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Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

# Working together with independent smallholders to produce CSPO in Thailand

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# Success case Thailand

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## Success case Thailand

Since October 2012

- 412 independent smallholders RSPO certified (4 groups)
- Approx. 2.700 ha production area
- 50.000t FFB annual production
- Globally first independent SH certified



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## Situation before certification:



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## Situation before certification

- Independent smallholders surrounded by several mills and ramps (collecting points)
- No schemed smallholders; no contracts with mills
- No loyalty and trust among mills and smallholders
- Government extension services don't work!



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## Situation before certification

- Mills complained about smallholders
- Never stick to agreements
  - Delivering bad quality (adding of water/sand)
  - No regular delivery
  - Never pay back for credits
  - Many many more...



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## Situation before certification

Smallholders complained about mills

- Never stick to agreements
- Pay lower prices as agreed before
- Manipulating weighbridges
- Many many more...



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## Situation before certification

Model:

- Independent smallholders with access to several mills – which also want to stay independent and don't sign any contract  
– > Normal case model



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# What needs to change?

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# What needs to change?

Partnership and Cooperation is key

- Build trust
- Create win-win situations
- Establish partnerships
- Not only smallholders have to learn, but also companies and mills

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# How did we do?

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# How did we do?

Accept that independent smallholders are not primarily interested in sustainability certification!

But we can make them interested in sustainable production by addressing their needs and concerns!

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## How did we do?

### Interests of farmers:

- Farm management
- Use of fertilizer
- Access to input factors
- Good relations to neighbors, partners and mills
- Higher income / lower production costs!



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## How did we do?

### Interests of mills:

- Good quality FFB: higher OER
- Higher and more loyal delivery
- Good relations to neighbors, partners and farmers
- Certification



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## How did we do?

- As a neutral partner and implementing agency work with all partners and communicate, build trust, facilitate and provide capacity to all
- Establish field offices and employ staff in the field -> also the mills have to do so!
- Hire farm advisors (farmers from the field which receive more trainings)



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## How did we do?

- Develop and use 'farmer friendly training material'
- Timing: at least two years – better three years (everything lower than two years unrealistic)



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# What are the impacts?



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# What are the impacts?

- Impacts at Farm household level (yield increased, reduced health risk, access to farming knowledge and agri. Inputs, etc.)
- **Tangible Benefits** to the project participating farmers

Tangible Impacts	Addition of Monetary value in a year (Euro)	
	Per Ha	Per Household
+ Increased yield of 2.58 FFB t/Ha (from 17.17 to 19.75 t/Ha)	354.06	2,209.35
+ Premium price (0.05 THB/kg FFB)	24.69	154.05
+ Reduced fertilizer price (2 THB/Kg Fertilizer)	43.28	270.25
Total	422.03	2,633.65

## What are the impacts?

### Topping up of price premium for certification:

- Selling of certificates via GreenPalm and OMD
- Price premium covers additional costs of certification (surveillance costs etc.) -> audit costs paid by RSPO
- However: Careful calculation needed -> make the groups as big as possible (to reduce certification costs per unit)



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## What are the impacts?

- Impact study available at: [www.rspo.org](http://www.rspo.org) ; provides very good indications and lessons learnt



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## What are the impacts?

Lets look at potential benefits only from OER increase (proven in TH) -> **direct benefit to the mills**

	FFB production by smallholders in t	CPO production (15% OER) in t	CPO production (17% OER) in t	Difference in CPO production p.a. in t
Thailand	8.100.000	1.215.000	1.377.000	162.000
Indonesia	30.000.000	4.500.000	5.100.000	600.000
Malaysia	12.600.000	1.890.000	2.142.000	252.000



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## What are the impacts?

- For case of Thailand (production side):
  - OER improvement potential: 162.000t CPO p.a.
  - Transfer into annual turnover: approx. 136 Mio. USD p.a. (approx. 2 Mio. USD per mill p.a.)
- > **Collective action problem**: Neither mills nor government willing to take joint action and start investment!



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# How to certify more smallholders?



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# How to certify more SHs?

- Experience available -> it is possible and it pays off
- However, investment required into capacity development, ICS, group management, neutral actors for facilitation, HCVs etc.
- Question: Who takes investment costs?
- Lets overcome the collective action problem!



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## How to certify more SHs?

One more word towards the buyers:

- Independent smallholders certification is far more costly than 'normal' certification
- Price premiums must reflect those costs and provide clear incentives for going towards certification for independent smallholders



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## How to certify more SHs?

- For case of Thailand (buyers):
- *Johnson & Johnson Family of Consumer Companies* as buyer of those certificates via GreenPalm
- In 2013 also CSPO from independent smallholders via different supply-chain options available



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Thank you very much

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