

RSPO

Roundtable on
Sustainable Palm Oil

BANGKOK, THAILAND 3-6 NOVEMBER 2019



RT17
2019 Bangkok
Thailand
AN EVENT BY **RSPO**

Converting Commitments into Action

THE 17TH ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

3 - 6 November 2019, Bangkok, Thailand



RT17
AN EVENT BY **RSPO**

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: CONVERTING COMMITMENTS INTO ACTION

CONTENTS



This multimedia report is designed to capture the spirit of the 17th Roundtable and summarises the event's key discussion and messages. To access videos of the sessions, follow the links throughout the report to RSPO's dedicated YouTube channel.

Executive Summary	02	Closing Address	60
Delegates Overview	04	Delegate Feedback	62
Welcome Address	06	Media Coverage	63
Keynote Address	08	Appendix	64
Preparatory Clusters	10	List of Delegates	71
Plenary Sessions	41	Acknowledgement	75



SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

It was with renewed energy that the members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) congregated in Bangkok, Thailand for the 17th Annual Roundtable Conference on Sustainable Palm Oil (RT17). The theme *A Shared Responsibility: Converting Commitments into Action* aptly described the push to achieve RSPO's 2020 sustainability targets.

The previous year saw the adoption of the enhanced Principles and Criteria, and with it a commitment to achieving market transformation. But transformation cannot rely on individuals or on just one member category. It can only be effective when all parties start to work together.

With this in mind, the Board of Governors of the RSPO endorsed a document on shared responsibility requirements and implementation just days before the start of the conference. *Shared Responsibility* recognises that all members share an equal responsibility for achieving the RSPO's vision for a sustainable future, and that all members play different roles in transforming the market.

In his welcome speech Datuk Darrel Webber, Chief Executive Officer, RSPO, described the document as the most tangible tool the RSPO had to measure its members' progress in an objective way. "Through the new rules for Shared Responsibility, I expect all members to actively

participate and work together to increase the demand for sustainable palm oil with mutual accountability throughout the supply chain."

It was in this spirit of cooperation that the 3-day RT17 was launched on 3 November 2019 at the Bangkok Marriott Marquis Queen's Park, Thailand.

“

Shared Responsibility recognises that all members share an equal responsibility for achieving the RSPO's vision for a sustainable future.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(CONTINUED)



The conference saw a strong focus on finding solutions to uplift independent smallholders—a significant force in the industry, contributing close to 40% of global palm oil production and achieving concentrations of 70% in some regions.

The issue of integrating smallholders into the mainstream of sustainable production was much discussed as well as the Smallholder Strategy with its objectives of improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, simplifying certification, and ensuring a business case for smallholder inclusion in the RSPO.

Members then made a bold commitment to support the case of the smallholders through the adoption of the RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard. RSPO's ISH Standard makes it easier and more practical for smallholders to implement sustainability principles. Members voted for the ISH Standard and it was successfully adopted at the 16th General Assembly of the RSPO. This will lead to two separate standards for the production of sustainable palm oil without compromising principles of sustainability.

Those attending the RT17 also witnessed the launch of a new initiative—the RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy (STA)—that aims to significantly increase the resources available for smallholders globally. By adopting a 'train-the-trainer' approach, RSPO hopes to reach larger numbers of small-scale oil palm farmers through agricultural best practice training.

The other topic that garnered much attention, and that embodied the essence of Shared

Responsibility, was that of the Jurisdictional Approach. RSPO's Jurisdictional Approach is currently being tested in three ongoing pilot programmes: on a district level in Seruyan, Kalimantan, Indonesia; on a state level in Sabah, Malaysia; and on a country level in Ecuador.

Speakers referred to the initiative as an exercise in governance that went beyond productivity and economic goals, and importantly, it was an initiative that brought together various stakeholders from different sectors. Updates from all the pilot projects showed much progress and hopeful outcomes.

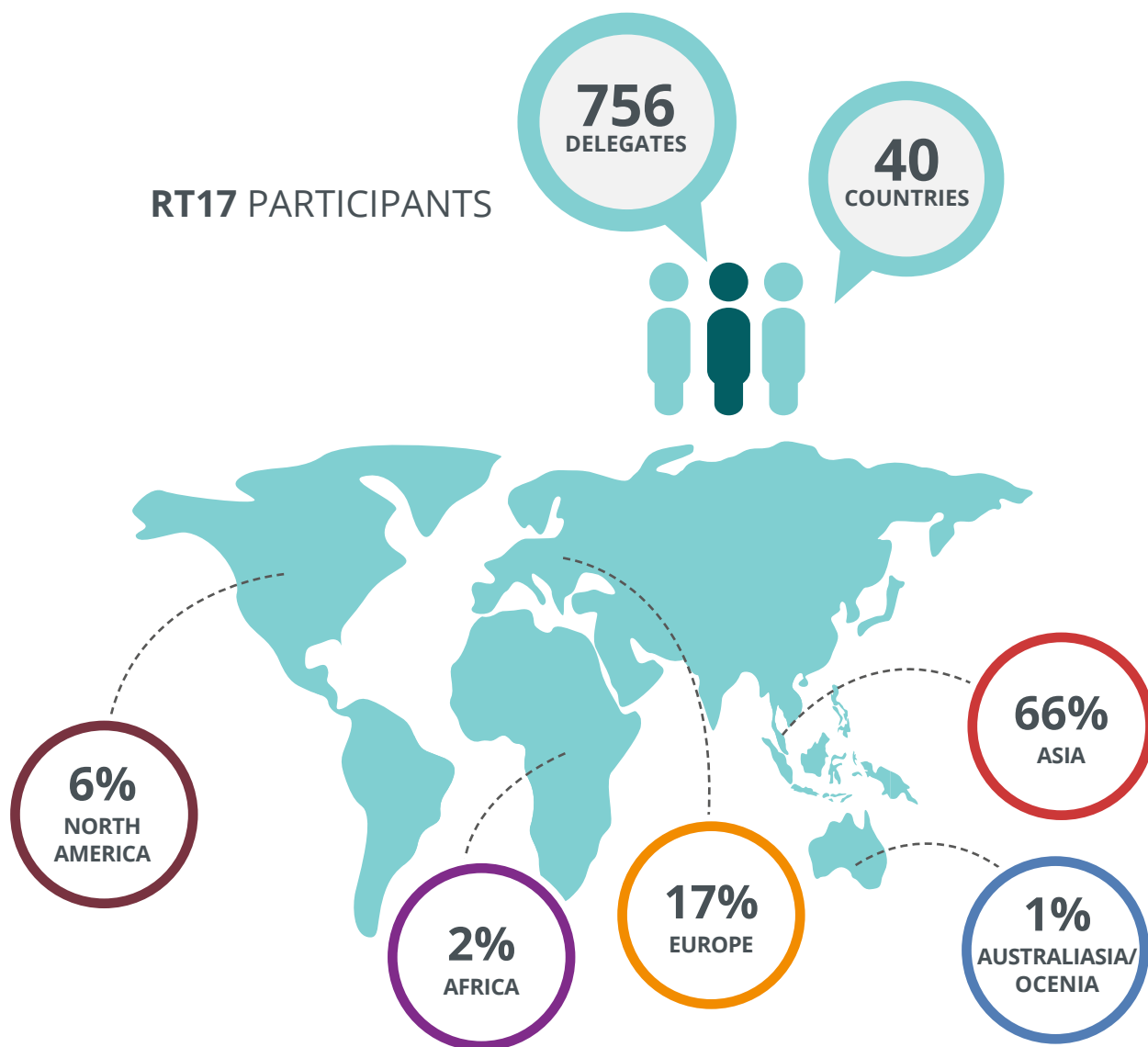
Many other distinguished panels from a diverse range of fields graced the conference and spoke on topics such as "Natural Processes, Technological Advancement, or Both?", "Assurance - Keeping You in Check" and "RSPO Implementing No Deforestation".

Still there was no denying that there was much to do to hit the 2020 targets, and RSPO Co-Chair Anne Rosenbarger closed the conference saying, "Some of our toughest work is still in front of us." Adding that as one of the most diverse and influential stakeholder forums in the world, the RSPO had "tremendous power in our ability just to bring people to the table."

She called for the RSPO to figure out how to maximise its potential as an engagement platform and as a forum for shared learning. "[Through the RSPO] we can align the industry around certification, but also around other innovations and operations," she said.

DELEGATES OVERVIEW

RT17 PARTICIPANTS

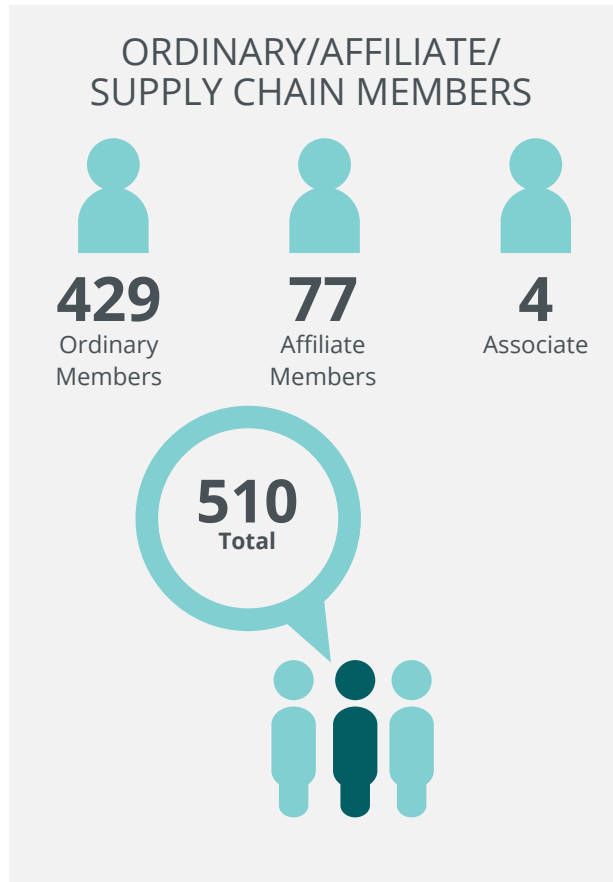


NORTH AMERICA	46
Canada	3
Guatemala	3
United States of America	40
LATIN AMERICA	6
Brazil	1
Colombia	4
Ecuador	1
AFRICA	13
Central African Republic	1
Cote Divoire	4
Ghana	1
Kenya	1
Monrovia, Liberia	1
Nigeria	2
South Africa	3

EUROPE	130
Belgium	2
Denmark	3
Finland	2
France	8
Germany	12
Italy	2
Latvia	1
Liechtenstein	1
Norway	1
Russia	2
Spain	2
Switzerland	7
The Netherlands	39
United Kingdom	48

ASIA	500
China	7
Hong Kong	5
India	23
Indonesia	152
Japan	38
Malaysia	177
Philippines	3
Singapore	48
Thailand	46
United Arab Emirates	1
AUSTRALASIA / OCENIA	7
Australia	3
New Zealand	2
Papua New Guinea	2
UNKNOWN	54

DELEGATES OVERVIEW



WELCOME ADDRESS

DATUK DARREL WEBBER

Chief Executive Officer,
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil



*Watch the
Session Highlights*



As the world continues to face the crisis of climate change, members of the RSPO have an urgent moral obligation to lead positive consumer change in the market in close alignment with the letter and spirit of the 2019 Roundtable's theme of "A Shared Responsibility: Converting Commitments into Action".

RSPO Chief Executive Officer Datuk Darrel Webber said that he had been "haunted" by the words of Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg at the 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit in September, adding that such a scathing condemnation from a child should bring humanity to its senses.

"How dare you?" she said. She said we had stolen her dreams and her childhood. For 30 years the signs of climate change have been clear but we continued to look away, and the solutions are still nowhere in sight. Can we blame her generation for saying this? Is she telling untruths?"

Webber said that while commitments and pledges were often easily made, the real test of their value came in their translation into action. The RSPO, for example, was intended to be a market-based solution, but how did it fare in terms of market results? Palm oil producers, Webber said, often complained that the RSPO certification process was too difficult and that refiners and processors did not sufficiently reward their efforts to produce Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO).

"We then asked the refiners and processors: 'Why won't you buy certified sustainable palm oil?' They replied: 'The growers simply want too much, and we can't pass down that cost to the buyers.' So, being good servants of our members, we went down to the retailers but they said that consumers would not loosen their purse-strings because there was no demand for sustainable palm oil. They said their margins were already razor-thin and no one wanted to pay for the good stuff.

"So, consumers make the ultimate decision—but there is a whole lot of effort put in by other people to shape that decision. All of us have experienced going into a shop and coming out with more than what we planned to buy, and most of the time price was not an issue. People forget that buying is led by emotion and justified by logic only later. So, consumers can decide to buy just about anything if given the right prompt, and it isn't always about pricing—it's about a lot more than that."

The effects of climate change should be a key factor in consumer choice, he said. In 2019 alone, there were several negative environmental events ranging from air pollution in India and haze in Southeast Asia to the highest-ever temperatures recorded in several parts of Europe including Germany and the Netherlands, and the devastating forest fires in the Amazon rainforest.

WELCOME ADDRESS



“People around the world are discussing these topics, but if we examine the media, I personally haven’t seen anyone talk about how their products are produced in a way that helps mitigate some of these problems,” Webber said.

The RSPO, he said, was justly proud to be acknowledged by third parties for having the most stringent standards in the world for growing and producing palm oil. The organisation provides solutions such as High Carbon Stock and its application in High Forest Cover Landscapes, and its standards help members comply and exceed expectations through No-Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation policies in verifiable and transparent ways.

“Last year RSPO members saved 1.4 million tonnes in carbon emissions, which is equivalent to removing 300,000 cars from the road,” Webber said, “And despite our fear that our stringent standards will scare producers away, we saw 22% growth in CSPO production last year. Even smallholders are increasingly connected—we saw a 156% increase in certified smallholders.

“So why not market what you are doing? Tell people your products do indeed contain a commodity that is doing its very best to mitigate the impacts they see on TV.”

Demand for CSPO products would skyrocket if members reshaped their thinking about marketing their products in order to make them easily accessible to consumers. “But instead, what’s happening is that consumers can readily find ‘no-palm-oil’ products in well-labelled aisles,” Webber said. “I’m surprised why you haven’t responded with aisles that say ‘sustainable palm oil only’. Why are the no-palm-oil labels front and centre in the consumer’s eyes?”

He added that on 31 October 2019 the RSPO Board of Governors endorsed a document on shared responsibility requirements and implementation. This document provides detailed guidance to RSPO members in the supply chain who are seeking to convert their sustainable palm oil commitments into action.

“This is by far the most tangible tool we have to measure our members’ progress in an objective way. And there are other ways—new ways—that are well within our capacity to bring about change to address the biggest issues of our time.

“So, in the near future, when someone like Greta Thunberg says to us: “how dare you”, we can respond proudly: “we dare not to fail you. We dare to turn our words into commitments and into action.”

KEYNOTE PAPER:

Feeding 9.5 Billion People Sustainably by 2050

SUNNY GEORGE VERGHESE

Chief Co-Founder and Group CEO,
Olam International Limited



*Watch the
Session Highlights*



One of the chief impediments to the effective implementation of a sustainable approach to global development lies in our misunderstanding of value. “We manage what we measure,” said Sunny George Vergheese, Co-Founder and Group CEO of multinational conglomerate Olam International Limited, in his keynote address to the 17th meeting of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil. “And if you measure wrongly, you will manage wrongly.”

Nation-states, for example, measured progress in terms of GDP and GDP per capita although there was little correlation between these factors and the overall wellbeing of citizens, including environmental, social, and mental wellbeing, health, access to opportunities, and so forth.

Vergheese said that the private sector today focused entirely on financial and economic capital when determining value, “but there are many other forms of capital that lead to long-term financial and economic capital creation: there is natural capital, social capital, human, intellectual, as well as intangible capital—we have to create all these other kinds of capital that can drive long-term value creation.”

As such there are three major developmental challenges facing the world and prospects for food production in particular. The first was the climate emergency—which he said was “no longer a climate crisis”—and there was “little time left” in terms of staving off cataclysmic disruptions due to climate change resulting from human activity.

“This emergency is not something you can touch and feel. It is not palpable. Turning on the air-conditioner, you’ll feel reasonably comfortable and so you won’t see that the world is literally on fire,” Vergheese said, adding that safe greenhouse gas thresholds were set at 50 parts per million but current levels had already hit 415 parts per million and were still growing.

Consequently, where a 1.5 degree centigrade increase in global temperatures would cause Arctic ice to melt once in a century, at two degrees, the probability would rise tenfold to once in a decade while the rate of species extinction would increase by a factor of two or three.

This required a radical and immediate response, Vergheese said, and governments must make it mandatory for industries and companies to disclose their carbon footprints and take remedial action to reduce those footprints, while the global agricultural sector must develop a sectoral roadmap to share experiences and best practices while building collaboration and trust.

“Also, the private sector and civil society must come together. Right now, NGOs see the private sector as evil while the private sector sees civil society organisations as troublemakers, but we have to form public-private partnerships, civil society and company collaboration, and work together for the same collective aim of developing sustainable food and agricultural policies.”

KEYNOTE PAPER: Feeding 9.5 Billion People Sustainably by 2050



Equally crucial to the debate was the ability to safeguard future freshwater supplies. “We have fought wars over oil,” Verghese said, “and we will fight much worse wars over water.” Global water consumption currently stood at 4.9 trillion cubic metres, of which 71% went to agriculture. Verghese estimated that humanity would need seven trillion cubic metres of water by 2030 to sustain a population of 8.35 billion.

“The first change that needs to happen is: transform agriculture and restore the environment. We need to produce more food, feed, and fibre with a fraction of the resources we are currently using today,” he said, citing the example of using technology such as Internet of Things sensors to monitor plant moisture levels and release appropriate amounts of water only when necessary and with no wastage.

