

**MINUTES OF FIRST GHANA NATIONAL INTERPRETATION WORKING GROUP
MEETING ON ROUND TABLE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL PRINCIPLES 1 CRITERIA
HELD AT THE CENTRE FOR AFRICAN WETLANDS-UNIVERSITY OF GHANA FROM
27TH TO 28TH OCTOBER 2009**

ATTENDANCE

Annex 1.

INTRODUCTION

The workshop started at 9:40 am after the registration of the participants. Miss Anke Massart (Secretary for the GNIWG) showed a brief documentary on the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) (i.e. the Gathering Momentum). The documentary took the participants through the origin, vision and mission of the RSPO, the Principles & Criteria and the Certification System, which is becoming more crucial for players in the oil palm industry worldwide.

The participants got to know that RSPO came into existence because of growing concerns that are raised by environmentalists and consumers (amongst others) on the negative impact of the oil palm industry on the environment. Mr. Gert Vandersmissen (Chairman for GNIWG) urged the participants to contribute their quota to the discussions on the National Interpretation document because the RSPO has come to stay and stakeholders who want to be in business should be ready to comply with the Principles & Criteria enshrined in the document.

According to Miss Anke Massart, members would be taken through a brief introduction to the RSPO Certification Scheme, followed by group discussions on Principles 1 to 5 on the first day. While Principles 6 to 8 would be discussed during the second day.

It was said that the outcome of the first GNIWG meeting would result into the first draft of the Ghana National Interpretation document. It must be noted however, that the group discussions would mainly focus on the choice of indicators and their importance. Therefore, the first draft

would mainly contain changes to the indicators. The second meeting however, would also focus on the guidance for growers and millers, for scheme smallholders and for independent smallholders. Miss Anke Massart said that the draft would be made available for public consultation through the GNIWG website and the RSPO website. It was suggested by a member that hard copies of the draft should also be available at vantage points.

STEERING COMMITTEE AND RSPO KEY DOCUMENTS

It was made known that the Steering Committee which was initially formed would be dissolved after the National Interpretation Working Group was formed. Members were told that the Working Group would be meeting until probably March 2010 where the National Interpretation would be expected to be completed. The main RSPO documents were highlighted to participants (RSPO Principles and Criteria, RSPO Certification Systems, RSPO Supply Chain Certification Systems and RSPO Communication and Claims).

OBJECTIVES OF GNIWG 1

Miss Anke Massart explained that the main objective was to interpret the Principles & Criteria and to come out with INDICATORS and GUIDANCE to suite the national/local conditions. She said that the Ghana National Interpretation Working Group (GNIWG) comprises experts from “Agronomy, Milling and Research”, “Environment and Natural Resources”, “Legal, License and Social” as well as “Economics and Labour” in order to extract ideas from different perspectives.

RULES FOR THE GAME

It was said that each member of the GNIWG would be responsible to 1) attend at three (maybe four) physical meetings, 2) actively participate in physical and electronic discussions and 3) seeks to build consensus within the GNIWG on how to address any issues arising. She said the PRINCIPLES and CRITERIA cannot be changed but INDICATORS and GUIDANCE can be modified. She stressed that members were to indicate which indicator should be major or minor. Non-conformance with a major indicator means, that the non-conformance must be addresses within 60 days of the surveillance assessment, or the certificate will be suspended. Non-

conformance with a minor indicator means, that the indicator should be addressed by the next surveillance assessment or it will be raised to a major indicator.

GROUP DISCUSSION

The eight Principles are: 1) Commitment to Transparency, 2) Compliance with applicable laws and regulations, 3) Commitment to long term economic and Financial Viability, 4) Use Of appropriate best practices by growers and millers, 5) Environmental Responsibility and Conservation of natural resources and biodiversity, 6) Responsible consideration of employees and of individuals and communities affected by grower and millers, 7) Responsible Development of New Plantations and 8) Commitment to continuous Improvement.

The members read through each of the criteria and held a short discussion upon the indicators and their importance. A member wanted to know the difference between the indicator and the guidance and it was explained that indicators show if one complies with the principles while the guidance gives an idea about how to implement the indicators.

OUTCOME: THE FIRST DRAFT AND TASK ALLOCATION FOR GNIWG MEMBERS

The first draft will be developed based on the discussions held in the first GNIWG. The draft will be available online (www.rspo-in-ghana.org) for public comments. Furthermore, a document with “home work” for the GNIWG members will be developed, including the issues raised per criteria during the first GNIWG.

Prepared by Isaac A. Afrifa

Annex 1: Attendants GNIWG 1

Agronomy, Milling and Research	
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Gert Vandersmissen
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Anke Massart
Agricultural Research Center (ARC) - Kade	Dr. Ofosu-Budu Godfred
Agricultural Research Center (ARC) - Kade	Dr. G.O. Nkansah
Oil Palm Research Institute (OPRI – CSIR)	Dr. T.E. Ofori - Asamoah
Benso Oil Palm Plantations/Twifo Oil Palm Plantations Ltd.	Samuel Avaala Awonnea
Benso Oil Palm Plantations Ltd.	Victor Tetteh Zutah
Norpalm Ghana Ltd.	Charles Okata Mate-Kole
Golden Star Oil Palm Plantations Ltd.	Isaac Darko Quarm
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Emmanuel K. Wiafe
Presidential Initiative on Oil Palm (PSI)	J.B. Wonkyi-Appiah
GOPDC Outgrower Association	B.K. Oppong
BOPP Outgrower/Smallholder Association	Fiiifi Ampong
BOPP Outgrower/Smallholder Association	Kweku Apaagya
Technoserve Ghana	Charles Ofori Addo
Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Mr. Baidoo-Williams
Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Susana Yohuno
Environment & Natural Resources	
SAL Consult Ltd.	Seth A. Larmie
Ghana Wildlife Society	Robert Oteng-Appau
WWF Ghana	Kwame Asamoah Adam
Conservation International	Vincent Awotwe-Pratt
Water Resource Commission (WRC)	Bernadette Adjei
Energy Commission	Dorothy Adjei
Environmental Protection Agency	Florence Agyei
Environmental Protection Agency	Yaw Sarfo-Afriyie
Legal, License and Social	
Community Land and Development Foundation COLANDEF	Simeon Nketsiah

West Africa Fair Fruit Company (Solidaridad)	Rob Moss
Oxfam Ghana	Philip Tetteh
Land Valuation Board – Regional Officer Koforidua	Thomas Osafo
Economics and Labour	
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Peter White
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Patricia Buah
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Ken Key
GTZ	Rudiger Behrens
Ghana Commercial Bank	Davis Kodjo Akorli
Ghana Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU)	Walter Atiako
Unilever Ghana Ltd.	Richard Laryea
Nestle Ghana Ltd.	Klutse Kudomor
Fantasy Foods Ltd.	Henry Danso
Ameen Sangari Ltd.	A.S. Alameddine
Private consultant - Labour and Human Resources	Cornelius Yawson
Private consultant – Labour and Human Resources	Emmanuel Mensah Gyarteng

Secretary 1: Isaac A. Afrifa – GOPDC Ltd.

Secretary 2: Justice Tenkorang – GOPDC Ltd.

Media:

- Daily Graphic
- Ghanaian Times
- Ghana Broadcasting Corporation
- Metro TV
- Oman FM
- Net TV