallholders to join the RSPO system – specifically in Thailand and India?**
 - Kamal mentioned that the speaker representing SHs on the panel highlighted how the local communities have benefitted from the premiums received from selling CSPO and how it encourages them for good agricultural practices.
 - Judith/OLT mentioned that around the 2019 RT in Bangkok, lots of people were asking for market linkages between Thai ISHs and Europe and it's not there now. More work can be done to create stories of ISHs working with RSPO in Thailand and specifically India and try to link them with the players in Europe. It's about linking stories and making it more personal. This can be done through ISH credits (not physical supply chains) due to the supply chain challenges involved.
 - Anita/GAR mentioned that a lot of this comes down to communications and asked if there are any updates for the recruitment of RSPO's Director for Stakeholder Engagement and improvements with RSPO's communications next year. Kamal mentioned that he was not aware of any updates related to this, but Inke might be sharing more updates on this during the upcoming MDSC meeting.
 - Ashwin mentioned that previously some projects were commissioned to capture the SH stories, but the pandemic has impacted that work. However, more stories have been published by the secretariat via social media but more needs to be done to improve the channels of communications. RSPO also tried positioning ISH credits from a livelihood improvement perspective as it is more effective compared to a compliance focus. A comms plan needs to be in place at the beginning of all SH related projects (like in India) but that hasn't been the case often.

- **Highlights from the introductory meeting for the formation of a global network of national/regional sustainable palm oil platforms.**
 - The introductory meeting was organised in Nov for the need to have a global network of national initiatives for sustainable palm oil (SPO). RSPO also participated in this meeting as a founding/steering committee members of some national initiatives like India and China. It was agreed that Efeca from the UK will follow up and help in creating a draft term of reference to be discussed further in 2022.
 - This draft will be shared with OWG when it is ready. Anita/GAR asked for a clarification about the purpose of this network and what will it do differently than what is currently being done. Kamal mentioned that the participants of the first meeting felt there is a merit mainly due to various commitments etc. being made by several governments for no deforestation by 2030 or 2050 and that this network could be of use. But this will be clearer once the terms of reference has been discussed. Mark/Sime Darby asked how this network will be different from what the RSPO does. Kamal mentioned that many large organisations are not members of RSPO, but they are members of national SPO platforms, which would be a part of this global network - national/regional platforms will be members of this global network, not individual companies, NGOs etc.
 - Michelle/OLT mentioned that she can see the value of such a platform if it is inclusive of those who do not wish to be RSPO members for whatever reason and a way to engage more brands and end consumers themselves.
 - Judith/OLT mentioned that some of the national platforms are certainly very active, for example, in the UK and the Netherlands and this network will create regional/market linkages Europe/EU to India/China – RSPO should be a part of this platform and not being a part of it in any way would be a mistake. Efeca is the secretariat of the UK SPO roundtable, and it has members from large CGMs and retailers, so the market links will be good. That constituency is missing in OWG, and we need to do more to include them,



even the relatively smaller players can have an equally great influence, and this would be worth considering further.

- Anita/GAR mentioned that she would agree with Judith regarding the absence of FMCG and Retailers in this working group is a real issue. It would be good to know how the RSPO Secretariat, and other members, can encourage participation. We all know too often the same people (and companies) end up in these meetings/platforms. We need to understand why they are not here. Is the work programme not compelling to these actors?
- **Encouraging regional representatives to fill the spots vacated by a couple of OWG members so that we have a more localised approach.**
 - Mark/Sime Darby mentioned that it will be useful to see why the downstream players who are at the forefront of the markets are not represented well here.
 - Anita/GAR mentioned that we need to understand why they are not here. Is the work programme not compelling to these actors?
 - Kamal mentioned that the next OWG meeting will be in Jan/Feb, and we could use that time to reflect on the key topics discussed today.
 - During the next meeting (keeping in mind the Chinese New Year holidays) we can discuss the key focus areas for OWG for 2022.

The secretariat will send the follow up email and a doodle poll to schedule the next meeting.