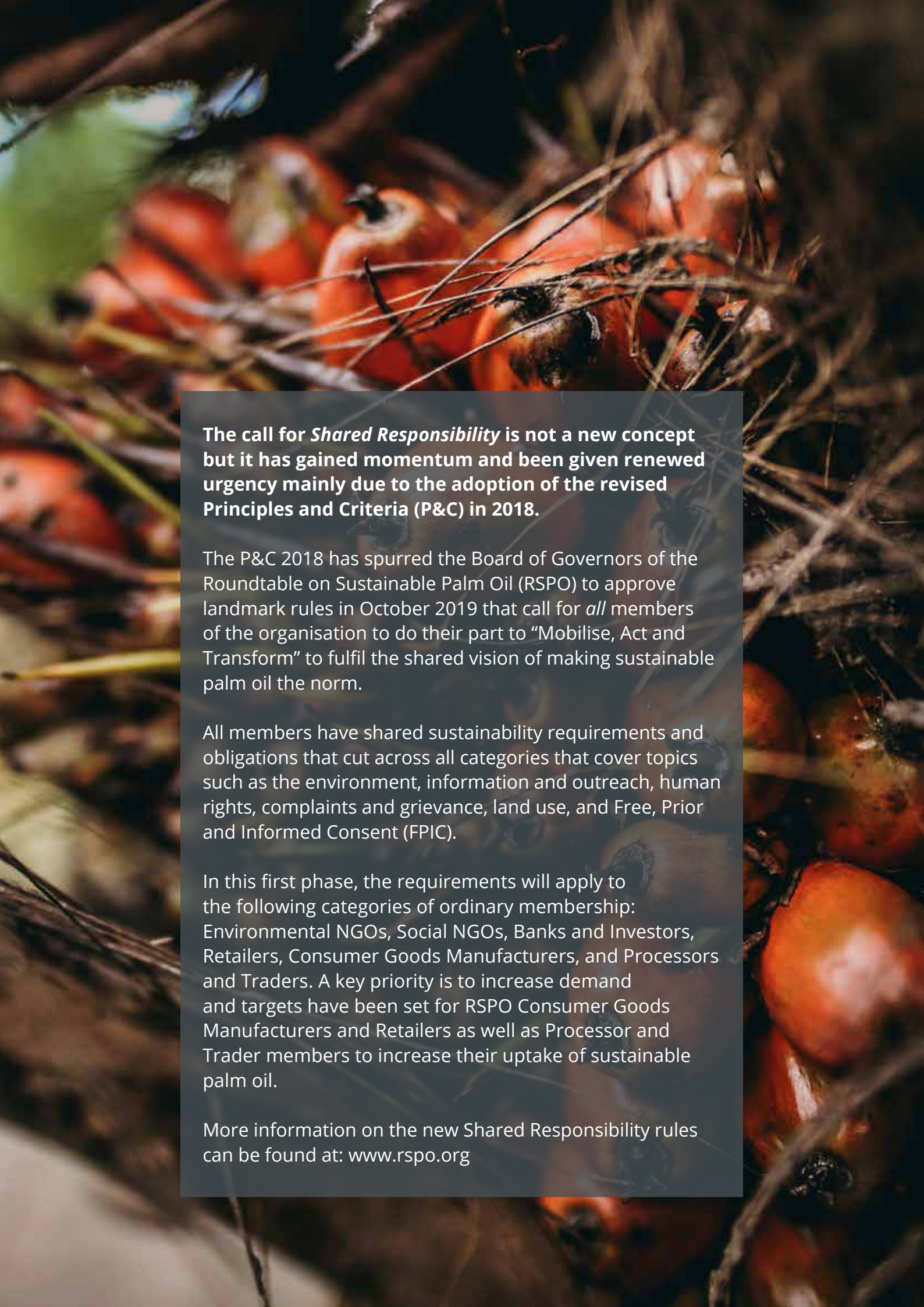
The second developmental challenge, he said, was the collapse of the ecosystem with species extinction reaching alarming rates, while the third was social inequality where the richest 65 families in the world owned as much wealth as the bottom 2.8 billion people combined. “This is not a problem of the developing world,” he said. “It is a problem of the developed world; and throughout history, whenever humanity faced this kind of inequality, people have always chosen to address it by violent means.”

The pathway to transformation lay in distributing value more equally in the value chain. “The cocoa farmer, for example, receives only a fraction of the value that a chocolate-maker gets from the finished product. How long can the agricultural system survive if there is this kind of unequal distribution of value in the supply chain between producers and consumers?”

Finally, the third intervention lay in drastically reducing waste in the modern economy. With digital technology, it was possible, for example, to track the produce throughout its entire journey to the consumer, minimising wastage at all points along the supply chain.

“When we supply our customers cocoa beans or coffee beans, or cocoa and coffee products, for example, we can trace the journey of the product all the way from farm to factory, and we can determine exactly what our carbon footprint is, as well as our water footprint,” Varghese said, describing practices Olam has implemented to improve its sustainability and cost-savings.

“Sustainability pays,” Varghese said, “but sustainability also pays because if you are sustainable, you can have inspired and engaged employees” who are invested in the company and who look forward to coming to work every day.



The call for *Shared Responsibility* is not a new concept but it has gained momentum and been given renewed urgency mainly due to the adoption of the revised Principles and Criteria (P&C) in 2018.

The P&C 2018 has spurred the Board of Governors of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) to approve landmark rules in October 2019 that call for *all* members of the organisation to do their part to “Mobilise, Act and Transform” to fulfil the shared vision of making sustainable palm oil the norm.

All members have shared sustainability requirements and obligations that cut across all categories that cover topics such as the environment, information and outreach, human rights, complaints and grievance, land use, and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

In this first phase, the requirements will apply to the following categories of ordinary membership: Environmental NGOs, Social NGOs, Banks and Investors, Retailers, Consumer Goods Manufacturers, and Processors and Traders. A key priority is to increase demand and targets have been set for RSPO Consumer Goods Manufacturers and Retailers as well as Processor and Trader members to increase their uptake of sustainable palm oil.

More information on the new Shared Responsibility rules can be found at: www.rspo.org

NATURAL PROCESSES, TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT, OR BOTH?

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 1



MODERATOR

Cameron Plese

Deputy US Representative, RSPO

SPEAKERS

Vera Belazelkoska

Director of Programs, Ulula

Erik Malmstrom

Chief Executive Officer, SafeTraces

Maria Goretti

Palm Oil Programme Manager, Solidaridad Colombia

Nicholas Cheong

Global RSPO Scheme Manager, BSI Group

As the RSPO increases its efforts to promote sustainability throughout the palm oil sector, new opportunities arise in the use of technologies and changes in communication and information systems. Avenues for monitoring, reporting, and connecting workers and stakeholders are now available, which would have been inconceivable even a generation ago. How would these developments impact the future, and how could they work with existing channels and avenues?

Vera Belazelkoska, Director of Programs at Ulula, spoke of her organisation's work to use technology in order to amplify the voices of workers and community members most impacted by business operations in global supply chains [...]. "Our main goal is to think about how we can leverage technologies that we already have not just to advance and innovate new things but also by improving what is most accessible to workers so that we can monitor human and labour rights as well as social risks," said Belazelkoska.

Ulula involves the use of scalable worker voice technology for the continuous monitoring of working conditions around the world. It employs structured worker surveys aligned

Watch the
Session Highlights



NATURAL PROCESSES, TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT, OR BOTH?

(CONTINUED)

with the RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C) on human rights and social standards, and is designed to be as accessible and simple as possible on the front end, but is supported by an advanced back end that analyses and aggregates data in real time.

“When it comes to workers, we need to create a connection with whatever technology is available. Technology is a conduit for change but four billion people around the world still have no access to the internet, making the use of applications and technologically advanced tools challenging. Providers have to think of the last mile and digital literacy while engagements must accommodate the digital literacy of stakeholders,” Belazelkoska said.

“We need to get to human rights issues before they become big issues,” Belazelkoska continued, adding that decision-makers need actionable data, not just statistical information. As such, Ulula offers a two-way communication platform in real time that preserves the anonymity of the user.

She said that an Ulula-RSPO pilot programme has been initiated in Sabah, Malaysia, to connect workers with their employers and the RSPO in order to de-risk operations, measure impacts, and create value for stakeholders. The results of the pilot showed that most of the 120 workers surveyed preferred giving direct feedback rather than through surveys, and were more comfortable using SMS. The next phase, Belazelkoska said, is to take the project downstream to mills, processors, and traders to measure impacts on corrective action plans and explore further possibilities in terms of jurisdictional approaches.

For Erik Malmstrom, Chief Executive Officer of SafeTraces, database and blockchain technologies are logical steps in creating robust systems in sustainability tracking to address first mile palm oil traceability issues.

“SafeTraces is a small team of scientists, engineers, food safety and quality practitioners, and commercial leaders. The core of our technology is based on a patented method that we developed where we use

edible DNA markers drawn from seaweed. These markers were spliced and combined with unique customer-specific barcodes that could be inserted directly into food and agricultural materials at small trace amounts of parts per billion or even parts per trillion,” said Malmstrom.

“They’re edible and invisible. They are tasteless, odourless, and have no effect on shelf life and were recognised as safe by authorities in the US. These markers were supported by extensive back-end technology and a DNA printer at the front-end, which integrated the codes into produce in dry or liquid forms. Basically, if at some point in the supply chain you tag the product with the barcode specific to the customer, then the receiver downstream or at the destination can do an onsite test and, within 20 minutes or less, they can get a positive ID on where the product comes from,” Malmstrom explained.

“This is particularly useful for palm oil, where there is a critical gap in the first mile. If there is no traceability from plantation to mill, then further traceability doesn’t matter much. As such, the mill could act as a command-and-control centre, with harvest crews applying the DNA tags by spray,” added Malmstrom.

Meanwhile, civil society organisation Solidaridad is exploring more conventional digital approaches to provide farmer-centric solutions in a context where few smallholders have participated in the sustainable supply chain. Maria Goretti, Palm Oil Programme Manager at Solidaridad Colombia, said that only 6% of smallholders worldwide are RSPO certified, and the challenge is to include them in the broader conversation about sustainability.

“[In Colombia] data collection is expensive,” she said, “and there is a lack of benchmark peers and continual feedback. Technical assistance is generalised—one size fits all—and is expensive and time consuming as well as limited in coverage.” However, half of the 4,500 smallholder producers in Colombia now possessed smartphones, she said, and internet access was available at mills

NATURAL PROCESSES, TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT, OR BOTH?

(CONTINUED)

and cooperatives. Likewise, compatibility of devices with digital applications was improving, and smallholders now had wider access to digital content.

To aid this development, Solidaridad has created a mobile application called “Farming Solution”, which gives Colombian smallholders access to the RSPO Manuals, information on company requirements, and assistance through the Sustainability College. “Producers can understand challenges at the level where they are and instantly receive action plans on how to improve practices. There is also an online library with relevant training materials (videos, games, manuals), and links with compliance policies to create concrete goals for implementation,” she said, adding that feedback from producers also yielded actionable intelligence for farmer organisations, processors and buyers.

Finally, Nicholas Cheong, who is Global RSPO Scheme Manager, BSI Group, argued for the use of aerial imaging in credibility certification, verification and investigations into grievances. Aerial imaging, he said, increased transparency and provided holistic landscape assessment, allowing monitoring of areas that might otherwise be inaccessible.

“Palm oil concessions are growing,” he said, “and aerial imaging gives us the ability to dive down if initial evidence shows that something isn’t right,” he said. The RSPO P&C contained more than 200 compliance indicators, and aerial imaging eliminated travelling time on the group, especially in remote areas. “We use drone technology to upload images to our audit platform, vCapture,” which can in turn help promote more transparent and credible assessments.

The availability of time-lapse photography would also help show changes to land use as well as threats to biodiversity. “Potentially, [aerial imaging technology] can also analyse crop nutrient deficiencies, agronomic compliance on fertiliser use, as well as greenhouse gas emissions,” he added.

“When it comes to workers, we need to create a connection with whatever technology is available...four billion people around the world still have no access to the internet. Providers have to think of the last mile and digital literacy while engagements must accommodate the digital literacy of stakeholders.”

**—Vera Belazelkoska,
Director of Programs, Ulula**

ASSURANCE – KEEPING YOU IN CHECK

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 2



MODERATOR

Liz Clarke

Global Palm Oil Lead, WWF Singapore

SPEAKERS

Paul Wolvekamp

Advisor, Both ENDS

Agus Purnomo

Managing Director for Sustainability and Strategic Stakeholder Engagement, Golden Agri Resources

Emily Kunen

*Global Responsible Sourcing Leader,
Palm Oil & Seafood, Nestlé SA*

Marcus Colchester

Senior Policy Advisor, Forest Peoples Programme

In 2015, the RSPO passed a resolution that led to the formation of the Assurance Taskforce (ATF). The ATF was to make certain that the RSPO's audit processes were up to mark. This was a response to a report released by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and Grassroots: 'Who Watches the Watchmen? Auditors and the breakdown of oversight in the RSPO'.

This year, the ATF made way for the Assurance Steering Committee (ASC)—a move to give assurance a permanent and central priority within the RSPO. In her opening remarks to the session, moderator Liz Clarke, Global Palm Oil Lead, WWF Singapore, said: "[Assurance] is fundamental to underpinning RSPO's credibility. It's an issue that we must take seriously."

She brought attention to the newly-released 'Who Watches the Watchmen? 2: The continuing incompetence of the RSPO's assurance systems', a follow-up report on RSPO's efforts in the past four years, and quoted a paragraph from its summary: "The new Principles and Criteria (P&C) 2018 are considered a significant improvement over the previous version, yet they can only attain their full potential if they can be audited and

Watch the
Session Highlights



ASSURANCE – KEEPING YOU IN CHECK

(CONTINUED)

upheld in a thorough, comprehensive, and competent way.”

Paul Wolvekamp, Advisor, Both ENDS, echoed the sentiment. “Although assurance is at the heart of RSPO, it is often taken for granted,” he said. However, according to him, we must first accept some hard truths about implementation. This included navigating local cultures and dealing with stakeholders with different needs and motivations, such as the reality that a grower’s business KPIs might be “at loggerheads with creating space, resources, time, and attention for sustainability.

“It is also important to understand that the RSPO operates in a volatile political climate, where many consumer governments are not willing to cooperate,” he added, pointing out as well the issue of local stakeholders who were not willing to report violations for fear of retaliation from the powers-that-be.

Marcus Colchester, Senior Policy Advisor, Forest Peoples Programme, spoke about how assurance was about quality and not just quantity, and that the real question was if implementation was as impressive as the standards themselves.

“Reliable assessments, high quality audits and careful monitoring are fundamental to the credibility of the RSPO certification system—otherwise certificates are no guarantee of good performance on the ground,” he said.

According to Colchester the internal RSPO progress report on the ATF in December 2018 showed that 55% of the ATF’s agreed actions were still outstanding. “We may not like the tone but we need to admit we are falling short and find out why,” he said. He said this was important so that the newly-formed ASC did not repeat the same mistakes.

He also brought up the need for certifying bodies to be independently financed so that they would not be beholden to the companies they were auditing. Later in the session, a call was made to set up an independent fund for audits financed by both upstream and downstream players. This would decouple

the link between certifying bodies and plantations, as well as allow upstream players to share the financial burden of assessments and accreditation.

“We also need to upgrade the reporting of the complaints that are coming up so we can see what’s going on in these complaints and what’s being addressed because at the moment the tracking system has broken down,” he added.

Agus Purnomo, Managing Director for Sustainability and Strategic Stakeholder Engagement, Golden Agri Resources, proposed closer partnerships with NGOs who facilitated the submissions of complaints and grievances. “Most of us are trying to solve the problems, and many of the problems have been solved. But when a problem is solved, we don’t get the recognition,” he said.

Agus also encouraged innovation that would allow companies to get the same results with fewer resources. “Some of this innovation comes in the form of partnerships of downstream and upstream—shared responsibility is about everyone coming together,” he added.

Speaking as an upstream player, Emily Kunen, Global Responsible Sourcing Leader, Palm Oil & Seafood, Nestlé SA, said: “As a company, we know that no certification system is perfect [...] but it is a tool that we use in combination with other tools to have a holistic sustainability programme.”

She noted that, among the many other industries, the oil palm sector showed the greatest leadership and innovation when it came to sustainability efforts. “We need the RSPO certification to be an acknowledgement of that performance and of that leadership,” she said.

She said that the priority should be to address labour and environmental challenges that slipped into certified supply chains “because that tarnishes the reputation of the high performing sustainability companies and of the certification itself,” she said.

ASSURANCE – KEEPING YOU IN CHECK

(CONTINUED)

She proposed a shift in focus to process versus outcomes. “The focus needs to be on measures that can be monitored and progress reported rather than on activities. Previously, too much focus was given to activities that don’t necessarily lead to the impact that we want.”

On the move forward with the ASC, some questions were raised pertaining to the composition of the committee, which lacked representation from local stakeholders. A member of the audience also queried the need for the ASC: “We have certified bodies—why don’t we trust them to do their best instead of having another level of assurance?”

In answer, Wolvekamp explained that the taskforce had identified some serious non-compliance that was not detected by the audit bodies. “We need to trust, but monitoring is essential. What we are calling for is for more concerted efforts to make it easier for growers and to make scrutiny more efficient.”

It was also acknowledged that the taskforce did not have the capacity to handle the responsibilities that it had set itself, and that besides training, a new model where the work was outsourced might be needed.

In ending the session, the panelists identified the most important things that would kickstart better assurance, namely: obtaining feedback to improve the assurance system, formulating better social policy, improved communications, rigour in meeting deadlines, and maintaining credible audits.



YOU, ME, THEM: CHAMPIONING RIGHTS

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 3



MODERATOR

Jet Urmeneta

Director, Capacity Building, Verite Southeast Asia

SPEAKERS

Amalia Falah Alam

Country Representative Indonesia, CNV International

Lara White

Senior Specialist for Labour Migration and Human Development, International Organisation for Migration

Khai Yau Chua

Senior Program Manager, Responsible Business Alliance

Perpetua George

General Manager, Group Sustainability, Wilmar International Limited

In Nov 2018 the RSPO instituted new Principles and Criteria (P&C) which provided stronger protections for vulnerable worker groups including migrant workers, women, young workers and refugees," said moderator Jet Urmeneta, who is Director, Capacity Building, Verite Southeast Asia. "The P&Cs are now more aligned with International Labour Organization standards as well as the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights".

However, this represented only the first step. Currently, one in seven people around the world was a migrant worker and there were 19.5 million refugees, whether locally or internationally, said Lara White, Senior Specialist for Labour Migration and Human Development, International Organisation for Migration.

"The vast majority of people are moving for employment, whether through legal pathways that have been established between countries, or irregularly without valid work permits particularly in regions with many shared borders," she said, adding that 48% of all global migrants are women which raised gender-related issues in the discussion of migration.

Watch the
Session Highlights



YOU, ME, THEM: CHAMPIONING RIGHTS

(CONTINUED)

There were many positive impacts from migration, with USD600million remitted each year between and among countries by people on the move, and migration benefited destination communities by forming an appropriate labour force. However, there also were significant risks and costs to the migrants themselves.

Ensuring decent working conditions was important, she said, but equally important was the journey of migrants from their home communities to the workplace, which could expose them to vulnerabilities and result in de facto forced labour. Most employers did not know about this journey, she said, and the lack of transparency posed a serious risk to workers' rights.

"It begins with recruitment," White said. "This is true throughout all Asia-Pacific countries: lower-skilled workers pay for the cost of recruitment and migration, which can be very high. This can mean multiple months or years of salary, which puts them in the situation of bonded labour. They are then placed at work irregularly, with no access to traditional remedies, or they have work permits tied to a specific employer—if working conditions eroded, these workers could find themselves in bonded or forced labour."

According to Perpetua George, who is General Manager-Group Sustainability, Wilmar International Limited, the foreign guest workforce in the Malaysian plantation sector was estimated at 400,000 although there were significant seasonal variations due to the departure and arrival of workers.

"The issue is about recognising that [the foreign guest workforce] is very much about business stability," she said. "Foreign labour isn't just about cheap labour any more, particularly with the introduction of the minimum wage in Malaysia creating greater parity between foreign and local workers."

The issue of stability surrounded questions of overall working conditions and access to services—it was not merely a question of keeping levies and fees low to make foreign

labour as cheap as possible. The benefits of doing the right thing in terms of conditions and rights was obvious for Wilmar: "Right now in Malaysia, there is a worker shortage due to the Government's policy of reducing foreign labour to provide more opportunities for Malaysians," George said.

