

Resolution GA13-6g

Proposed Resolution to be adopted at the 13th General Assembly of the
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

10th of November 2016

TITLE: TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM THE RSPO NEW PLANTING PROCEDURE FOR SMALLHOLDERS

Submitted by: Indonesian Growers Caucus, including but not limited to:
First Resources Ltd, Goodhope Ltd, PT Sampoerna Agro, Bumitama Agri Ltd, PT Dharma Satya
Nusantara, PT Austindo Nusantara Jaya Agri, PT Inti Indosawit Subur, PT Salim Ivomas Pratama Tbk, PT
Triputra Agro Persada

Background

The RSPO regularly celebrates the successful certification of smallholders, yet the current RSPO NPP prevents smallholders from developing new oil palm plots.

The New Planting Procedure of the RSPO is a critical procedure. It guides growers, from industrial plantations to smallholders, to develop new oil palm areas within the boundaries of the RSPO standard.

The latest version of the RSPO NPP has been developed by the RSPO Secretariat, and has been endorsed by the RSPO Board of Governors on 20th November 2015.

The 2015 NPP is a profound rewriting of the RSPO NPP, incorporating the latest developments of the standard. It applies equally to all new plantings, regardless of size, and regardless of who is developing the new planting.

"Advice" for smallholders is promised in the 2015 NPP document, but has still not been provided.

To develop new plots of land (including agricultural land) into oil palm, in compliance with the RSPO standard, smallholders must undergo a third-party HCV assessment (with Land-Use Change analysis), third-party Social Impact assessment, third-party GHG assessment, soil suitability assessment and topographic survey. If the area is not agricultural land, the smallholder must then engage a Certification Body to review the documents.

The process is long, expensive, and requires financial resources and management skills beyond what can be expected from smallholders.

Even when the smallholders are supported by a company, the implementation of the 2015 NPP means the smallholders have to wait for the company to have gathered multiple plots before it can hire the necessary consultants.

Since the introduction of the 2015 NPP, smallholders in various countries (Thailand, Indonesia, PNG) have been forced to postpone and cancel the development of new plots.

The RSPO cannot let this situation perdure, and must address boldly the situation, to ensure that smallholders are treated fairly.

Potential Risks/Benefits:

To avoid permanently excluding smallholders from the RSPO; develop practical procedures and tools for smallholders seeking RSPO certification.

THIS RESOLUTION PROPOSES:

The RSPO GA 13 requests the RSPO Secretariat to exclude independent and scheme smallholders from the scope of the current RSPO NPP, until the urgently-needed guidance has been developed through proper multi-stakeholder consultation; and to exonerate non-compliance smallholders who have been developing new oil palm plantings since the introduction of the current RSPO NPP and until the guidance is publicly endorsed.

Contact Information:

Edi Suhardi: edis@goodhope-id.com
Bambang Dwilaksono: bambang.dwilaksono@first-resources.com