

SOLIDARIDAD PALM OIL PRODUCER SUPPORT



REGIONAL TARGETS 2020



340,000 ha under Best Management Practices  ha

1.6 million tons of CPO sustainably produced 

24,500 smallholders benefitting from sustainable practices

 **26** palm oil producers committed to RSPO certification / **55%** of the regional sector

25% average increased productivity (20 → 25 MT FFB/ha)



A multi-stakeholder initiative for sector-wide transformation in Central America & Mexico

Mesoamerica is considered a promising frontier for oil palm expansion as the availability of suitable land in other regions is increasingly limited, and global demand for palm oil continues to grow. Palm oil is the most productive oil crop, and can represent an improvement in ecological function if plantations are established on degraded lands. Solidaridad has a seven-year track record facilitating a sustainable transition of the oil palm sector in Mexico and Central America, from private sector industry partners to small farmers and cooperatives. In 2016, Solidaridad launched The Mesoamerican Palm Oil Alliance (MAPA), a regional knowledge and exchange platform that accelerates the uptake of best practices, orients the sector towards RSPO certification, and brings innovation and visibility to Mesoamerican producers as global leaders of sustainably produced palm oil.

Financing Partners:



Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Background

Palm oil is a key crop in Mesoamerica's regional economy. However, rapid expansion of oil palm plantations threatens the future of remaining forests and other fragile natural ecosystems, as well as the food security of communities. It is often associated with land tenure and social conflicts and environmental threats caused by pollution from plantations and industry effluents. Solidaridad has identified a unique opportunity to orient the entire palm oil sector towards the implementation of sustainability measures as the sector expands. Specifically, as companies and farmers work toward RSPO certification, they are laying the foundation for long-term sustainable and inclusive production.

An innovative partnership

Building on early success engaging the Honduran and Guatemalan palm oil industries towards RSPO compliance, Solidaridad launched the Mesoamerican Palm Oil Alliance. MAPA aims to develop a sustainable, RSPO-oriented and smallholder-inclusive palm oil sector. Key efforts include strengthening national regulatory frameworks, promoting sustainable land use through in-depth participatory landscape assessments, and improving the knowledge and capacity of government actors to develop policies and incentives to support sustainable production. In doing so, we collaborate with private sector industry partners, smallholder farmers, (regional) government actors and global consumer goods manufacturer Henkel. The programme, which has been expanded to include Mexico and Nicaragua, also facilitates national and regional learning and exchange to accelerate the uptake of best practices at scale. This will contribute to integrated landscape management and improve smallholder livelihoods, food security and climate change resilience in the Mesoamerican region.

MAPA focus areas

- Gap assessments on Best Management Practices at mills and on farms.
- Capacity building and technical support for RSPO certification of 31 companies, including social and environmental issues, management and business skills.
- Farmer Field Schools providing smallholder training in good agricultural practices, sustainable farm management and business planning.
- Improvements in productivity and



quality of Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) and Crude Palm Oil (CPO) through the implementation of Best Management Practices.

- Guidelines for biodiversity enhancement of palm oil production systems, and working with the private sector to develop corporate biodiversity monitoring programmes.
- Mobile technology solutions to facilitate on-farm data collection, decision making and impact measurement.
- National-level multi-stakeholder palm oil platforms to facilitate exchange, design & implementation of interventions towards sustainable landscapes.
- Regional pool of accredited HCV assessors, auditors and social & environmental experts to meet increasing demand for RSPO-oriented services.
- Piloting smallholder inclusive business models and improving relations between mills and smallholders through transparency mechanisms, such as weighing and measuring of FFB.
- Improved social performance mechanisms, CSR policies and human rights guidelines in mills according to workers' and communities' needs.
- MAPA virtual learning & exchange platform to highlight sectoral sustainability efforts, share tools and innovation resources.

A landscape approach

MAPA aims to develop an inclusive palm oil supply chain rooted in principles of Integrated Landscape Management. This includes efforts to develop RSPO jurisdictional certification in Honduras and Nicaragua, which would provide the opportunity to bring economies of scale to smallholders and reinforce relevant

policies, such as incentives for avoiding deforestation, payment for ecosystem services and the establishment of diverse production systems that reduce vulnerability in the face of market fluctuations and climate change. A key aim is also to achieve a zero deforestation commitment from producers participating in MAPA.

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

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Solidaridad

For more information:

www.solidaridadnetwork.org/palmoil