"There is genuine concern on plantations that there will not be enough workers, but we have excess of workers at Wilmar because we take care of them. We pay all levies and recruitment fees; we rely on reputable agents and have a clear onboarding process." Workers are talked through their contracts, and the company provides housing and other services and amenities to ensure that they are safe and happy. These workers then return home and provide new workforce candidates a very positive review of Wilmar.

"Having excess workers is a good problem to have [in this environment] but you have to invest in it by putting in place policies and procedures that allow you to hire and take care of your workforce."

In Indonesia, however, Amalia Falah Alam, who is Country Representative Indonesia, CNV Internationaal, said that there still was a high risk of exploitation to workers particularly those who came from disadvantaged social and educational backgrounds.

"They have no access to information; recruiters do not provide adequate information about the jobs they will do, and usually they don't have adequate training before employment, which impacts on their health and safety. Sometimes they also provide fake immigration documents because they are underaged, which makes them difficult to track."

These cases were underreported by trade unions, she said, and there were instances in East Kalimantan where the manpower office reported palm oil workers leaving their plantations—but the workers did not know which companies they worked for. "The Government helps them return [home] but they don't even know who their employers

YOU, ME, THEM: CHAMPIONING RIGHTS

(CONTINUED)

were," Amalia said, adding that Indonesia had sufficient regulations but lacked implementation.

The solution, she said, had to come from greater collaboration among stakeholders to respond to these risks. Social dialogue and freedom of association (i.e. freedom to form labour unions) would provide workers protection against labour exploitation and offer them the benefit of common goals.

In this respect the Responsible Business Alliance (RBA) has called for a zero-fee environment for migrant workers. "We need to send a common message and move as one," said Khai Yau Chua, who is Senior Program Manager at the RBA. "We need to have a standard code as well as a common way of interpreting that code and translating it to the ground to accelerate the changes that we want to see."

This required cooperation among a wide range of stakeholders, as industries had very different requirements, but businesses had a central role to play, Khai said. "Waiting for Governments to come out with the best regulations will take a long time, and businesses have to manage reputational risk right now in terms of forced labour in the supply chain," so there was strong incentive for leading change from within the industry itself.

"But at the same time as we do this, we need to work with the Government to see how we can collaborate and support them if needed, and also raise greater awareness of the issues at stake," he added.

The issue is about recognising that [the foreign guest workforce] is very much about business stability. Foreign labour isn't just about cheap labour any more.

—Perpetua George, General Manager-Group Sustainability, Wilmar International Limited

RSPO IMPLEMENTING NO DEFORESTATION

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 4



MODERATOR

Anne Rosenbarger

*SEA Commodities Manager,
World Resources Institute & Co-Chair, RSPO*

SPEAKERS

Olivier Tichit

Director for Sustainable Supply Chain, Musim Mas Group

Lee Kuan Yee

Senior Sustainability Manager, KLK Berhad

Jenny Walther-Thoss

*Policy Officer Sustainable Biomass & Standards,
WWF Germany*

Grant Rossoman

Global Forests Solutions Senior Advisor, Greenpeace

In the RSPO 2018 P&C, a No Deforestation rule was added as stated in Criteria 7.12: “Land clearing does not cause deforestation or damage any area required to protect or enhance High Conservation Values (HCVs) or High Carbon Stock (HCS) forest. HCVs and HCS forests in the managed area are identified and protected or enhanced.”

It has since adopted the High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) methodology—a global land-use planning tool to implement its no-deforestation commitments.

The HCSA would be used to distinguish forest areas that needed to be protected from degraded lands with low carbon and biodiversity values that may be developed. It would integrate social considerations—local community customary rights, livelihoods and needs, high conservation values, peatlands, riparian zones, and plantation operational aspects. The tool would also address wildlife corridors.

“The HCSA is a nature-based solution to climate change and the biodiversity crisis,” said Grant Rossoman, Global Forests Solutions Senior Advisor, Greenpeace.

Watch the
Session Highlights



RSPO IMPLEMENTING NO DEFORESTATION

(CONTINUED)

According to Rossoman, the HCSA toolkit continued to be refined, and upcoming developments included the inclusion of 14 social requirements such as Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC); participatory mapping; food security; and livelihoods. Grant added that work needed to be done to find a solution for legacy estates, i.e. those already working with concessions before the new RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C) came into place. "It is about working with companies who are committed to transparency and balancing development with actual conservation and community livelihoods to find a solution," he said.

The Protection Working Group was also developing guidance and requirements for an Integrated Conservation and Land Use Plan (ICLUP), as well as HCS forest/HCV management and monitoring. It was also looking at forest conservation financing solutions and exploring procedures for large-scale indicative mapping for bigger landscapes and jurisdictions.

However, Rossoman said that implementation "will need to address the current gaps in the assurance system." One of the issues that needed to be resolved was the issue of "no burning". According to Greenpeace research, 75% of fires in 2019 occurred in operations controlled by producer groups that were RSPO members and in the supply chains of RSPO traders and processors. "These need to be fixed before the RSPO can claim to be a No-Deforestation standard," Rossoman said.

To implement the No-Deforestation Standard, the RSPO has set up the following groups: the No-Deforestation Task Force (NDTF), No-Deforestation Joint Steering Group (NDJSG), and the Biodiversity & HCV Working Group (BHCVWG).

The taskforce has published a document, Interpretation of Indicator 7.12.2 and Annex 5. According to Lee Kuan Yee, Senior Sustainability Manager, KLK Berhad, the main objectives of this were to provide alternate processes to ensure that HCV and HCS elements were included in existing/ongoing

developments; to clarify requirements of the new criteria; and to ensure that transition cases were completed in a timely manner through a case register. She said that many companies that qualified had yet to register their cases, and she hoped that more would come forward before the deadline.

The NDTF was also working on a HCSA auditor checklist, a standalone HCSA assessment review template revision and a gap analysis of the ICLUP.

Meanwhile, Jenny Walther-Thoss, who is Policy Officer for Sustainable Biomass & Standards, WWF Germany, said that the steering group had utilising HCSA to develop procedures for legacy cases within high forest cover landscapes (HFCL) in high forest cover countries (HFCC). They were also looking at ways to go forward with HFCLs outside of HFCCs.

Walther-Thoss brought to light the Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard a phased approach to implementation with cut-off dates for clearance of HCV (November 2005) and HCS (November 2019). The standard would specifically address smallholders' challenges with a simplified tool to identify HCVs. They were looking at developing a combined simplified HCV-HCS tool specific to the smallholder context by November 2020.

The HCSA is a nature-based solution to climate change and the biodiversity crisis.

—Grant Rossoman,
Global Forests Solutions
Senior Advisor, Greenpeace

RSPO IMPLEMENTING NO DEFORESTATION

(CONTINUED)

In answer to a question from the floor asking if the simpler smallholder standards could be used by bigger companies, Rossoman clarified that the simplification came in the form of how grounds were surveyed on smallholder lands, which were not efficient for, and therefore not applicable to, bigger areas.

Walther-Thoss also spoke on the jurisdictional approach in implementing the No-Deforestation criteria. She said that the jurisdictional approach in pilot projects in Sabah and the District of Seruyan in Kalimantan showed that it was not practical to carry out some HCV identification steps on a landscape level. These were HCV 5 and 6 (that require settlement maps and community data, as well as social cultural data and social impact assessments). There were also problems implementing HCS mapping on jurisdictional levels.

Olivier Tichit, Director for Sustainable Supply Chain, Musim Mas Group, said that it was important to engage communities in high forest landscapes before they embarked on development activities that were harmful to the forest. "This is an opportunity for us to have a long-term impact on environmental and social issues," he said. What had to be addressed was how the tools could be used to provide opportunities for development while still ensuring conservation. "It gets complicated when you don't want to leave behind people who should not be left behind," he added.

In this context, Rossoman said that it was important to ask if palm oil was the solution for these communities. "They want (development), but palm oil might not be the right thing. We need to step back and ask what they want and need and work from there."

Walther-Thoss added that it was about land use planning and balancing all the possibilities for the stakeholders in a jurisdictional landscape. "If we have a transparent proactive government, the jurisdictional approach will be best. In Sabah [for example], we see a multi-commodity approach rather than just a one-commodity tool."



The panel agreed that while the no-deforestation policy was a gold standard, it brought up complicated issues especially in its implementation. Tichit noted that one of the key impacts of having such a criterion was that it would force people to work better within their land. "Big companies can take over old plantations and bring it up to the RSPO standard. It will benefit communities and the land. You have to make the most of the land you have because you can no longer expand into the forest," he said.

COFFEE WITH COMPLAINTS PANEL: WHAT'S BREWING?

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 5



MODERATOR

Dan Strechay

US Representative - Outreach & Engagement, RSPO

PANEL MEMBERS

Henry Barlow

Honorary Member, RSPO

Lim Sian Choo

*Group Head of Corporate Secretarial Services and
Corporate Social Responsibility, Bumitama Agri Ltd*

Lanash Thanda

President, SEPA

Marieke Leegwater

International Programme Coordinator Palm Oil, Solidaridad

Michelle Desilets

Executive Director, Orangutan Land Trust

Matthias Diemer

Affiliate Member

Jose den Toom

Affiliate Member

Peter van der Werf

Senior Engagement Specialist, Robeco

RSPO complaints, said Moderator Dan Strechay, who is the Global Director of Outreach & Engagement, RSPO, formed one of the most-asked topics and was also the least understood within the organisation. "I think there is a lot of confusion about the Complaints Panel and how decisions are made."

The Panel, he said, was an independent body within the RSPO tasked with handling complaints and grievances. It is composed entirely of members of the RSPO and supported by a team from the RSPO Secretariat which is also responsible for investigations and monitoring. Panellists represent different sectors within the RSPO, and there are currently 13 members, with greater representation needed from Growers and Social NGOs.

"My organisation [Solidaridad] has been contributing to making the RSPO a good, robust standard," said Marieke Leegwater. "But there's only real value in that if we make sure our implementation is right—and the RSPO complaints system is what drives credible implementation."

**Watch the
Session Highlights**



COFFEE WITH COMPLAINTS PANEL: WHAT'S BREWING?

(CONTINUED)

The system, said Peter van der Werf, was “a very fair and impartial procedure” involving a multi-stakeholder platform that examined all the key documents in a complaint in order to provide directives to facilitate resolution by the company subjected to that complaint.

Lim Sian Choo said that the RSPO Principles and Criteria called on each company to institute, maintain and use its own grievance procedures. However, in situations of conflict, the RSPO provided avenues for bilateral engagement so “both parties can act independently to resolve issues together. If they need a third party, they can engage a mediator to help facilitate the process.”

Bilateral engagement was a frequently-used procedure, added Matthias Diemer, “but we are also building in additional safeguards, and the Dispute Resolution Facility has been totally revamped.”

How does the panel decide if a complaint is legitimate?

The grievance first goes to the Secretariat, said Dato’ Henry Barlow, which assesses it very carefully and produces an initial diagnosis that sets out precisely what the allegations are and against whom. “We find that, occasionally, people make allegations against those who are not members of the RSPO, and we have no jurisdiction.”

This diagnosis then goes to the Complaints Panel, which endorses it and returns it to the Secretariat for investigation. If the party subject to the complaint denies the accusation, the RSPO will then initiate a detailed investigation.

Prior to the establishment of the RSPO’s Complaints and Appeals Procedure in 2017, complaints and investigations took a long time to conclude, said Michelle Desillet, “but with the Panel, things have become quicker. We fit our work into specific timelines although things can still be slowed by events outside the control of the Panel or the RSPO Secretariat,” particularly in the area of communications among parties and the need to cross jurisdictions.



Complaints were occasionally unclear and requests for additional information as well as independent verification, field reporting, or even waiting for the decisions of the courts in legal cases, could cause further delays.

“We are often dealing with communities who are not familiar with our procedures and who live far away in the forests of South America or Kalimantan [for example],” said Barlow. “Sometimes it takes quite a long time to get a message to them and to get a sensible reply from them, because in many cases they often need to consult their own professional advisers to draft answers to our questions.”

Besides this, the Panel is also very careful to manage any conflict of interests among its members, dividing into three teams to allocate cases in a way that conflicts can be minimised. “This is the same for all the RSPO’s working groups and taskforces,” said Lanash Thanda. “Right at the beginning [of a complaints case], if we know we are in a conflict-of-interest position, we self-declare that conflict.”

COFFEE WITH COMPLAINTS PANEL: WHAT'S BREWING?

(CONTINUED)

To date, the Panel has received 133 complaints. It has resolved 71% of these and currently has 39 cases with three adjourned pending court decisions, while nine were dismissed as frivolous or outside the RSPO's jurisdiction.

One of the greatest challenges—and satisfactions—to serving on the Panel was the need to be made “strongly aware of very different or conflicting views, talking those through with people who come from very different angles, and [then] working to a practical conclusion,” said Barlow.

Those joining the Panel had to be very well informed about the relevant issues and also willing to learn, said Desillet, while Diemer added that it was difficult to manage expectations when “often [issues are] not black-and-white but different shades of grey, and you need to anticipate and weigh different factors.”

It would be very easy to say “you broke the rules; you're out,” said Desillet. “That's perhaps the greatest challenge when we come to a position where we have to ask: do we suspend or terminate an RSPO membership? If we terminated them, we would no longer have any leverage on them, so is there any way to keep them in the fold and get them to the place we want them to be? What's the best thing that we can do at this point?”

Jose den Toom emphasised that the Panel did not sit in judgement of the companies subject to complaints; instead, “we wish to see improvements”. As such, said Diemer, there were interim measures such as stop-work orders to “help calm down the conflict and give us time to investigate and deliberate properly.”

Moving forward, it was important for the Complaints Panel to increase its communication with RSPO members and other stakeholders, said van der Werf, who was the Panel's newest member. “We need to tell them what we are trying to achieve and what is the place of different stakeholder groups in this process—I think there is a lot of misunderstanding among RSPO members, but even more so among parties who are not members of the organisation, as well as critical NGOs who are asking us why we're still so invested in palm oil.”

“*The Panel is careful to manage any conflict of interests among its members, dividing into three teams to allocate cases in a way that conflicts can be minimised.*”

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SMALLHOLDERS AND MARKETS

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 6



MODERATOR

Elikplim Dziwornu Agbitor
Technical Manager, Africa, RSPO

SPEAKERS

Hiew Koh Thien
Director, NY Hiew Holdings

Narno Sayoto
*Group Manager, Asosiasi
Petani Sawit Swadaya Amanah*

Ahmadou Cisse
Country Representative, Solidaridad Cote D'Ivoire

Ivan Novrizaldie
*Certification and Traceability Senior Manager,
Asian Agri Group*

Watch the
Session Highlights



“For a truly sustainable palm oil sector, we cannot ignore smallholders,” said moderator Elikplim Dziwornu Agbitor, Technical Manager, Africa, RSPO, as he started the session.

Smallholders, he said, made up a significant portion of the palm oil sector and the RSPO had been increasing its efforts to engage them over the years. The RSPO had now appointed a smallholder principal in charge of smallholder inclusion, and was also set to launch a Smallholder Trainer Academy. Alongside this, the RSPO Smallholder Support Fund (RSSF) that was set up in 2013 was still being maintained to support smallholders in a variety of ways.

Narno Sayoto, Group Manager, Asosiasi Petani Sawit Swadaya Amanah, shared his experiences with the certification of independent smallholders in Indonesia. According to him, many smallholders wanted to be certified but lacked the support to do so. “There are only a few NGOs facilitating smallholders, but we have many smallholders,” he said. “Without facilitation it is very hard for smallholders to get and maintain certification,” he added.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SMALLHOLDERS AND MARKETS

(CONTINUED)

Besides NGOs, he hoped that partner companies that purchased fresh fruit bunches (FFBs) from smallholders went beyond a buyer-seller relationship to support the smallholder in achieving certification.

Narno also said that many independent smallholders who were in the process of certification had been affected by the lack demand for certified products. It had helped however that there was an interest in buying credits, he said: "Credits are not everything but it helps. By buying credits or certified products, buyers are changing the livelihoods and mindsets of smallholders."

"Smallholders want to get certification because they know the benefits. But one of the biggest challenges is funding," said Ivan Novrizaldie, who is Certification and Traceability Senior Manager, Asian Agri Group. He hoped that the smallholder fund would be able to help such smallholders.

He added that if the proposed RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard was adopted, then certifying bodies should also look at offering payment terms that coincided with the ISH Standard tiered benefit system.

Adding to the discussion on costs, Hiew Koh Thien, Director, NY Hiew Holdings, said that it was also about looking for alternative ways and taking advantage of technology to bring costs down. Hiew felt that it was sometimes "about interpretation, not just following [what others are doing] but understanding what we are trying to achieve. There is the letter of the standard and there is the spirit of the standard."

Hiew also proposed that the price of credits should not be based on supply and demand but rather on a fixed price. "Crude Palm Oil (CPO) is already a commodity. We don't need another commodity on top of that. At a fixed price, we can budget and forecast," he said. For example, he said, the rising number of certified producers had caused the price of credits to fall, and this had especially affected smallholders.

A member of the audience raised the much-debated issue of credits that had seen some opposition from certain NGOs who were in favour of physical volume sales. The audience member pointed out that smallholders could not sell physical volumes as sustainable oil palm until they were fully certified. As such, credits allowed smallholders to sustain business while they were in the process of getting certified.

In Narno's opinion, it was still more advantageous for smallholders to sell FFBs to buyers. "With physical trading we are closer to partner companies, we get better facilitation. By selling FFBs, the added value is that we are more independent in dealing with the problems we face, and companies can assist us." He felt that this also helped to develop partnerships between suppliers and buyers that could pave the way to full sustainability.

"Certification is not only about increasing prices—there are many benefits to be claimed. We are not planning just for today but for the future," he said.

Hiew added that mills and collection centres should be audited to prevent exploitation of smallholders. "Mills and collection centres are profit-making organisations, so they must be monitored. There should be transparency in how mills pay. Is there a formula that can be made a standard operating procedure by the RSPO?" he asked.

Meanwhile, in Africa, a net importer of palm oil, smallholders were less incentivised to get certified as the market was open to buying conventional palm oil. Faced with this scenario, Ahmadou Cisse, Country Representative, Solidaridad Cote D'Ivoire, shared how smallholders in Africa could be convinced to be more sustainable by first addressing the most pressing of needs—that of better yields.

"Typically, the smallholder in Africa had low yields. So [we used] best management practices as an entry point to bring better yields, then introduced the certification

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SMALLHOLDERS AND MARKETS

(CONTINUED)



later [as certification is based on best management practices],” he said. He stressed that smallholders needed incentives to work towards certification and that there was a need to demonstrate the business aspect of certification.

A question from the floor addressed this issue pointing out that the market had failed producers and smallholders with a CSPO uptake of only 55%. “Would non-growers agree to take up shared responsibility and allow part of membership fees to be contributed to the RSSF to help the livelihoods of the smallholder?”

Keeping to the note of shared responsibility, Elikplim wrapped up the session by calling for all parties to step up: “Smallholders have the capacity to be resilient and self-sustaining, but they need the support. Everyone needs to link hands, and this is the support that all stakeholders need to give.”

