

SOLIDARIDAD PALM OIL PRODUCER SUPPORT



Engaging 650 smallholders through 'Farming Solution,' our mobile self-assessment, planning & monitoring application

In 2018, Solidaridad is launching a three-year project together with producer association Cordeagropaz, Fedepalma, Cenipalma and three local mills to contribute to the transformation of the Colombian palm oil value chain. The project is supported by consumer goods manufacturer Henkel. The project will adapt the self-assessment, planning and monitoring application 'Farming Solution' to formally engage 650 palm oil smallholders. This tool is designed to strengthen collaboration throughout the supply chain, support and scale up continual improvement of agricultural production. It will boost the adoption of best practices according to the RSPO's Principles and Criteria, resulting in increased productivity, more formalized jobs and stable market access for smallholders, whilst reducing negative environmental impacts.

Our partners:



OUR TRACK RECORD IN COLOMBIA

Status December 2016



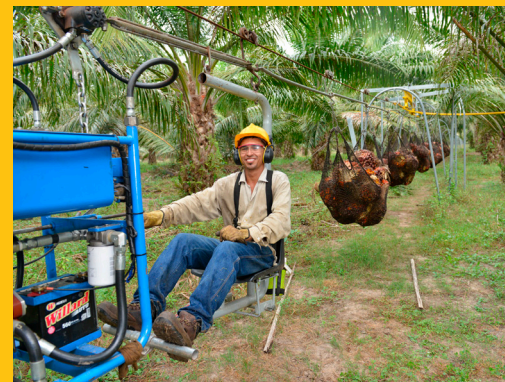
15 mills committed to our Sustainable Trade Platform

40% of national production represented in the Platform

RSPO 60,904 hectares **RSPO** certified / 117,840 tons CSPO

1,524 producers benefiting from good agricultural practices

3,800 workers benefiting from better working conditions 



Background

Palm oil is a commodity of increasing importance in Colombia. Both volumes and total planted areas are steadily increasing whilst making greater contributions to exports and GDP. Solidaridad has played a pioneering role in the Colombian palm oil sector by launching the Sustainable Trade Platform (STP), a multi-stakeholder forum that facilitates the transition to environmentally and socially responsible sectors for the nation's key export commodities. Through the STP, producers representing 40% of Colombia's national palm oil production have already committed to sustainable production, as well as supporting 15,000 hectares of smallholdings in becoming sustainably managed. The participating companies have created a proven model that mills supporting their independent suppliers can lead to a win-win situation.

Threatened market access

However, despite strong sector progress, most smallholders in Colombia still lack knowledge of sustainable economic, environmental and social practices. Technical assistance is expensive and only reaches 30% of smallholders. Many producers have limited organizational capacity, causing technical bottlenecks to meet sustainability standards demanded by their buyers. On top of that, most small producers have a poor understanding of these sustainability requirements and are unaware of the associated investments and benefits for their competitiveness. Market access for these smallholders is under threat as the main national and international buyers for palm oil have made commitments to only buy sustainable palm oil by 2020.

How Farming Solution works

These issues can be overcome when the adoption of sustainable practices is accelerated through coordinated efforts between buyers, mills and producers. That's why Solidaridad created Farming Solution, designed to enable farmers to find information to continuously improve. Farming Solution complements technical



assistance, giving farmers autonomy to identify and plan improvements on their farms by providing access to tailored audiovisual information on best practices. This is how it works:

- Through self-assessment, producers identify their challenges.
- After identifying points for improvement, the application automatically generates a work plan for farmers to improve their practices at their own pace, based on their own priorities and availability of resources.
- Farmers can learn how to implement good practices with the support of audiovisual materials while keeping up-

Digital Solutions

Solidaridad invests in digital technology to promote good practices to a larger number of producers and has developed Farming Solution, offering farmers a rapid critical analysis of their performance on relevant issues related to entrepreneurial farming and good practices. The first country where we tested and implemented a self-assessment tool for palm oil was Brazil, in cooperation with ADM. In the future we hope to make digital solutions available for all oil palm smallholders in Colombia and throughout Latin America.

to-date with local and sector news.

- Farmer performance automatically updates based on finishing tasks in the work plan and allows for easy checking of progress.
- Practices are benchmarked against RSPO requirements, so farmers can get an overview of the path ahead if they are interested in becoming certified.

About Solidaridad

Solidaridad is a not for profit network organization operating from nine regional offices on five continents. We envision a world in which all we produce, and all we consume, can sustain us all while respecting the planet, each other and the next generation. We bring together commodity supply chain actors and engage them in innovative solutions to improve production, ensuring the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy that maximizes the benefit for all.

Join us for change that matters

Maria Goretti, Programme Manager
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Christine Schneider, Senior Manager Global Sustainability at Henkel Laundry & Home Care: "We want to drive concrete change on the ground by joining forces with a variety of partners to directly support the farmers who grow oil palm fruit on small farms around the world. By empowering smallholders to increase productivity, we aim to increase the global supply of sustainably-cultivated palm oil and palm kernel oil without increasing the amount of land used to grow the crop."

Solidaridad

For more information:
www.solidaridadnetwork.org/palmoil