OUR SHARED PLANET

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 7



MODERATOR

Michael Guindon

Palm Oil Technical Advisor, Zoological Society of London

SPEAKERS

Jennifer Lucey

Knowledge Exchange Fellow, University of Oxford & SEnSOR Programme Manager

Aida Ghani Quilter

Sime Darby Plantation Berhad

Janice Lee

Assistant Professor, Nanyang Technological University

Faizal Parish

Director, Global Environment Centre

The RSPO has made steady progress in recent years, said moderator Michael Guindon, who is Palm Oil Technical Advisor, Zoological Society of London, and this included a 22% expansion of certified area in 2019 while the number of independent smallholders certified by the RSPO increased by 52% in the same period.

“However, I think we’re still very far from capturing a large share of the market,” he said, although there were an increasing number of opportunities for progress particularly with the anticipated adoption of the RSPO’s new Independent Smallholder Standard. In the meantime, he added, research must continue to assess the environmental and social impacts of palm oil production.

In this respect, said Jennifer Lucy, who is Knowledge Exchange Fellow at the University of Oxford and SEnSOR Programme Manager, the RSPO must be made aware of the unintended consequences of its activities particularly with regard to biodiversity and the ecosystem.

“The RSPO works within a really complex system of interacting physical, social,

Watch the
Session Highlights



OUR SHARED PLANET

(CONTINUED)

economic and environmental practices to achieve sustainability [...] and the first thing to note is that these impacts weren't really expected, so there is not much quantitative research. Our intention was to study what the possible impacts might be in order to direct future research and action."

These impacts fell into three groups, she said. The first involved conflicts between environmental requirements and economic imperatives, and this included a large increase in forest loss due to anticipatory clearing in areas now owned by certified plantations (although these areas may have been cleared prior to certification). Also, smallholder agricultural practices tended to focus on monocrop plantations that used large amounts of herbicide.

The second was the displacement of diversity and habitat loss. "The RSPO has stringent no deforestation criteria," she said, but one of the consequences was that plantation expansion had moved into non-forest areas that were equally vulnerable. These included valuable ancient grasslands that were difficult to identify and were inadequately protected under national law, and there was also evidence of strong bias towards certification in contentious areas, with vulnerable forest and peatlands remaining open to unscrupulous growers.

Lucey said that these negative impacts should be addressed through more comprehensive and inclusive stakeholder engagement targeting growers who were not yet engaged in the RSPO agenda, and there should also be stronger policies that explicitly recognised ecologically important non-forest habitats.

There were, however, some several positive impacts that were unintended, Lucey said. For example, there was evidence of biodiversity spillovers from oil palm protected areas to neighbouring areas, although many high conservation value (HCV) areas were still poor and the spillover was likely to be minimal. "There is huge potential for the RSPO to improve, maximise, and capitalise on HCV areas," she said, adding that there were also

positive impacts in terms of the proliferation of new knowledge about conservation and biodiversity development.

In the area of wildlife protection, Aida Ghani Quilter of Sime Darby Plantation Berhad presented the results of Sime Darby's research into human-wildlife conflict which would help mitigate negative impacts on both humans and wildlife.

"The cost to people includes direct loss of life, physical injury, disease, and psychological stress, with indirect costs in terms of predation of crops and other opportunity costs," she said, while the cost to wildlife included loss of life, habitat, social and behavioural disruption and vulnerability to illegal wildlife trade.

"It is important that we understand these conflicts. Where and when do they happen? What species are involved? Is there a correlation to existing practice, and is mitigation being done right?"

Sime Darby, she said, had contact with elephants in six estates in East Malaysia, and reported damage to 200,000 trees—97% of which were young trees at less than five years. Between 2011 and 2018, she said, elephants caused some RM23 million (USD5.7 million) in damage, which showed that no single method of mitigation could work in all areas.

Sime Darby planned to use data collected from these encounters to drive responsible measures to avoid and mitigate conflict. "We need to shift the paradigm towards coexistence," she said. "We need to create corridors to water-sources and waterways, which needs cooperation among multiple plantations."

Further research was needed to support five interventions: land-use control, barriers to protect people and crops, financial tools to compensate businesses, increased acceptance of roaming wildlife, and—as a last resort—methods to remove wildlife from affected areas.

OUR SHARED PLANET

(CONTINUED)

“No single plantation can succeed on its own. This requires a change in the entire landscape,” she added.

Meanwhile, Janice Lee, who is Assistant Professor, Nanyang Technological University, studied the impact of the RSPO’s operations in the context of landscapes, livelihoods and smallholder welfare. “Commodity production drives deforestation,” she said, and in Malaysia and Indonesia particularly, the expansion of palm oil and cocoa plantations has led to cover loss: “How do people experience changes in these landscapes?”

In several local contexts forest cover changes have occurred very rapidly and it could be very challenging for communities to adapt especially within diverse political and social circumstances. “How palm oil affects livelihoods is very heterogeneous,” Lee said: some communities experienced greater income inequality in farm households and lower inequality in non-farm households, while others experienced positive impacts from oil palm such as improved welfare, living standards and nutrition.

There was also a great deal of variation in the identity of palm oil industry actors, as definitions of industrial plantations, medium-scale operations and smallholders tended to shift across different regions. Going forward, Lee said, research must focus on a number of key questions including the effects of oil palm on livelihoods, why these effects differed across space and time, who smallholders were and how were they governed, how could local communities be incorporated into sustainable palm oil production. Of particular interest, she said, was the effect of recent sustainability initiatives on communities in palm oil landscapes.

Finally, Faizal Parish, Director, Global Environment Centre, presented updates on peat and the development of the RSPO’s drainability assessment tool. “Basically, peatlands or wetland ecosystems are composed of thick layers of organic material. As you open up these lands for cultivation, you put in drainage systems to remove the water and that pile of organic material shrinks and breaks down, becoming thinner and thinner,” he said.

“This means the [level of the] land can fall by four, five or even 10 metres depending on the thickness you started off with—you may be well above flood levels when you start, but after several cycles, you may be down to near the flood level or sea level, leading eventually to total regular inundation.”

He said that companies could use the RSPO’s drainability assessment tool to help “predict the future” by anticipating when peat would subside to the level of regular saline intrusion and flooding, and guide them towards remedial action.

Parish stressed that companies should also consult the RSPO’s comprehensive Best Management Practice (BMP) Peatland Manual. Citing an example, he said: “One of the most problematic things for companies is: when you have a degraded peatland area within your plantation, what can you do about it? Some say it is impossible to recover, but the critical guide in the manual for rehabilitation is to restore the water level [...] restore the hydrology and nature will do most of the work for you. Rehabilitation doesn’t mean massive expenditure.”

HOW TO CREATE RSPO 'NORM'

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 8



MODERATOR

Inke van der Sluijs

Head of European Operations, RSPO

SPEAKERS

Kristjan Jespersen

Assistant Professor, Copenhagen Business School

Maria Amparo Albán

Executive Director & CEO of ACD Consulting

The RSPO Credit system was a system set up to enable buyers to support the production of sustainable palm oil, where one RSPO Credit represented one tonne of either certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO), certified sustainable palm kernel oil (CSPKO) or certified sustainable palm kernel expeller (CSPKE).

“For every credit bought, a premium goes to the producer that has put its efforts in making sure one tonne is produced in compliance with the RSPO Principles and Criteria,” explained Inke van der Sluijs, Head of European Operations for the RSPO. Credits are sold through the RSPO online credit platform. “It’s a very direct way to support [the producers],” she said.

While credits have been traditionally seen as a supply chain option, she said that it was time to explore possible new paths for credits. “We need to think about how credits can be valuable to new initiatives,” she said.

For one, the credit system would be a support to the proposed Independent Smallholder Standard, which would allow smallholders to sell credits in varying percentages even as they were in the process of attaining full certification.

Watch the
Session Highlights



HOW TO CREATE RSPO 'NORM'

(CONTINUED)



Credits can also be used as a form of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). "Credits in principle and in practice can be used as a third party verified CSR mechanism," said Kristjan Jespersen an Assistant Professor at the Copenhagen Business School. "Companies can illustrate their commitment by the acquisition or purchase of credits to support the development of, for example, smallholders, jurisdictions [or] producers, who are doing good work and guaranteeing supplier sustainability along the supply chain," he added.

Another new initiative that could benefit from the credit system was the jurisdictional approach. Maria Amparo Albán, the Executive Director & CEO of ACD Consulting, who was involved in the RSPO's jurisdictional approach working group, said that "there is a big opportunity to make credits available to finance or fund the jurisdictional entities and promote the jurisdictional approach certification system."

A quick group audience activity brought up participants' immediate thoughts on the credit system. Some of the key descriptions of credits were that the system was a "direct and pragmatic approach", an "essential mechanism", an "additional support mechanism", an "enabler" and a "a tool to help".

Echoing Albán's sentiment, a comment from one of the audience groups pointed out that when you buy credits from different sources, it was difficult to track the actual impact on the ground and how it helped the transition into sustainable practices. However, with the jurisdictional approach, buyers could commit to buy credits from one specific area over a few years.

Another suggestion from the floor was to use the purchase of credits in certain areas as an incentive to support NDPE compliance, i.e. to stop deforestation or development in a certain area.

"These different statements [have] represented an important and critical snapshot of where we are in the process of redefining the role of credits, the expectation and use of credits historically and in the future, and ultimately, also the ambition of focusing on specific areas," said Jespersen.

Jespersen then shared the results from a survey that he had conducted on the perception of the RSPO credit system. The RSPO Credits Survey had over 600 respondents from the RSPO membership.

The survey used four different descriptions of RSPO Credits. The first was a control statement using the traditional description of credits: "One way that firms can engage in the RSPO is by buying RSPO Credits. An RSPO Credit is proof that one tonne of certified palm oil was produced by an RSPO-certified company or independent smallholder, and has entered the global palm oil supply chain. RSPO members who have purchased RSPO Credits are entitled to claim their support for the production of sustainable palm oil but cannot claim that the product contains sustainable palm oil."

HOW TO CREATE RSPO 'NORM'

(CONTINUED)



In the other three, the language was changed to emphasise how credits would benefit either producers, smallholders or jurisdictional entities. For example, for producers: "One way that firms could engage in the RSPO is by helping producers with the added costs of sustainable production... RSPO members using this mechanism can report the total amount of money given to support producers through the system..." It was noted that these three statements did not mention the word 'credits'.

Respondents were randomly given one of the four statements and then asked to evaluate the RSPO credit system based on a set of questions.

It was found that the respondents who received the alternative descriptions of the credit system were less skeptical of it, while the ones who received the traditional description were more likely to say that the credit system would undermine the RSPO. Respondents with the alternative statements also said that it was not confusing for the customer and they were more likely to express support for the system.

This was a pertinent point for the survey—that the way credits were framed would have such an impact on the way they were received by the market.

Several other things were also recorded as items that would help increase desire to purchase credits: for one, more stable prices and secondly, metrics demonstrating smallholder benefits. This Jespersen said was important as much of the proof of benefit "is anecdotal and it's not giving the market confidence." Other factors were lower prices and jurisdictional credits.

The results also showed that slightly over a third of respondents reported interest in purchasing more credits than required, 20% were undecided, and very few said they were unlikely to buy credits.

"We have to understand that in the context of this study, if we are able to fix this process, we're also able to echo the will of the market as a whole," said Jespersen. "It means also that the third party CSR argument and a focused jurisdiction or smallholder approach is very appealing. But we have to support this process and we all have our part to do so."

MOVING TOWARDS DEFORESTATION FREE SUPPLY CHAINS IN INDIA, CHINA AND MIDDLE EAST

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 9



MODERATOR

Kamal Prakash Seth
Country Head, India, RSPO

SPEAKERS

Rijit Sengupta
Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Responsible Business

Paul Thachil
Managing Director – Oils & Fats, IFFCO Group

Jin Zhonghao
Director, Forests and Palm Oil, WWF China

Ashish Saraf
President, Manorama Industries Limited

Morgan Gillespy
Global Director, Forests, Climate Disclosure Project (CDP)

Haskarlianus Pasang
*Head of Sustainability Policy and Compliance,
Golden Agri Resources*

Watch the
Session Highlights



The world woke up to sustainable development in the year 2000, said moderator Kamal Prakash Seth, who is Country Head, India, RSPO, but even after 15 years none of the UN Millennium Development Goals had been met. In view of this, the RSPO has articulated a grand vision in its Theory of Change which, he said, could not be accomplished without the support of all stakeholders—NGOs, businesses, governments—working to make sustainable palm oil the norm.

China and India were the world's largest importers of palm oil. In India alone, he said, "at least 300 million people live just around the poverty line, so as far as food security is concerned, palm oil is the only affordable oil crop that can support food prices, poverty reduction, and so forth—which is why we need sustainable palm oil and not a ban on palm oil."

However, 81% of palm oil in the market remains unsustainably sourced. "[For demand] to grow, we need to ensure that India and China are demanding more sustainable palm oil." In India, he said, 99% of palm oil entering the market was unsustainably sourced and was "causing

MOVING TOWARDS DEFORESTATION FREE SUPPLY CHAINS IN INDIA, CHINA AND MIDDLE EAST

(CONTINUED)



deforestation and human rights violations” while China had a USD4.4 billion palm oil economy, and the Middle East was a growing consumer of edible palm oil.

“What we need is to protect the source—the rainforests in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand—and at the same time increase demand for sustainable palm oil in India and China,” he said.

For Rijit Sengupta, who is Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Responsible Business, those committed to making positive change must “climb up the slippery slope [...] by engaging with businesses and other stakeholders to communicate the value of sustainability and support business transition.”

In India, he said, 95% to 96% of palm oil was imported, “so, for people to start taking action and making impacts with a cross-

jurisdictional effect, they must understand how [sustainability] works.”

Multinational companies had an important role to play: “[They] make commitments globally, but when it comes to their subsidiaries in India, there is a lot of variation between those commitments and offerings on the ground,” he said, adding that other important initiatives included better engagement with the millennial generation and closer stakeholder collaboration based on the principle of shared responsibility.

Paul Thachil, Managing Director – Oils & Fats, IFFCO Group, said it was crucial to institutionalise policy and focus on raising awareness about sustainable palm among industry and consumers, and the impacts on deforestation. “Most people in the [Indian] Subcontinent and the Middle East are not aware that the products they use contain palm oil,” he said. “So, it starts from awareness [...] and you need management commitment towards using sustainable palm oil.”

Meanwhile, Jin Zhonghao, who is Director, Forests and Palm Oil, WWF China, said that according to a survey by his organisation, 60% of consumers in China were prepared to pay a premium of 5% or more for sustainable palm oil products. “This is good news,” he said, “and we want the leading companies to catch this market.”

WWF China was also pursuing an initiative in Sabah, Malaysia, where the state government had signalled its intention to commit fully to certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO). “We want to see how China can support this commitment—and not just for palm oil. We want to see if the whole range of Sabah’s products can be certified ‘green’ by the RSPO, the region and other key stakeholders. Sabah is the first place where we want to see if this can be a solution.”

Ashish Saraf, President, Manorama Industries Limited, agreed that greater awareness was a crucial to step towards sustainable sourcing, but in India particularly, prevailing cultural

MOVING TOWARDS DEFORESTATION FREE SUPPLY CHAINS IN INDIA, CHINA AND MIDDLE EAST

(CONTINUED)

and religious norms gave the population an advantage: “The majority of the population is vegetarian, we are very close to nature, and we worship [animal deities],” he said, adding that this would facilitate efforts to raise awareness of deforestation and palm oil traceability.

For Morgan Gillespy, who is Global Director, Forests, Climate Disclosure Project (CDP), improvements of governance within corporations was a crucial first step. “The second thing is public commitment. [In our research into] Chinese companies, not a single one has made a public commitment. There must be clear targets that enable you to take a standardised approach to accomplishing them in a reasonable timeframe.”

Third was the need for companies to report their actions. “This is the only way we can understand how the market is or is not shifting,” she said, “and it’s the only tool we have to provide data to investors, policymakers and other companies that need to know how to assess their own practices—transparency, disclosure, and reporting are critical elements.”

Speaking from a grower’s perspective, Haskarlianus Pasang, who is Head of Sustainability Policy and Compliance, Golden Agri Resources, said that his organisation emphasised formulating the right policies and ensuring commitment to those policies on the ground via sustainability mapping and commitment to Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

“A deforestation-free supply chain is difficult to achieve but it can be done and it can be cost-effective. We need to start from the end: what is the demand in China, India and the Middle East? We also need contributions from all stakeholders along the supply chain,” he said, stressing that government must take the lead in formulating sustainable policies, and consumers must increase CSPO uptake.

“Change will only happen if we start from ourselves and lead by example,” he added.

“*A deforestation-free supply chain is difficult to achieve but it can be done and it can be cost-effective. We need to start from the end: what is the demand in China, India and the Middle East? We also need contributions from all stakeholders along the supply chain. Change will only happen if we start from ourselves and lead by example.*”

—Haskarlianus Pasang,
Head of Sustainability
Policy and Compliance,
Golden Agri Resources

THE NEXT DECADE: PALM OIL & CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 10



MODERATOR

Bilge Daldeniz

*Programme Director of International Programmes,
Proforest*

SPEAKERS

Dr Sathia Varqa

Owner & Co-Founder, Palm Oil Analytics

Rahul Rajashekar Shastry

Manager, Sustainability & Supply Chain, Wilmar

H.S. Yen

Data Scientist, RSPO

“Do you think palm oil prices will be going up or down in 2020?” asked moderator Bilge Daldeniz, Programme Director of International Programmes, Proforest. The question was met with an almost unanimous “up” from the audience, and with this optimistic start, panelists presented their views on the next 10 years of the palm oil industry.

According to Dr Sathia Varqa, Owner & Co-Founder, Palm Oil Analytics, there were two main factors that would continue to impact on the oil palm market up to the first half of 2020.

The first factor was lower production. Varqa explained that prolonged dry weather and the absence of rain was likely to reduce yields in the next 12 to 24 months in Indonesia, particularly in Sumatera and Kalimantan. Production would also be affected by the lower application of fertiliser this year. Second was the higher uptake of crude palm oil (CPO) for biodiesel use particularly in Indonesia as a result of the mandate to develop biodiesel from the current B20 to B30 (similarly Malaysia is progressing from B10 to B20).

This scenario of low production coinciding with higher mandates would “give us tight

Watch the
Session Highlights



THE NEXT DECADE: PALM OIL & CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

(CONTINUED)

supply and higher prices," he said. Varqa predicted that the first half of 2020 would see CPO trading at between RM2,200 to RM2,600, and in Indonesia the CPO export prices would range from USD512 to USD610. Biodiesel and Refined, Bleached & Deodorised (RBD) palm olein would be the main price support up to the first half of 2020.

Meanwhile, global production was estimated to rise by 5.56% to 77.40 million tonnes in 2019. In 2020, the growth rate was expected to slow to 3% to 3.5%, which would set global production at 80 million tonnes. However, production was expected to pick up pace in 2021 and surpass 90 million tonnes from 2028 to 2030. Future production growth was predicted to come from new areas either in Indonesia or from countries such as Columbia.

According to him, demand was expected to continue to grow in India, China, and the EU. In Indonesia, six to seven million tonnes of CPO were expected to be redirected from the export market to the domestic market to fulfill the country's mandate on biodiesel.

Consumption growth in 2019 was estimated at 5.07% (76 million tonnes) and in 2021 it was expected to surpass 80 million tonnes. In the long term, destination countries would change especially with a notable decrease in demand in the EU.

Varqa also looked briefly at crude palm kernel oil (CPKO) prices, which were on a downward trend for the past year because of high supply. According to him, CPKO prices would come under pressure in Q4 of 2019 after the recent rise in prices due to persistent high stocks.

The next speaker Rahul Rajashekar Shastry, Manager, Sustainability & Supply Chain, Wilmar, looked deeper into the future landscape of sustainable palm oil: "We have achieved a lot of progress in terms of positive impact," he said, particularly in transparency, empowerment and smallholder education. He noted that while the RSPO was the de facto standard, there had been many

“It’s good that we have high standards. We are probably the only large commodity industry to have these standards but we need to narrow that compliance gap otherwise we will have a tiered industry which will hurt the whole sector.”

**—Rahul Rajashekar Shastry,
Manager, Sustainability &
Supply Chain, Wilmar**

other standards, policies and frameworks ultimately trying to solve the complex problems of the industry.

He said that 20% of global palm oil production was RSPO certified. However, within this, there were large areas that carried other certifications complying with requirements in different markets, creating a landscape where many markets were fighting for the same supply pool. This, he said, would drive prices up and would not help long-term sustainability.

"Certified supply has plateaued. We need to certify the other 80%. We need to find a bridge to bring them on board," he stressed.

He saw the rise of corporate No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) policies

THE NEXT DECADE: PALM OIL & CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

(CONTINUED)



as “a complementary and important part of sustainability” and a possible way to bridge the gap. “NDPE policies can make a difference,” he said, as NDPE commitments would provide better accountability and a broader level of transparency. Shastry added that corporations would also be willing to showcase their supply chains.

“It’s good that we have high standards. We are probably the only large commodity industry to have these standards but we need to narrow that compliance gap otherwise we will have a tiered industry which will hurt the whole sector,” he said.

Shastry added that more efforts were needed to integrate and empower smallholders. “We should support landscape and jurisdiction approaches, because they focus on serving and scaling up smallholders. A big part of the industry has been left behind and that’s where national schemes can play a part to help them take the first steps.”

From the RSPO’s standpoint, H.S. Yen, Data Scientist, RSPO, said that the question was whether, with just over 12 months to go, the RSPO would be able to hit its goals for the uptake of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO). The goals set for 2020 were: 100% uptake in Europe and the US, 50% in Malaysia and Indonesia, 30% in India and 10% in China. Current data showed that Europe and North America were on track; Malaysia was slightly lagging, with Indonesia showing a more pronounced lag; while China and India were lagging and severely lagging respectively.

On the supply side, Yen said that based on growers adhering to the 2023 deadline to have all management units certified, CSPO supply was expected to have an upper limit of 28 million tonnes. However, demand projections showed insufficient uptake volumes mainly from developing markets, i.e. India and China.

Forecasted CSPKO production assumed a similar trend, rising to 1.7 million tonnes by 2030. While it also had a supply-demand gap, Yen said that it was smaller than that for CSPO.

“We are looking at ways to improve our outreach and systems and data gathering so we have more accurate data to improve strategies to close the [demand-supply] gap,” he said, stressing that it was not an easy task but there were encouraging signs such as the rise in RSPO memberships among Consumer Goods Manufacturers (CGMs)—Japan had quadrupled its membership in the last two years.

The panelists agreed that the outlook was positive, but Shastry noted that “we should continue to work together and we need to be practical and pragmatic. Our standards have to be transferable to the market. We have to find that balance to ensure that our concepts and initiatives can take off.”



Officially launched in November 2019, RSPO's Smallholder Trainer Academy (STA) heralds renewed engagement with smallholders. The academy's aim is to help oil palm smallholders and their supporting organisations get access to high quality training so that they can develop the capacity to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

The academy adopts a unique 'Train-the-Trainer' approach, which builds a pool of 'Master Trainers' across sectors and organisations. It is hoped that this will create a global community of trainers who will be able to reach and engage with larger numbers of small-scale oil palm farmers.

Having rolled out part of its programmes before the official launch, the academy has already trained a total of 73 Master Trainers in Ghana, Indonesia, and Latin America. The training typically covers practical tools, training execution techniques, agricultural best practices and guides that will benefit both smallholders and group managers alike.

For more information on the Smallholder Trainer Academy, visit sta.rspo.org

ACHIEVING SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

PLENARY SESSION 1



MODERATOR

Aimee Russillo
Independent

SPEAKERS

Bilge Daldeniz
*Programme Director for International Programmes,
Proforest*

Lim Sian Choo
*Group Head of Corporate Secretarial Services and
Corporate Social Responsibility, Bumitama Agri Ltd*

Natasha Schwarzbach
Sustainable Commodities, PepsiCo

James Whitehead
Director, Forest Peoples Programme

Ghislaine Nadaud
Head of Sustainability Asia Pacific, ABN Amro Bank NV

Oi Soo Chin
Impacts & Evaluation Director, RSPO

Watch the
Session Highlights



“The importance of the journey towards developing the RSPO’s statement on Shared Responsibility went far beyond the final document itself,” said moderator Aimee Russillo, Independent Consultant at LiSeed Consulting. “We often work within silos and our membership categories, and this was a real coming together. We would turn conversations into ways to work together towards solutions.”

“As such, the Shared Responsibility document represented a landmark achievement after several years of development and consultation by a dedicated Task Force,” said Oi Soo Chin, RSPO Impacts & Evaluation Director. Today, Shared Responsibility recognises that all members share an equal responsibility for achieving the RSPO’s vision for a sustainable future, and that all members play different roles in transforming the market.

“We have two strategies in line with the RSPO Theory of Change,” Oi said. “The first is the on-the-ground strategy, which is closely related to the jurisdictional approach, smallholder participation, and the Principles and Criteria (P&C).” The second approach, she said, was the creation of an enabling environment that

ACHIEVING SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

(CONTINUED)

would help supply chain actors to pull demand and help generate uptake for certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO).

“This document has been a long time in the works,” said Bilge Daldeniz, Programme Director for International Programmes, Proforest. “We had a lot of input from the Principles and Criteria (P&C) Task Force, and we had representatives from all membership categories on the Shared Responsibilities Task Force. We also had a workshop with the RSPO Secretariat very early on, looking at how Shared Responsibility could actually be implemented and how we could use this huge cross-cutting initiative to help enhance our existing systems.”

The Task Force then consulted the RSPO membership widely and extensively, conducting 75 interviews to obtain early feedback on the first draft of the documentation before conducting two rounds of public consultation that elicited some 1,200 unique comments of a very high quality.

“Growers have waited patiently for this document for a very long time,” said Lim Sian Choo, Group Head of Corporate Secretarial Services and Corporate Social Responsibility at Bumitama. “Shared responsibility means no exclusion—we are all parts of the same body moving in the same direction.”

“This included smallholders,” she said. “They form 40% of world production, so how can we include them in the chain?” She cited the example of stunted children living on palm oil plantations: “I was taken aback [to learn that such cases still occurred] and with Shared Responsibility, we will be able to contribute and fund projects that will assist in the growth of children as well as smallholders.”

“As such, Shared Responsibility gave all stakeholders the opportunity to demonstrate sustainability leadership and deliver against the UN Sustainable Development Goals,” said Natasha Schwarzbach, who heads Sustainable Commodities at PepsiCo. “The Shared Responsibility Task Force has agreed on an ambitious target for downstream players,

processors, and traders,” she said, noting that for Year One of implementation, the goal was to close the CSPO demand gap of 1.6 million tonnes. “What we really want to see is how that target plays out when supply and demand meet.”

For James Whitehead, Director of Forest Peoples Programme, the need for shared responsibility to “move the needle” was crucial: “All of us are connected to the global money chain, which is still a major driver of climate crisis, wildlife depletion, and human rights abuse. We need a systemic shift, and individuals, organisations, and companies can’t do it on their own—we have to move together.”

Whitehead argued that the RSPO’s common principles and policies applied to every member category including social and environmental NGOs. “We all need to sign up to standard approaches around child labour and working conditions, for example. Also, Shared Responsibility centres around credibility—we’ve seen that consumer confidence is predicated on the credibility of the RSPO as a trustworthy standard. We have a shared responsibility to strengthen that credibility.”

For the banking sector, Ghislaine Nadaud, Head of Sustainability Asia Pacific, ABN Amro Bank NV, Shared Responsibility presented an opportunity to explore different kinds of collaboration, particularly with new partners not usually accustomed to working with banks and financial institutions.

“Within the banks ourselves, we will promote sustainable farm practices across the value chain, engage with regulators and governments and educate our peers on sustainable palm oil, and provide incentives and tools to promote good behaviour, such as providing discounts on interest for clients who meet certain environmental and social KPIs,” said Nadaud.

She also said that the financial institutions sector would focus on strategic dialogue with the financial industry on sustainable palm oil,

ACHIEVING SHARED

(CONTINUED)

and engage with local and regional players. "Any help from the industry and other member categories will be very helpful," added Nadaud.

The next major step, said Oi, was translating commitments into action. "In this first year, there will need to be a lot of innovation and learning for the RSPO Secretariat and indeed everyone: existing tools such as the Annual Communication of Progress (ACOP) will need to be enhanced to support the implementation of Shared Responsibility; several other topics need further development, such as resourcing for transformation and incentives, and we will need to analyse the date we will be collecting once we start implementing Shared Responsibility requirements."

“*Shared Responsibility recognises that all members share an equal responsibility for achieving the RSPO’s vision for a sustainable future, and that all members play different roles in transforming the market.*”



DRIVING UPTAKE: ACTION-ORIENTED COMMITMENTS

PLENARY SESSION 2



MODERATOR

Dan Strechay

Global Director of Outreach & Engagement, RSPO

SPEAKERS

Mark Eastham

Senior Manager, Sustainable Products, Walmart

John Buchanan

*Vice President, Sustainable Production,
The Center for Environmental Leadership in Business,
Conservation International*

Dr Meryl Richards

Senior Manager, Food and Forests, CERES

Since 2014, the uptake of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) production has outstripped demand. CSPO uptake (physical and credits) increased from 27% of certified production in 2014 to 55% in 2018. However, in terms of the RSPO's 2020 goals for uptake, most countries were still lagging behind.

John Buchanan, Vice President, Sustainable Production, The Center for Environmental Leadership in Business, Conservation International said "Certification is just a tool; what we're aiming for is to make sustainability the norm in the palm oil sector. We want to make sure that palm oil is the driver of sustainable development, conservation, and sound natural resource management around the world and that complete sector transformation is important."

Buchanan stressed the need for both demand and supply of sustainable palm oil to come together in order for that transformation to happen.

He said, "On the demand side, if you are a user of palm oil, you should be at 100% uptake today because we have enough supply and enough options of supply chains." Buchanan suggested that big players like MNCs should

Watch the
Session Highlights



DRIVING UPTAKE: ACTION-ORIENTED COMMITMENTS

(CONTINUED)



use their presence, especially in Asian markets where uptake was lagging, to drive uptake even if it meant supporting suppliers and supply chains on their sustainability journey.

On the supply side, he felt there should be more discussion on whether premiums and incentives were flowing back to the supply chain. “Whether sustainability happens depends on what the producers do,” he said, adding that at the end of the day sustainability questions were answered in the field.

Buchanan also pointed out the importance of collaboration to drive innovation, new approaches and ultimately new models, such as the jurisdictional approach, that could be used to transform regions. “Certification and verification of supply chains are necessary but not enough,” he added, pointing out that capacity building and system changes were just as important.

He also said that there was a need to prioritise action in supply chains that had the most impact, such as those in the most vulnerable forest areas, in order to get ahead of the curve in terms of deforestation.

Speaking from a retailer’s perspective, Mark Eastham, Senior Manager of Sustainable Products, Walmart, explained that retail giant Walmart made a commitment to sustainability because it realised that its size and scale could be used for good.

The push for sustainability, according to Eastham, was not just an internal decision but something that was shared by their investors, associates, and NGOs as well as customers who want products that do not negatively affect the environment. This was especially true for the Generation Z demographic, where sustainability played a key role in purchase decisions.

Part of Walmart’s efforts was its commitment to support No Deforestation by sourcing certified and verified deforestation-free products; supporting the development of deforestation and supply-chain monitoring and reporting to ensure greater accountability; and increasing the available supply of deforestation-free commodities.

Towards this goal, Walmart had targeted for the use of RSPO mass balance/segregated (or equivalent) certified palm oil in 100% of Walmart’s private brand products by the end of 2020. Other initiatives explained included Project Gigaton (an initiative to avoid a gigaton of greenhouse gases entering the global value chain by 2030) and a commitment to support jurisdictional approach efforts.

According to Eastham, the biggest challenge in implementing Walmart’s sourcing policy was awareness. “We have to spend a lot of time to educate our merchants—a lot of our private brand suppliers are not knowledgeable about (palm oil) issues,” he said, adding that they had to be smart in how they engaged suppliers to ensure that they understood Walmart’s expectations and goals.

Efforts like this were important in the fight for climate change as deforestation accounted for a significant part of global carbon emissions. Dr Meryl Richards, Senior

DRIVING UPTAKE: ACTION-ORIENTED COMMITMENTS

(CONTINUED)

Manager, Food and Forests, CERES, provided the hard-hitting analogy that if emissions from deforestation were a country, it would rank only behind the US and China.

She said, “Our [CERES] goal is to eliminate commodity-driven deforestation. [This] is really core to our mission of managing the climate crisis.”

She said that for the RSPO to be successful, it must have robust standards for no deforestation. She called the new P&C a “monumental achievement and shift” because it brought the RSPO in line with some of the

most ambitious corporate no deforestation policies and CERES’ reporting guidelines on sustainable palm oil.

The challenge, however, remained in implementation. A study by CERES and Forest Trends showed that although almost 500 companies had made commitments to address deforestation in their supply chains, only 21 companies reported quantitative progress on zero or net-zero deforestation. Another study showed that only six out of 96 palm oil companies had reported time-bound action plans for their suppliers to be in compliance with their palm oil sourcing commitments.

Richards stressed the urgency of climate change actions. “A lot of companies are going to miss their no deforestation targets. We really need to double down on implementation. We can’t set 2020 targets and make incremental progress. We are in a climate emergency,” she said.

She also said that downstream players could help to push the no deforestation agenda by firstly, having clear time-bound protocols for supplier non-compliance. Secondly, downstream players should provide educational and financial support to producers especially smallholders. “[It’s about] evenly spreading the cost and the value of CSPO across the supply chain,” she said.

Buchanan added that what they did not want to see was leading companies cutting off their highest-risk supply chains without trying to engage and drive positive change in those areas.

Dan Strechay, RSPO, echoed this sentiment and said it is important for MNCs to lead the way and show domestic businesses that it can be done.

“*The new P&C is a monumental achievement and shift because it brought the RSPO in line with some of the most ambitious corporate no deforestation policies and CERES’ reporting guidelines on sustainable palm oil. The challenge, however, remains in implementation.*”

RSPO JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFORMATION

PLENARY SESSION 3



MODERATOR

Professor Simon Tay

Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs

SPEAKERS

Yulhaidir

*Head of Seruyan District, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia,
Behind the Scenes: Seruyan District—100% RSPO*

Frederick Kugan

Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests (Planning and Management), Sabah Forestry Department, Malaysia, No Nonsense of Sabah 100% RSPO

María Amparo Albán

Executive Director and CEO, ACD Consulting, Ecuador's Jurisdictional Approach Initiative

Dr Glyn Davies

Senior Advisor, WWF and Co-Chair of RSPO JWG, Jurisdictional Approach to Certification

"The sustainability problems faced by the palm oil industry may be perennial but there was ample scope for solutions to be innovative," said moderator Prof Simon Tay, Chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs. One such initiative was the jurisdictional approach. "[It] promises to really transform the way things are done, not just stated but already implemented and done at the ground level," he added.

"The jurisdictional approach was anchored in government commitment and spatial planning," said Dr Glyn Davies, Senior Advisor of WWF and Co-Chair of RSPO JWG.

As co-chair of the JWG, Davies said that the first-draft guidelines were made available to the public in June 2019 for 60-day public consultation. Six public consultations were carried out—three in Indonesia and one each in Malaysia, Liberia, and Ecuador—and feedback was collected from other online platforms.

According to him, the members faced challenges in carrying out the HCV-5 and HCV-6 criteria on a landscape level, as well as the social criteria that proved difficult to implement on a jurisdictional area. "We have

Watch the
Session Highlights



RSPO JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFORMATION

(CONTINUED)

made some good progress [but] we are still a work in progress,” he said.

The jurisdictional approach is currently being tested in three ongoing pilot programmes: on a district level in Seruyan, Kalimantan, Indonesia; on a state level in Sabah, Malaysia; and on a country level in Ecuador.

Under the pilot programme in Indonesia, Yulhaidir, Head of Seruyan District in Central Kalimantan, said that 352 smallholders covering 619 hectares have received RSPO certification in the district. Some of the milestones that have been achieved since the

inception of the programme in 2015 included the establishment of the agricultural facility for smallholders, the development of protocols for preventing and registering conflict, and engagement with stakeholders in the development of the Jurisdictional Entity (JE).

Yulhaidir shared some of the lessons learned in Seruyan. Firstly, he said, participation of all stakeholders is absolutely necessary, and this includes stakeholders entering with financial and technical resource support.

Secondly, incentives are needed for progress to compensate for upfront costs. Thirdly, “we need the assurance of buyers that they will purchase at prices that are beneficial. This will encourage producers to seriously push sustainability,” he said, adding that an important driver for growers to embrace sustainable practices is market demand, as growers would not risk being removed from the supply chain because of non-compliance.

“This journey towards sustainability is not easy or cheap, but if we work together we can achieve our goals together,” he stressed.

In a similar pilot, the state of Sabah in Malaysia took on the Jurisdictional Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (JCSPO) initiative in 2015. Frederick Kugan, Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests (Planning and Management) of the Sabah Forestry Department, Malaysia, said that the initiative has shown progress towards the three goals of the JCSPO.

The first goal is that there should be no loss of HCV and HCS forests for all oil palm in Sabah. Kugan shared that the HCV map has been completed and is now waiting for various stakeholder consultations and approval from the state government.

Secondly, on the adherence to FPIC requirements to enable zero conflict in an oil palm producing landscape, he said that the testing of the FPIC guide within the pilot areas of Telupid, Tongod, Beluran, and Kinabatangan (TTBK) has been completed and presented to the new Ministry of Law and Native Affairs in Sabah.

“This [jurisdictional-certified palm oil] is not a business-as-usual palm oil and so you cannot get a business-as-usual price. We have to be able to reward the efforts that are undertaken within the territories [...] and I think that is one of the most important commitments that the market [can make].”

—María Amparo Albán,
Executive Director and
CEO of ACD Consulting

RSPO JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFORMATION

(CONTINUED)



The third goal is to strengthen smallholder sustainability and uplift livelihoods. In this regard, a smallholder pilot is being carried out in TTBK. One of challenges according to Kugan is that many smallholders have not heard of the RSPO and only 1.5 percent of them are RSPO certified.

Sabah's efforts have been recognised by various international platforms, and Kugan stressed that recognition was an important factor in keeping the initiative alive. "We have been using this international recognition to push the agenda forward in Sabah," he said.

Presenting on the final pilot programme, in Ecuador, María Amparo Albán, Executive Director and CEO of ACD Consulting, said that the journey started when oil palm activities were identified as the fourth highest trigger of deforestation.

This pushed the Government to make a commitment to RSPO jurisdictional certification in 2017. The Amazon basin in the East of Ecuador was the starting point and accounted for 20% of Ecuadorian palm oil production. "We are pursuing this certification with one thing in mind, and that is by 2022 we should have the Amazon area certified," she said.

Albán said that the jurisdictional approach made social and economical sense, as 91% of the palm oil industry is made up of small producers and the approach would give them the ability to certify this group.

Albán stressed that the initiative went beyond productivity and economic goals, and that it was an exercise in governance. "We are very empowered by the fact that we are building a new way of doing things; joining sectors that were not capable of working together before," she said, referring to how the steering committee has brought together members from all different sectors—public, private, associations, growers, mills, and NGOs.

When asked if she thought that jurisdictional certification would result in higher prices for palm oil produced, Albán said that she did not think that people were thinking about it in those terms yet. "But this oil is not a business-as-usual palm oil and so you cannot get a business-as-usual price. We have to be able to reward the efforts that are undertaken within the territories [...] and I think that is one of the most important commitments that the market [can make]."

USING EVIDENCE TO DRIVE CHANGE

PLENARY SESSION 4



MODERATOR Vidya Rangan

Senior Manager, Impacts and Evidence, ISEAL Alliance

SPEAKERS

Dr Jannick Schmidt

Chief Executive Officer, 2.-0 LCA Consultants,

Dr Sarah Lake

Managing Director of Supply Chains, Climate Advisers

Dr Matthew Struebig

Reader in Conservation Science, Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent

Watch the
Session Highlights



How impactful have the RSPO's initiatives been in driving sustainable practices? The answer, said Vidya Rangan, Senior Manager of Impacts and Evidence at ISEAL Alliance, lies in two key questions: "Are you able to show that you are making changes on the sustainability issues and outcomes that you say [your scheme] will? [And] the second more important one: Is there a business case for companies, smallholders, or supply chain partners to be investing in certification ... [or] in any sustainability approach?"

Three years ago, a comparative study involving the life cycle assessment of RSPO versus non-RSPO palm oil was commissioned. It was crowdfunded by 16 companies and finalised in August 2019. The study took into account the emissions, resources, and inputs to produce palm oil from cradle to grave.

Dr Jannick Schmidt, Chief Executive Officer of 2.-0 LCA Consultants (the company that carried out the study), shared some of its key findings. The data showed that certified palm oil produced 36% less greenhouse gas emissions as opposed to non-certified. Certified estates also had a 20% lower biodiversity impact due to higher yields and nature conservation activities. These results,

USING EVIDENCE TO DRIVE CHANGE

(CONTINUED)

Dr Schmidt said, was attributable to the low peat share and low drainage depth found in certified estates, as well as the higher yields enjoyed and higher biogas capture.

However, certified estates also had higher fertiliser rates and registered 3% higher respiratory inorganics, i.e. particulate emissions, as compared to non-certified estates.

Schmidt pointed out that one of the major differences between certified and non-certified estates was peat and water management. In certified estates, good water management ensured that there was less drainage leading to less degradation of peat and therefore less GHG emissions. "On average, cultivating one hectare of peatland will give you 40 tonnes of CO₂, but in certified estates, this average was brought down to 32 tonnes," he said.

Another significant differentiator was the treatment of palm oil mill effluent (POME). POME emissions accounted for one third of GHG emissions from palm oil production. This, said Schmidt, could be offset by biogas capture and further offset when the emissions were turned into electricity.

There was also the impact of nature conservation, which Schmidt explained was based on a net savings calculation—i.e. local savings (from avoiding transformation of forest land) minus remote impacts (from land needed elsewhere to fulfil the demand of palm oil). Research showed that conservation of 1 ha of land saved 1 tonne of CO₂ per year.

The importance of such studies, he said, is the ability for both palm oil suppliers and buyers to measure and document the impact of adhering to the RSPO standards. Meanwhile, for the RSPO, this meant the ability to set targets based on reductions in GHG emissions, biodiversity, and so on. The study also identified crucial areas with the biggest impacts, and this would enable these aspects to be prioritised.

In terms of business viability, Dr Sarah Lake, Managing Director of Supply Chains for Climate Advisers, presented her study of 18 companies over the period of 2012 to 2019.

The study showed that RSPO companies outperformed their non-RSPO counterparts by 24.7% in terms of equity returns in the 7-year period and 4.6% better than the average.

On the flipside, according to Lake, RSPO companies had significant material losses when they had an RSPO violation. For example, such situations in the past had caused companies to be faced with USD5 million restoration liabilities, negative USD14.8 million earnings, loss of 8% revenue and 15% decrease in share value. "While this suggests that RSPO companies are held to a higher standard, they are also in the spotlight simply by being RSPO members."

For comparison, she also looked at five of the largest non-RSPO companies and found that they did not perform as well. However, Lake also discovered that all five had links to RSPO companies in the form of trade, retail, or finance. Lake pointed out the risk that the RSPO companies were exposing themselves to by association, especially with increased media and advocacy campaigns.

On the other hand, she also saw this as an "opportunity for these RSPO members to engage with these companies to instil sustainability practices, either by suggesting [the practices], providing resources, or requiring them." Financiers, she added, could make sustainability a part of their lending criteria.

Aside from the effectiveness of the RSPO standard and the business case for sustainability, what was the impact for the people who worked on the ground?

Dr Matthew Struebig, Reader in Conservation Science, Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) at the University of Kent, spoke

USING EVIDENCE TO DRIVE CHANGE

(CONTINUED)

about his findings in a study done in Indonesia that focused on whether the benefits of RSPO membership actually translated to benefits for the people on the ground.

The study was done in two parts, the first was on oil palm expansion and the impact on rural wealth in Kalimantan, while the second was on the impact of the RSPO standard across Indonesia.

The four key messages that came out from the study were: first, RSPO certification had led to improved well-being particularly in Sumatra, for areas that were already set up for market-based agriculture. "These areas are typically already deforested with degraded environments," he said.

The second take home message was that RSPO plantations appear to be much less successful and less effective in Kalimantan. The study showed that oil palm had not alleviated poverty and had not led to an improvement in living conditions. This was primarily in areas that were formerly dependent or recently highly dependent on subsistence-based livelihoods.

The third point was that Papua was following the trajectories of Sumatra. "So we're seeing mostly benefits in rural communities where oil palm and the RSPO certification is established."

Lastly, he emphasised that it was very important that baseline studies take into account what was happening before oil palm and before certification came on board. As his study showed, when oil palm enters a subsistence-based community, the effects could be negative while the industry had a positive effect on communities with market-based economic activity.

“Are you able to show that you are making changes on the sustainability issues and outcomes that you say [your scheme] will? [And] the second more important one: Is there a business case for companies, smallholders, or supply chain partners to be investing in certification ... [or] in any sustainability approach?”

—Vidya Rangan, Senior Manager of Impacts and Evidence, ISEAL Alliance

RSPO ISH STANDARDS: GALVANISING INDEPENDENT SMALLHOLDERS TO JUMP INTO THE BANDWAGON

PLENARY SESSION 5



MODERATOR

Ashwin Selvaraj

Head of Smallholder Programme, RSPO

SPEAKERS

Rukaiyah Rafiq

Head Principle of Smallholder School, FORTASBI

Michael Guindon

Palm Oil Technical Advisor, Zoological Society of London

Ingrid Richardson

Senior Manager of Sustainable Sourcing, Unilever

Sharyn Shufiyan

Partnership Services Lead, Wild Asia

Ian Orrell

*Head of Sustainability and Quality Management,
New Britain Palm Oil Limited*

Marieke Leegwater

*International Programme Coordinator for Palm Oil,
Solidaridad*

Watch the
Session Highlights



Independent smallholder oil palm planters have grown to become a significant force, contributing close to 40% of global palm oil production and achieving concentrations of 70% in some regions.

“To integrate smallholders into the mainstream of sustainable production, the RSPO has put forward a Smallholder Strategy with three objectives,” said Ashwin Selvaraj, Head of Smallholder Programme at the RSPO. The objectives are to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, to simplify certification, and to ensure that there is a business case for smallholder inclusion in the RSPO.

In pursuit of the second objective, Selvaraj said “the RSPO has created a Smallholder Standard to make it easier and more practical for smallholders to implement sustainability principles.” Its successful adoption at the General Assembly of the RSPO would lead to two separate standards for the production of sustainable palm oil without compromising any principle of sustainability.

Under the Independent Smallholder Standard, eligible smallholders will have a maximum of three years (divided into two phases) to

RSPO ISH STANDARDS: GALVANISING INDEPENDENT SMALLHOLDERS TO JUMP INTO THE BANDWAGON

(CONTINUED)

reach full compliance with the standard. "The phased approach was designed to build awareness, provide training, and allow time for continuous improvement and progress," Selvaraj said.

Marieke Leegwater, Solidaridad's International Programme Coordinator for Palm Oil, said her organisation works a lot with smallholders in the field and finds that there is no business case in certification for smallholders. This is a big problem as the investments required from smallholders is greater than the reward. However, with the Smallholder Strategy, for the first time we have RSPO standards that are tailored to smallholder realities, and there is access to benefits for them even early in the certification process through the credit system."

"The new standard would benefit even smallholders in Papua New Guinea, where the situation was markedly different compared to the rest of the region," said Ian Orrell, Head of Sustainability and Quality Management at New Britain Palm Oil Limited. In PNG, mills provided a range of services, including pest and disease control; research and development; repair, maintenance, and transport; as well as social infrastructure, such as health and education. What incentives did smallholders have to abandon this system?

"They want to become members of the RSPO because it empowers them and gives them a greater identity," Orrell said. "It's also currently a top government's priority to build the economy through agricultural development and to mitigate reliance on the extractive sector. To achieve this, growers must move towards self-reliance, self-organisation, and self-determination. In our conversations with them, the smallholders have said that they do want this," he added.

In Malaysia, conservation social enterprise Wild Asia has worked with Malaysian smallholders since 2010 to organise and connect them to global markets. Wild Asia Partnership Services Lead Sharyn Shufiyan said that the new Smallholder Standard understands the key challenges that

smallholders have been facing. Although many of these challenges have been addressed by providing greater inclusivity, they still exist.

"Currently, 70% of smallholders in Malaysia are not certified, and the only way forward for us is to demand for mass balance (MB)," she said. "When the mills have converted to MB, they can then work with their supply base. The way to scale up is to promote or support MB, because that's how we get smallholders into the programme."

"That said, the inclusion of smallholders through the commitments of major palm oil producing companies alone was "not inevitable"," said Ingrid Richardson, Senior Manager of Sustainable Sourcing at Unilever. "We need to see transformation within the industry," she said, adding that the new Smallholder Standard is the key initiative that provided a very important system by which smallholders could receive benefits through the sale of certified Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) as RSPO Credits or through physical supply



RSPO ISH STANDARDS: GALVANISING INDEPENDENT SMALLHOLDERS TO JUMP INTO THE BANDWAGON

(CONTINUED)

chain models. “This provides the flexibility we need to support smallholders in multiple ways,” she added.

Michael Guindon, Palm Oil Technical Advisor to the Zoological Society of London, said the Smallholder Standard is a boon to smallholders because a lot of it comes down to the financial impact of sustainability, so the phased approach and credit-based model [of the Standard] provide smallholders the capital to improve production practices throughout the three-year certification period.

Guindon argued that the new standard also gave RSPO members the opportunity to increase public education about sustainable palm oil not just to increase market acceptance of CSPO but also to address the anti-palm position. “As a community, we need to change the anti-palm oil narrative and actually establish the link between purchasing smallholder credits and having an impact on the ground,” said Guindon.

Rukaiyah Rafiq, Head Principle of Smallholder School at FORTASBI, acknowledged that the former certification system was “too complicated” and that smallholder certification in Indonesia remained low as a result, but the benefits of sustainability as articulated in RSPO certification had a clear and immediate impact both on smallholders as well as the wider community.

“We have 30 smallholder group managers and 16,000 certified hectares under smallholders. In 2019, there was not a single fire in any of their properties—this is an important point for independent smallholders,” she said, adding that the new standard would contribute even more to reaching smallholders who remain outside the RSPO.

Sharyn and Guindon added that the new standard also presented excellent opportunities for major palm oil companies to increase public awareness of the role of smallholders in sustainability.

“I think this is a great CSR initiative for companies to communicate to consumers that by purchasing credits we are supporting independent smallholders and contributing to livelihood improvement as well as improving sustainability on the ground,” said Guindon.

“*The new ISH standard gives RSPO members the opportunity to increase public education about sustainable palm oil not just to increase market acceptance of CSPO but also to address the anti-palm position.*”

FOUR PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL PRODUCTION IN THAILAND



SPEAKER

John Clendon

Managing Director, Univanich Palm Oil PCL

The occasion of the 50th anniversary of the first planting of oil palms in Thailand and the Philippines presented an excellent opportunity for the review of the progress of oil palm agriculture in the two countries, as well as an analysis of the reasons why one national industry prospered better than the other, and the social and environmental implications of that development.

Geographically, Thailand and the Philippines share much in common. They are at similar latitudes, have similar climates and are considered marginal for the planting of oil palms compared to equatorial and high-rainfall areas. At the beginning of their foray into oil palms, both countries had similar populations although the economy of the Philippines was about 20% larger than Thailand's, with corresponding differences in per capita Gross Domestic Product.

In the 50 years since that time, oil palm plantations in Thailand have grown to more than a million hectares, producing 2.8 billion tonnes of palm oil annually with 45% feeding the domestic market, an equal amount invested in biofuel innovation, and the balance exported. The Philippines, however, has struggled at 9,000 hectares and currently

Watch the
Session Highlights



FOUR PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL PRODUCTION IN THAILAND

(CONTINUED)

imports 1.2 million tonnes of palm oil per annum.

"I believe the main reason for this was a series of agrarian land reform programmes beginning in 1988," said John Clendon, Managing Director of Univanich Palm Oil PCL. "Their objectives were admirable: redistribution of wealth, creating equality for landowners, enhancing agricultural production, providing employment opportunities for agricultural workers, and so on—but a study in 2003 by the United Nations, Asian Development Bank and the European Union found that as a result of these policies poverty declined from 47% to only 45% while non-participation rose from 55% to 56%."

In 2013, the Government acquired 6.9 million hectares which it redistributed in lots of a maximum of three to five hectares per individual or corporation. This, said Clendon, had "stifled agricultural development" and entrenched poverty in a region troubled by deforestation as well as conflicts involving the New People's Army. Referring to children he had seen in the area, Clendon said: "I asked my driver what these boys aspired to do. He looked at me and said: 'If they are lucky, they aspire to get a gun.'"

Exacerbating matters was the fact that the Philippines scored poorly in ease-of-doing-business ratings, with restrictive legislation hampering economic growth, while persistent attacks by NGOs on palm oil have hampered the development of industry in the country, which now spends USD1 billion per annum on palm oil imports.

In Thailand, the first key difference was that smallholders owning less than eight hectares accounted for more than 90% of planted area. "There are no large plantation companies as you would find in Indonesia and Malaysia," Clendon said. "Instead, more than 300,000 small farmers and their families are supported by oil palms—and this excludes those who work in plantation factories, refineries and so forth—while smallholdings are being converted from existing agriculture such as

rubber, coconuts, cattle grazing, and rice, so there is no deforestation."

The second factor was a supportive government policy environment: "There is less industry regulation in Thailand, notwithstanding its stringent environmental standards which are much higher than those traditionally found in neighbouring countries; and there is also Government encouragement of qualified investors, such as the UK Commonwealth Development Corporation; and support for small farmers including protection from imports and access to finance."

Macro policies were viewed as important, Clendon said, whereas micro policies were restrictive. This has helped create conducive conditions supporting the four pillars of sustainable production in Thailand, namely:

- advances in science
- environmental best practices
- development of sustainable markets
- social sustainability

Advances in science, particularly in oil palm breeding, have allowed Thailand to compete on a better footing with its peers. "In 1975, commercial planters were getting 46 tonnes of fruit per hectare," said Clendon. "By 2005 this had grown to 89 tonnes of fruit per hectare. This planting material is now exported all around the world, and Thailand has also developed a unique replanting system—avenue underplanting—which focuses on improving environmental and economic sustainability."

Meanwhile, environmental best practices focused on recycling (and not burning) empty fruit bunches, composting, reducing the use of chemical pest control in conjunction with the introduction of barn owls to control rat damage even on small farms.

"Perhaps the biggest step forward in environmental sustainability has been the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which has been taking place for a long time. In the 1970s the industry in Thailand started

FOUR PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL PRODUCTION IN THAILAND

(CONTINUED)

“

We have a shared responsibility to address the reasons for the current global slowdown before that slowdown results in more serious social and environmental problems.

building methane digesters—covered in-ground anaerobic reactors (CIGARs)—which have had a massive effect on the reduction of GHGs and can be used for generating renewable energy. These are nearly universal now and there was no coercion or compulsion in their use. The industry did it because they saw incentives.”

Other developments included the replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy, improvements to wastewater treatment and factory efficiencies, and most importantly the creation of new skilled jobs in rural communities.

In terms of developing sustainable markets and social sustainability, Thailand exported its first Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) in 2013, and continues to work to promote economic sustainability for smallholders.

“The palm oil industry in Thailand has brought dramatic improvement to previously impoverished rural communities. But looking ahead, global population growth will place pressure on land and food resources,” Clendon said. “Given the right incentives small farmers will be able to develop a sustainable industry, but at the same time, well-intentioned social policies can be a barrier to oil palm development and can have serious consequences for societies as well as the global environment.

“And finally, we have a shared responsibility to address the reasons for the current global slowdown before that slowdown results in more serious social and environmental problems,” he added.

CLOSING ADDRESS

ANNE ROSENBERGER

Co-Chair,
Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil



*Watch the
Session Highlights*



“Some of our toughest work is still in front of us,” said RSPO Co-Chair Anne Rosenbarger in her closing address. As the organisation set out on its new gold standard—the P&C 2018—members had to accept that these very standards had made it more difficult for growers, particularly smaller growers, to join the RSPO and to achieve full certification.

Rosenbarger also pointed out that while the RSPO had seen continued progress in production over the years, only 19% of total global palm oil was certified. In 2018, the number of growers increased only by 3%. Yet, she said, even at current production levels, demand was lagging—volume targets for buyer members have not been met and, without demand, there would be no incentive for suppliers to embrace sustainable practices. “How do we break this cycle? How do we end the blame game?” she asked.

“Growers have already committed to a much tougher standard. It is only fair and also absolutely necessary that the buyers now step up in a similar way. Not just in policies but in future (purchase) decisions,” she said.

The theme for this year’s Roundtable was ‘Shared Responsibility’, the notion of which was not a new concept to the RSPO, but it marked its recent efforts to tackle and clearly define goals and responsibilities for all membership categories.

“No one stakeholder group can do it alone. We need to stop pointing fingers at one

another and be more accountable,” she said. She highlighted that many of the toughest issues that the RSPO faced—such as smallholder participation, consumer awareness, conservation of high forest cover landscapes—would require more than just quick internal fixes by individual companies.

“We need alignment and the active participation of many different stakeholder groups working together on innovative and skilled solutions, including, but not limited to, certification,” she said. “In recognising this, we must expand the discussion of what the RSPO initiative really is.”

She referred to the RSPO as a certification system, but also “so much more.” As one of the most diverse and influential stakeholder forums in the world, the RSPO had “tremendous power in our ability just to bring people to the table.”

Rosenbarger said that the RSPO needed to figure out how to maximise its potential as an engagement platform and as a forum for shared learning. “[Through the RSPO] we can align the industry around certification, but also around other innovations and operations,” she added.

She also noted that the soon-to-be convened 16th General Assembly would be voting on the new Independent Smallholder Standard—a critical step in making the RSPO system more accessible while maintaining the credibility of the standard. “This is an example

CLOSING ADDRESS



of where the RSPO can play a key role to bring together investment and participation from many different actors to improve smallholder capacity building and support incentives," she said.

Looking back at the past few years, Rosenbarger acknowledged and commended the many RSPO members who had individually embarked on creative initiatives to transform supply chains. "While individual leadership is important, it's now time that we came together as a sector to streamline and coordinate our efforts," she said.

The RSPO also has a key role to play in protecting the world's forests and it must figure out how to expand its reach to the areas that are at highest risk of conversion. "We must do everything in our power to protect these last expanses of intact forests on our planet."

She added: "For the RSPO to have any sort of impact on the future development plans and management of these forest frontiers, we are going to have to think beyond the boundaries of individual plantations, to the broader lens of landscapes and jurisdictional approaches." She said that such approaches would enable more meaningful land use planning and management, and would bring to the table an even broader set of stakeholders.

Looking forward to the year ahead, she said that many companies were going to fall short of their 2020 commitments. This, she said, should be a wake-up call.

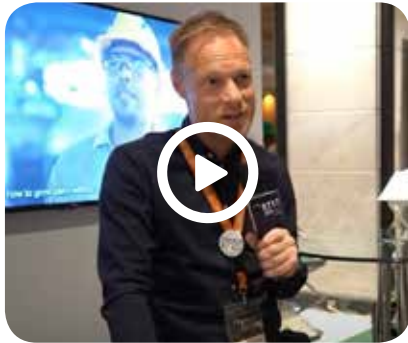
"We're not as far as we hoped we would be. We are out of time. Small incremental steps are just not going to cut it." She called on companies in the room, who she said represented the leaders of the palm oil industry, to demonstrate what industry leadership really could look like. "We have to show that we understand that sustainability is not a business strategy, but a survival strategy."

"We have to be much bigger than we have been in the past. Beyond the idea that only growers should be held accountable for specific implementation targets, beyond the notion of a standard—where certification alone is going to solve all of our problems—beyond the boundaries of single plantations, or single supply chains, beyond individual strategies for brand recognition, and even within the palm oil sector.

"If we can truly align and be accountable for shared responsibility on this level then maybe our logo will actually start to represent an industry that is aligned around a common goal of protecting the future.

VOX POPS

More interviews with our speakers and delegates can be found on the official RSPO Vimeo channel



JANNICK SCHMIDT
2.-0 LCA Consultants
<https://youtu.be/k21vWjokwXE>



OLIVIER TICHIT
Musim Mas Group
<https://youtu.be/oAn3f4RMEs0>



RIJIT SENGUPTA,
Centre for Responsible
Business
https://youtu.be/YExTQxt_2FI



BENJAMIN TAY
PM Haze
<https://youtu.be/IRaO3PYpCmU>



**DATO' CARL
BEK-NIELSEN**
United Plantations Bhd
<https://youtu.be/fvqHqj8g3hl>



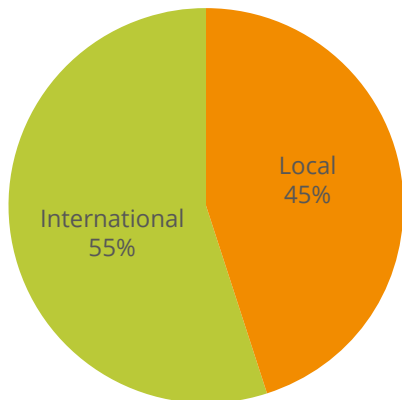
**MARIEKE
LEEGWATER**
Solidaridad Network
<https://youtu.be/UDYvqvip24I>



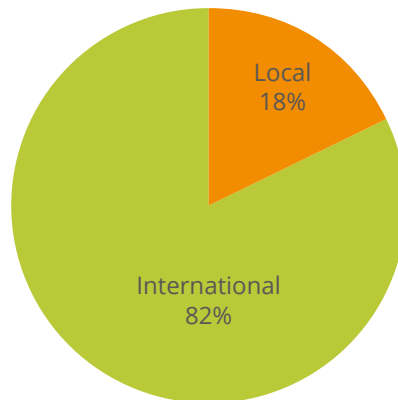
ARSHAD A QURESHI
Asian Youth for
Sustainable Palm Oil
<https://youtu.be/beMNijlBaPQ>

MEDIA COVERAGE SUMMARY

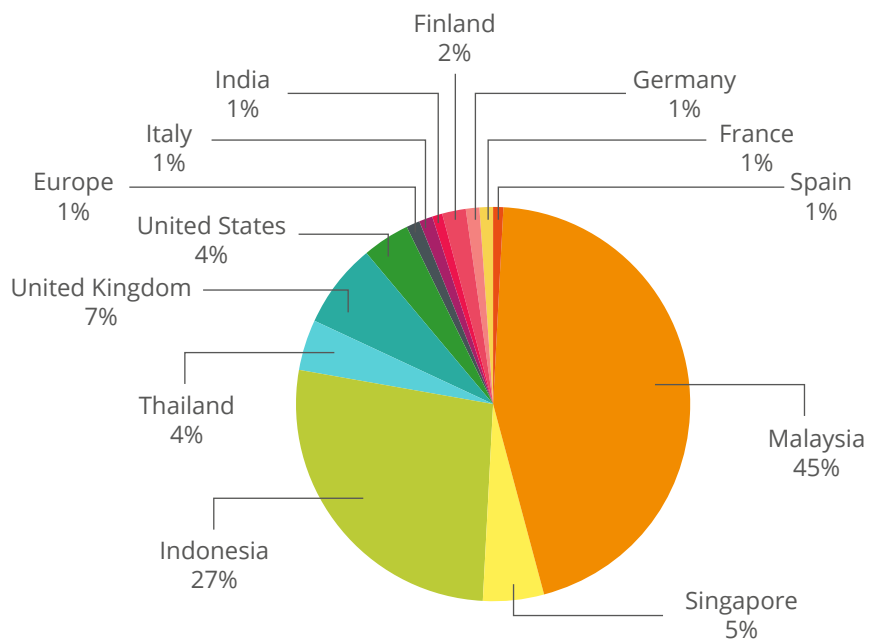
RT17 COVERAGE



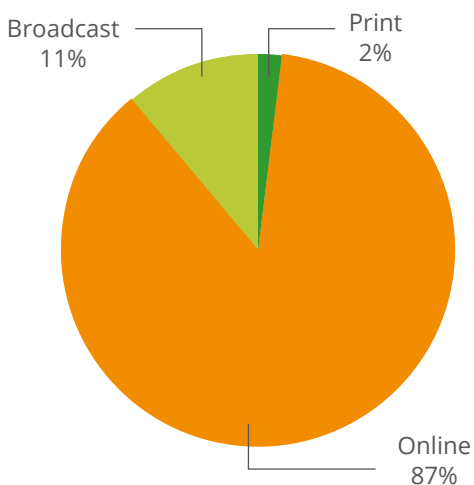
OTHER RSPO MENTIONS



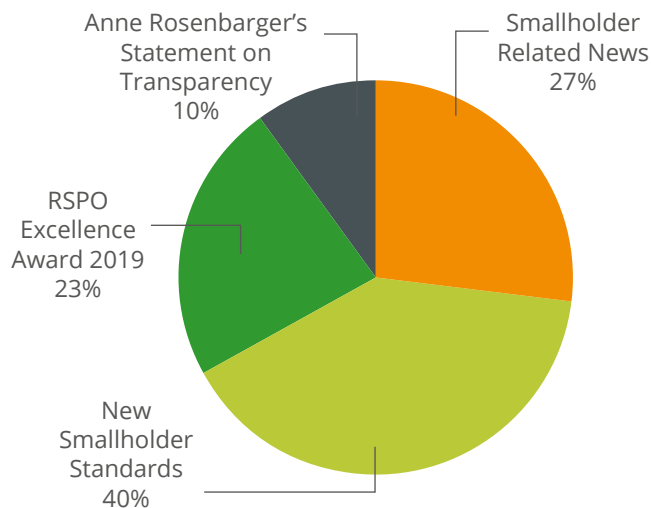
COVERAGE BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY



TYPE OF COVERAGE FOR MALAYSIAN MEDIA



HEADLINE BREAKDOWN



APPENDIX – RT17 COVERAGE

Date	Publication	Title	Location	PR Value
30-Oct	Bernamea	Pekebun kecil bebas sawit miliki RSPO meningkat 52 peratus (RSPO-free smallholders grew 52 percent)	Malaysia	57,600
31-Oct	The Edge	Certified independent smallholders up 52%, says RSPO	Malaysia	48,000
31-Oct	The Borneo Post	independent smallholders up 52 pct, says RSPO	Malaysia	48,000
31-Oct	The Palm Scribe	RSPO Sees 52% Increase in Certified Independent Smallholders	Indonesia	19,200
2-Nov	Riau Online	Menanti Ketegasan Lembaga Sertifikasi Dan Pertamina Wujudkan #Cleanbiofuelforall (Waiting for the Certification of Institutions And Regulations Establish #Cleanbiofuelforall)	Indonesia	38,400
4-Nov	The Palm Scribe	RSPO Calls for Action, Wants Incentives for Sustainable Oil Palm Growers	Indonesia	19,200
5-Nov	FoodNavigator-Asia	'Shared responsibility': RSPO proposes 15% annual increase of mandatory sustainable palm oil purchases	Singapore	48,000
5-Nov	Bernamea	RSPO to roll out new cost effective tool for smallholders	Malaysia	57,600
5-Nov	Bernamea	Growing global population, a boon for palm oil – Bek-Nielsen	Malaysia	57,600
5-Nov	The Edge	Markets RSPO proposes new standard for independent smallholders	Malaysia	48,000
5-Nov	Astro Awani	Niaga AWANI: Persidangan Meja Bulat Minyak Sawit mampan (Business Awani: Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil Conference)	Malaysia	57,600
5-Nov	Astro Awani	Langkah EU boikot kelapa sawit terburu-buru (EU's move to boycott palm oil is haphazard)	Malaysia	57,600
5-Nov	Daily Express	Growing global population a boon for palm oil'	Malaysia	48,000
5-Nov	Top Business	Ketegasan untuk Mewujudkan cleanbiofuelforall (It takes strength to create cleanbiofuelforall)	Indonesia	9,600
5-Nov	The Palmscribe	Usulan Standar Baru RSPO untuk Petani Kecil Kelapa Sawit (Proposed New RSPO Standard for Small Palm Oil Farmers)	Indonesia	19,200
5-Nov	The Palmscribe	Anggota RSPO diminta bertanggungjawab atas komitmen keberlanjutan mereka (RSPO members are asked to be responsible for their sustainability commitments)	Indonesia	19,200

APPENDIX – RT17 COVERAGE

(CONTINUED)

Date	Publication	Title	Location	PR Value
5-Nov	Sawit Indonesia	Land Fire in Indonesia	Indonesia	28,800
5-Nov	Khaosod	Body Shop - Tesco Lotus' Pine bought Thai palm oil Private sector insures only short-term income from strong income	Thailand	48,000
5-Nov	The Palm	Scribe The New Proposed RSPO Standard for Smallholders in a Nutshell	Indonesia	19,200
5-Nov	Astro Awani (Youtube)	Niaga AWANI: Persidangan Meja Bulat Minyak Sawit mampan	Malaysia	375,000
5-Nov	Astro Awani (Youtube)	Produk minyak sawit perlu dimartabatkan (Palm oil products need to be elevated)	Malaysia	72,000
5-Nov	Astro Awani (Youtube)	Langkah EU boikot kelapa sawit terburu-buru	Malaysia	85,500
5-Nov	Astro Awani (Youtube)	Tidak rasional ganti minyak sawit dengan tanaman lain (It is irrational to replace palm oil with other crops)	Malaysia	60,000
5-Nov	Astro Awani (Youtube)	Minyak sawit Malaysia tidak beri kesan kepada alam sekitar	Malaysia	115,500
5-Nov	Astro Awani (Youtube)	Mekanisme baharu memudahkan pekebun kelapa sawit peroleh pensijilan (Introducing a new mechanism that eases smallholders to opt for Malaysia Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certificate)	Malaysia	75,000
6-Nov	The Palm Scribe	Studies show real benefits of RSPO certification for Companies	Indonesia	19,200
6-Nov	The Palm Scribe	Watchdog wants RSPO members operating on peatlands to form forum	Indonesia	19,200
6-Nov	GIMNI	The Independent Palm Oil Farmers Association Receives RSPO Certificate	Indonesia	38,400
6-Nov	InfoSawit	Petani Kelapa Sawit Mandiri Terima Sertifikat RSPO (Independent Palm Oil Farmers Association Receives RSPO Certificate)	Indonesia	28,800
6-Nov	InfoSawit	Saatnya Mengubah Komitmen Minyak Sawit Berkelanjutan Menjadi Aksi (It's Time to Turn Your Permanent Palm Oil Commitment into Action)	Indonesia	28,800
6-Nov	Astro Awani	Minyak sawit Malaysia tidak beri kesan kepada alam sekitar (Malaysian palm oil has no adverse impact on environment)	Malaysia	57,600

APPENDIX – RT17 COVERAGE

(CONTINUED)

Date	Publication	Title	Location	PR Value
6-Nov	Astro Awani	Produk minyak sawit perlu dimartabatkan (Palm oil products need to be elevated)	Malaysia	57,600
6-Nov	Astro Awani	Tidak rasional ganti minyak sawit dengan tanaman lain (It is irrational to replace palm oil with other crops)	Malaysia	57,600
6-Nov	The Edge Financial Daily	RSPO proposes news standard for independent smallholders	Malaysia	48,000
6-Nov	The Edge Financial Daily (Print)	RSPO proposes news standard for independent smallholders	Malaysia	24,000
6-Nov	Astro Awani	Mekanisme baharu memudahkan pekebun kelapa sawit peroleh pensijilan (Introducing a new mechanism that eases smallholders to opt for Malaysia Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certificate)	Malaysia	57,600
6-Nov	Astro Awani	Niaga AWANI: Adakah tekanan untuk pekebun kecil untuk jadi lestari? (Awani Business: is it causing pressure for smallholders to be sustainable?)	Malaysia	57,600
6-Nov	Astro Awani	Nasib pekebun kecil dan kelestarian penanaman sawit (The luck of smallholders and sustainable palm oil)	Malaysia	57,600
6-Nov	Balanga News	Bupati Seruyan Jadi Pembicara tentang Perkebunan Berkelanjutan di Forum Internasional (Regent of Seruyan Becomes Speaker on Sustainable Plantations at the International Forum)	Indonesia	9,600
6-Nov	Food Navigator	Making sustainability 'more inclusive': RSPO adopts new palm oil standard for smallholders	United Kingdom	48,000
6-Nov	Bernamea	RSPO, MSPO to complement each other towards transforming oil palm smallholders	Malaysia	57,600
6-Nov	Astro Awani	Niaga Awani: Adakah tekanan untuk pekebun kecil untuk jadi lestari? (Awani Business: is it causing pressure for smallholders to be sustainable?)	Malaysia	407,700
6-Nov	Astro Awani	Nasib pekebun kecil dan kelestarian penanaman sawit (The luck of smallholders and sustainable palm oil)	Malaysia	133,500

APPENDIX – RT17 COVERAGE

(CONTINUED)

Date	Publication	Title	Location	PR Value
6-Nov	Tribun Jambi	Palm Oil Self-Helped Farmer from Jambi Again Receives a Certificate	Indonesia	38,400
7-Nov	Bernamea	Sustainability is the way forward for palm oil	Malaysia	57,600
7-Nov	The Borneo Post (Press reader)	RSPO, MSPO to complement sustainability	Malaysia	67,200
7-Nov	The Star	Indonesia's freeze on palm oil plantation permits lacks transparency	Malaysia	57,600
7-Nov	Head Topics	Indonesia's freeze on palm oil plantation permits lacks transparency	Malaysia	38,400
7-Nov	The Palm	Scribe Shared Responsibility to Strengthen Credibility of RSPO Certification	Indonesia	19,200
7-Nov	The Palm	Scribe Put Money Where Your Mouth Is, RSPO tells Palm Oil Buyers	Indonesia	19,200
7-Nov	PTPN 13	Anggota RSPO Sepakat Tetapkan Standar Baru Petani Sawit Swadaya (RSPO Members Agree to Set New Standards for Independent Palm Farmers)	Indonesia	19,200
7-Nov	Food Dive	Palm oil makes headway as small independent producers surge 165%	United States	48,000
7-Nov	Info Sawit	Producers – Downstream Sector Demanded Joint Responsibility Supports Sustainable Palm Oil	Indonesia	28,800
7-Nov	The Edge	Markets RSPO members pass new standards on independent smallholders	Malaysia	48,000
7-Nov	Info Sawit	RSPO Members Agree to Set New Standards for Independent Palm Farmers	Indonesia	28,800
7-Nov	Astro Awani	Niaga AWANI: Tinjauan pelaksanaan RSPO di Thailand	Malaysia	57,600
8-Nov	Borneo	Post Online RSPO delivers new standard for independent smallholders	Malaysia	48,000
8-Nov	Bernamea	Palm oil industry need to improve transparency - RSPO	Malaysia	57,600
8-Nov	The Star	Sustainability is the way forward for palm oil	Malaysia	57,600
8-Nov	Food Navigator	'Let's put our necks on the line': Olam Group CEO urges food companies to disclose ecological footprints	United Kingdom	48,000
8-Nov	MPOB Palm News	RSPO delivers new standard for independent smallholders	Malaysia	19,200

APPENDIX – RT17 COVERAGE

(CONTINUED)

Date	Publication	Title	Location	PR Value
8-Nov	PTPN 13	Produsen-Sektor Hilir Dituntut Mengemban Tanggung Jawab Bersama Dukung Minyak Sawit Berkelanjutan (Downstream Sector-Producers Demand Joint Responsibility to Support Sustainable Palm Oil)	Indonesia	19,200
8-Nov	Kaset Gao Na	Promoting RSPO to smallholders before Thai palm oil loses competitiveness	Thailand	96,000
9-Nov	Borneo Post Online	Palm oil industry need to improve transparency – RSPO	Malaysia	48,000
10-Nov	The Borneo Post (Press Reader)	RSPO delivers new standard for independent small holders	Malaysia	67,200
10-Nov	Astro Awani (YouTube)	#AWANIByte: Buah sawit boleh dimakan! (Palm oil fruit can be eaten!)	Malaysia	39,900
10-Nov	Prachachat Thurakij	EU intensifies “RSPO standards” extraction from imported palm oil into the forest	Thailand	57,600
11-Nov	Food Navigator	Asia Credibility, collaboration and action: Expert panel on why RSPO pilot is a vital sustainability push	Singapore	48,000
11-Nov	Confectionary Production	Roundtable conference on Sustainable Palm Oil decides award winners	United Kingdom	28,800
11-Nov	Food Navigator	Greenpeace links fire hotspots with RSPO growers and members	United Kingdom	48,000
12-Nov	Eco Daily	Palm oil industry need to improve transparency – RSPO	Europe	38,400
12-Nov	il Salvagente	Other than sustainable palm oil: behind the fires the interests of multinationals	Italy	48,000
13-Nov	Astro Awani	Niaga AWANI: Industri sawit - Antara dakwaan dan kebenaran	Malaysia	57,600
13-Nov	Astro Awani (YouTube)	Niaga AWANI: Industri sawit - Antara dakwaan dan kebenaran (Palm Oil Industry – Between Accusations and Truth)	Malaysia	377,700
13-Nov	Food Navigator	Asia Palm Progress: Three reason Thai palm oil sector surged while Philippines stagnated	Singapore	48,000
13-Nov	Youth in Sustainability (Youtube)	Asian Youth Summit on Sustainable Palm Oil (Indonesian Youth)	Indonesia	96,000
14-Nov	Food Navigator	RSPO Chief on palm oil boycotts, brand responsibility, and the need to ‘rethink’ retail	United Kingdom	48,000
16-Nov	Khabar7 News	Palm oil industry need to improve transparency —RSPO	India	28,800

APPENDIX – RT17 COVERAGE

(CONTINUED)

Date	Publication	Title	Location	PR Value
18-Nov	The Edge	Markets RSPO pledges to act if greenwashing claims are proven	Malaysia	48,000
18-Nov	Post Today R	SPO pushes measures to pull smallholders into sustainable palm oil standards, hoping to reduce costs	Thailand	48,000
18-Nov	Food Navigator	Asia Supply vs Demand: MNCs urged to play larger role in easing Asia's sustainable palm oil oversupply	Singapore	48,000
18-Nov	The Jakarta Post	Executive Column: Long way to go to promote sustainable palm oil: RSPO	Indonesia	57,600
18-Nov	The Edge Financial Daily	RSPO pledges to act if greenwashing claims are proven	Malaysia	24,000
18-Nov	Antara News	Petani sawit swadaya Kuansing Riau raih sertifikasi RSPO (Kuansing Riau independent oil palm farmer wins RSPO certification)	Indonesia	48,000
18-Nov	Valid News	Riau Self-Helping Farmers Sabet RSPO Certified	Indonesia	28,800
19-Nov	Info Sawit	Petani Sawit Swadaya Mandiri Riau Peroleh Sertifikat RSPO, Buka Akses Pasar Dunia (Riau Independent Independent Palm Farmers Obtain RSPO Certificate, Open Access to World Markets)	Indonesia	28,800
19-Nov	Pearly WRBM	RSPO for Tech Sustainability	Singapore	96,000
20-Nov	STT Info	Agroaceite, a subsidiary of AgroAmerica Tropical Oil Holding Corp. is Awarded the Community Impact RSPO Excellence Award 2019	Finland	48,000
20-Nov	Bio Portfolio	Agroaceite, a subsidiary of AgroAmerica Tropical Oil Holding Corp. is Awarded the Community Impact RSPO Excellence Award 2019	United Kingdom	48,000
20-Nov	Ansait Economia	Agroaceite, a subsidiary of AgroAmerica Tropical Oil Holding Corp. is Awarded the Community Impact RSPO Excellence Award 2019	Finland	67,200
20-Nov	AFP	Agroaceite, a subsidiary of AgroAmerica Tropical Oil Holding Corp. is Awarded the Community Impact RSPO Excellence Award 2019	France	57,600

APPENDIX – RT17 COVERAGE

(CONTINUED)

Date	Publication	Title	Location	PR Value
20-Nov	The Argus-Press	AgroAceite, a subsidiary of AgroAmerica Tropical Oil Holding Corp., was awarded the Community Impact RSPO Excellence Award in 2019	United States	48,000
20-Nov	Market Screener	Agroaceite, a subsidiary of AgroAmerica Tropical Oil Holding Corp. is Awarded the Community Impact RSPO Excellence Award 2019	United States	38,400
20-Nov	Commercial News	Agroaceite, a subsidiary of AgroAmerica Tropical Oil Holding Corp. Receives RSPO 2019 Award of Excellence for Community Impact	United States	48,000
20-Nov	Astro Awani	Niaga AWANI: Industri sawit - Antara dakwaan dan kebenaran (Palm Oil Industry – Between Accusations and Truth)	Malaysia	57,600
21-Nov	Riau Pos	Again, Riau's Independent Palm Farmers Succeed in Achieving RSPO Certification	Indonesia	28,800
21-Nov	Wallstreet Online	AgroAceite, a subsidiary of AgroAmerica Tropical Oil Holding Corp., was awarded the Community Impact RSPO Excellence Award in 2019	Germany	48,000
21-Nov	Estrategias de	Agroaceite, a subsidiary of AgroAmerica Tropical Oil Inversion Holding Corp., receives the 2019 RSPO Award of Excellence for its community impact	Spain	57,600

LIST OF DELEGATES

A

AAA OILS & FATS PTE LTD
AAK AB
ABN AMRO BANK N.V.
ACD CONSULTING
ACT COMMODITIES B.V.
AEON CO, LTD
AGROCARIBE
AGROPALMA GROUP
AIDENVIRONMENT
AIESEC INDIA
AJINOMOTO CO, INC
AL IMAN JAYA ENTERPRISE
ASEAN OLEOCHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS
GROUP (AOMG)
ASIAN AGRI GROUP
ASOSIASI PEKEBUN SWADAYA KELAPA SAWIT
LABUHANBATU
ASOSIASI PETANI KELAPA SAWIT MANDIRI
ASOSIASI PETANI KELAPA SAWIT SWADAYA
MANDIRI
ASOSIASI PETANI SAWIT SWADAYA AMANAH
ASSOCIATION INTERPROFESSIONNELLE DE LA
FILIERE PALMIER à HUILE (AIPH)
ASSURANCE SERVICES INTERNATIONAL
ASTRA AGRO
AVERIS SDN BHD
AYSPO

B

BADAN USAHA MILIK DESA "KARYA MANDALA
MAKMUR"
BARRY CALLEBAUT FOOD MANUFACTURERS
EUROPE
BASF (MALAYSIA) SDN BHD
BASF SE
BORNEO SAMUDERA SDN BHD
BOTH ENDS
BOUSTEAD PLANTATIONS BERHAD
BSI GROUP ASSURANCE LIMITED
BSI SERVICES MALAYSIA SDN BHD
BSR
BUMITAMA AGRI LTD
BUNGE LODERS CROKLAAN B.V.
BUSINESS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (BSR)

C

CARGILL
CARGILL AMERICAS INC
CARGILL INCORPORATED
CDP
CELB
CENTRE FOR RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS (CRB)
CERES
CHECKMARK TRAINING
CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO
CHUO KASEI CO, LTD
CIRAD

CLIMATE ADVISERS
CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS
CONSULTANT
CLIMATE DISCLOSURE PROJECT (CDP)
CNV INTERNATIONAAL
CO-OP CLEAN CO LTD
COLGATE-PALMOLIVE COMPANY
COLOMBIAN EMBASSY IN THAILAND
COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE GROUP –
SURATTHANI
COMPASS GROUP PLC
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL
CONTROL UNION (MALAYSIA) SDN BHD
CONTROL UNION CERTIFICATIONS GERMANY
GMBH
COöPERATIEVE RABOBANK U.A.
COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL
CREDIT SUISSE AG

D

DAEMETER CONSULTING
DANONE
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO
THAILAND
DESA ENTERPRISE
DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ)
GMBH
DIEMER SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTING
DR. FRANK ROLAND SCHRODER
DURRELL INSTITUTE OF CONSERVATION AND
ECOLOGY (DICE), UNIVERSITY OF KENT

E

ECOGREEN OLEOCHEMICALS (SINGAPORE)
PTE LTD
ECONIGHTS
EFECA
EMBASSY OF BELGIUM IN THAILAND
EMBASSY OF FINLAND, BANGKOK
EMBASSY OF GERMANY, BANGKOK
EQUATORIAL PALM OIL
ETANTE LIMITED

F

FELDA
FELLESKJØPET AGRI S.A.
FERRERO ASIA PACIFIC
FERRERO TRADING LUX S.A.
FGV HOLDINGS BERHAD
FIRST RESOURCES LIMITED
FOREST PEOPLES PROGRAMME
FORTASBI
FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL
FUJI EUROPE AFRICA
FUJI OIL GROUP

LIST OF DELEGATES

G

GALAXY SURFACTANTS LTD
GAPOKTAN TANJUNG SEHATI
GENERAL MILLS, INC
GENTING PLANTATIONS BERHAD
GIZ
GIZ THAILAND
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
GLOBAL GATEWAY CERTIFICATIONS SDN BHD
GOODHOPE ASIA HOLDINGS LTD
GOODLIGHT NATURAL CANDLES, LLC
GREENPEACE
GREENPEACE SOUTHEAST ASIA
GRUPO HAME

H

HAP SENG PLANTATIONS HOLDINGS BHD
HARGY OIL PALMS LIMITED
HCV AFRICA
HCV NETWORK
HELIKONIA ADVISORY SDN BHD
HENKEL AG & CO. KGAA
HIGH CARBON STOCK APPROACH
HSBC HOLDINGS PLC

I

ICOF EUROPE
IDH, THE SUSTAINABLE TRADE INITIATIVE
IFFCO GROUP
IFFCO HOLDINGS LIMITED
ING BANK N.V.
INOBU
INTERCONTINENTAL SPECIALTY FATS SDN BHD
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION (IFC)
INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS & FRAGRANCES INC
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR
MIGRATION
INTERTEK CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL
SDN BHD
IOI CORPORATION BERHAD
IOI GLOBAL SERVICES SDN BHD
IOI PLANTATION SERVICES SDN BHD
ISEAL ALLIANCE
ITOCHU CORPORATION

J

J-OIL MILLS, INC
JOHNSON & JOHNSON
JOHOR CORPORATION
JUMP CONSULTING

K

KAO CORPORATION
KELLOGG COMPANY
KERESA PLANTATIONS SDN BHD
KERRY GROUP PLC
KOALISI BURUH SAWIT (KBS)
KOPERASI SAWIT BANGKIT

KOSE CORPORATION
KOTAWARINGIN BARAT DISTRICT
KRETAM HOLDINGS BERHAD
KRISPY KREME DOUGHNUT CORPORATION
KUALA LUMPUR KEPONG BERHAD
KUD DAMAI
KUD KARYA LESTARI
KUD SARI MAKMUR
KUD SAWIT JAYA
KUD SUMBER REJEKI
KUD TANI SUBUR

L

L'OREAL
LAM SOON CANNERY PRIVATE LIMITED
LANDESA
LANGSUAN OIL PALM SMALLHOLDERS
COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE GROUP
LESTARI CAPITAL PTE LTD
LINGKAR KOMUNITAS SAWIT (LINKS)
LION CORPORATION
LÍPIDOS SANTIGA, S.A.
LIPIDS TERMINAL SDN BHD
LISEED CONSULTING
LUMNAMKADAE PATTANA OIL PALM
COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE GROUP

M

M.P. EVANS GROUP PLC
MALAYSIA INSTITUTE FOR SUPPLY CHAIN
INNOVATION
MALAYSIAN CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP AND
CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK SOUTHEAST ASIA
MALAYSIAN PALM OIL ASSOCIATION
MANORAMA INDUSTRIES LIMITED
MARUBENI CORPORATION
MEWAH GROUP
MISI
MITSUBISHI CORPORATION
MONDELEZ INTERNATIONAL
MONDELEZ INTERNATIONAL, INC
MUGBANK, LTD
MURRAY FEDDERSEN
MUSIM MAS HOLDINGS PTE LTD
MVO

N

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION (USA)
NATURA LOGISTICA E SERVIÇOS LTDA
NATURAL HABITATS EUROPE-AFRICA B.V.
NEPCON F.M.B.A
NESTE SINGAPORE PTE LTD
NESTLÉ S.A.
NEW BRITAIN PALM OIL LIMITED
NICHIREI CORPORATION
NISSIN FOODS HOLDINGS CO, LTD
NN INVESTMENT PARTNERS HOLDINGS N.V.

LIST OF DELEGATES

NOBLE RESOURCES INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD
NUEAKHLONG-KHAOPHANOM COMMUNITY
ENTERPRISE GROUP
NUS SAVE (STUDENTS AGAINST VIOLATION OF
THE EARTH)
NUS/ PM HAZE
NY HIEW HOLDINGS

O

OLAM FOOD INGREDIENTS UK LTD
OLAM INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
OPTEL
OPTEL GROUP
ORANG UTAN REPUBLIK FOUNDATION
ORANGUTAN LAND TRUST
ORBITAL INSIGHT
OREGON ZOO
OXFAM INTERNATIONAL

P

PACIFIC INTER-LINK
PALM OIL ANALYTICS
PALM OIL INNOVATION GROUP
PALMAJU EDIBLE OIL
PALMAS DEL CESAR S.A.
PALMCI
PALMTRACE
PATUM VEGETABLE OIL COMPANY LIMITED
PEATLAND PROGRAMME, GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
PEPSICO
PERKUMPULAN CAHAYA PUTRA HARAPAN
PERKUMPULAN PEKEBUN SWADAYA KELAPA
SAWIT ROKAN HULU
PERKUMPULAN PETANI BERKAH
PERNIAGAAN BINGAN JAYA
PITAK PALM OIL COMPANY LIMITED
PM HAZE
POSYANTEK DESA "BERSAMA"
PPB OIL PALMS BERHAD
PROFOREST
PROFOREST SDN BHD
PT ADEI PLANTATION & INDUSTRY
PT BINASAWIT MAKMUR
PT CLARIANT INDONESIA
PT DAEMETER CONSULTING
PT DOMAS AGROINTI PRIMA
PT EAGLE HIGH PLANTATIONS, TBK
PT GRIYA RAYA INDONESIA AGRI
PT MUSIM MAS
PT SOCFIN INDONESIA
PT SUBUR ARUM MAKMUR
PT SURYA DUMAI AGRINDO
PT VICTORINDO ALAM LESTARI
PT AUSTINDO NUSANTARA JAYA AGRI
PT BIO INTI AGRINDO
PT CIPTA USAHA SEJATI
PT DHARMA SATYA NUSANTARA

PT ECOGREEN OLEOCHEMICALS
PT HINDOLI
PT MUTUAGUNG LESTARI
PT PERKEBUNAN NUSANTARA III
PT RE MARK ASIA
PT SAWIT SUMBERMAS SARANA
PT SGS INDONESIA
PT SMART TBK
PT TRIPUTRA AGRO PERSADA
PT TUV RHEINLAND INDONESIA

R

RABOBANK
RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK
RESONA BANK, LTD
RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS ALLIANCE
RGE PTE LTD
ROBECO INSTITUTIONAL ASSET
MANAGEMENT
ROYAL DUTCH SHELL PLC

S

S&P GLOBAL INC
SABAH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ASSOCIATION (SEPA)
SABAH FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
SAFETRACES
SANTA ROSA S.A.
SARAWAK OIL PALMS BERHAD
SARAYA CO LTD
SATELLIGENCE
SAWIT WATCH
SCIENTIFIC CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS, INC, DBA
SCS GLOBAL SERVICES
SEC
SENSOR
SENSOR, UNIVERSITY OF YORK
SEPA
SERUYAN DISTRICT SPATIAL PLANNING
AGENCY
SERUYAN DISTRICT, CENTRAL KALIMANTAN
SIAT S.A.
SICHON PAHN YANGYUEN COMMUNITY
ENTERPRISE GROUP
SIME DARBY PLANTATION BERHAD
SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS
SIPEF GROUP
SME NIIPAV LTD
SOCFIN S.A.
SOLIDARIDAD
SOLIDARIDAD COLOMBIA
SOUTH POLE
SRIJAROEN GREEN PALM OIL
SRIJAROEN SMALLHOLDER GROUP
STANDARD CHARTERED
STICHTING RAINFOREST ALLIANCE
STUDENTS OF SINGAPORE AGAINST HAZE/

LIST OF DELEGATES

UWC DOVER
STUDENTS OF SINGAPORE AGAINST HAZE/
YALE-NUS COLLEGE
SUDIANA ENTERPRISE
SUMITOMO MITSUI TRUST ASSET
MANAGEMENT
SUMOFUS
SYARIKAT SETEGUH

T

TAIYO YUSHI CORP
TAKASAGO INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
TAPI-IPUN SUSTAINABLE OIL PALM
COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE GROUP
TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
THAPPITAK COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE GROUP
THE DAVID & LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION
THE ESTEE LAUDER COMPANIES INC
THE FOREST TRANSFORMATION MALAYSIA
THE NISSHIN OILIO GROUP, LTD
THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
THE PROFOREST INITIATIVE
THE SAINT LOUIS ZOO ASSOCIATION
TMP SYSTEMS
TRANSGRAPH CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
TRANSITIONS BRUNO REBELLE ET ASSOCIÉ(E)S
TROPICAL MARINE INSTITUTE / PM HAZE
TSUKISHIMA FOODS INDUSTRY CO,LTD

U

UD LESTARI
ULULA
UNILEVER
UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
UNITED PLANTATIONS BHD
UNIVANICH PALM OIL PCL
UNIVANICH-PLAIPRAYA COMMUNITY
ENTERPRISE GROUP
UNIVERSITI MALAYA (UM ECO-CAMPUS
SECRETARIAT & UM LIVING LABS)
UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD / SEARRP
UPFIELD EUROPE B.V.

V

VERITÉ SOUTHEAST ASIA

W

WALMART
WILD ASIA
WILD ASIA SDN BHD (WILD ASIA GROUP
SCHEME)
WILDLIFE RESERVES SINGAPORE PTE LTD
WILMAR EUROPE HOLDINGS B.V.
WILMAR INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
WINDU NABATINDO ABADI
WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND-US
WWF
WWF CHINA
WWF DEUTSCHLAND
WWF FRANCE
WWF GERMANY
WWF INDIA
WWF INDONESIA
WWF INTERNATIONAL
WWF JAPAN
WWF MALAYSIA
WWF SINGAPORE
WWF-UK

Y

YOUNG INDIA CHALLENGE
YOUTH KI AWAAZ

Z

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

RSPO would like to thank our conference partners for their support.

GOLD SPONSOR



RSPO SMALLHOLDERS SPONSOR (GOLD)



SILVER SPONSORS



COFFEE BREAK SPONSORS



SUPPORTER



MEDIA PARTNERS



The 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.

www.rspo.org

ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

Unit 13A-1, Level 13A, Menara Etiqa,
No.3, Jalan Bangsar Utama 1,
59000, Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia.

T: +603 2302 1500

E: rspo@rspo.org

RSPO

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

