

**MINUTES OF SECOND SMALLHOLDER MEETING OF GHANA NATIONAL
INTERPRETATION WORKING GROUP ON ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM
OIL PRINCIPLES
HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ACCRA
11TH MAY 2010**

Date: Tuesday 11th of May 2010
Venue: Centre for African Wetlands
C/O P.O Box LG67
University of Ghana, Legon
Accra, Ghana
Time: 9 am – 5 pm

ATTENDANCE

Annex 1.

INTRODUCTION

The workshop started at 9:00 am after the registration of the participants. Miss Anke Massart (Secretary for the Ghana National Interpretation Working Group - GNIWG) gave a brief presentation on the current status of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). Further she gave an introduction on the “Participation of smallholders to RSPO Certification Scheme: progress and way forward”. The objectives posed were: 1) developing smallholder guidance for the Ghana National Interpretation, 2) creating awareness on the certification protocol for scheme and independent smallholders and 3) the demonstration of the smallholder page on the website of RSPO in Ghana. After the presentation the group went on with the discussion in regard to the scheme smallholder guidance on the national interpretation level.

In a short presentation Ms. Massart gave an overview about the importance of palm oil today, its versatile uses, current problems and interactions of its production with the environment. Therefore, in 2003 the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) was established, which developed a certification system for the trade of sustainable palm oil and includes sustainability principles & criteria, certification systems, supply chain certification systems and guidelines on communication & claims, which were explained further in the presentation.

Special focus was given on the supply chain certification system, where 4 models were presented (identity preserved, segregation, mass balance and book & claim). Due to the fact that a National Interpretation (NI) of the RSPO Principles & Criteria is crucial for certification, the involvement of various stakeholders was mentioned as highly valuable, and additionally the necessity of the compliance of the document to national norms, laws and values of Ghana.

Ms. Massart continued to explain how the NI development process should progress, and that it is not allowed to change any principle or criterion, whereas the working group is allowed to change indicators & guidance. In regard to the indicators, it was stated that minimum 45% of all indicators must be major; whereby it is defined which criteria need at least one major indicator.

To inform the working group a time line since its establishment and an outlook was given:

- GNIWG meeting 1: 27 & 28 October 2009.
- First public consultation: November – December 2009 (+/- 2 months).
- GNIWG meeting 2: second half of January 2010.
- Second public consultation: ONGOING until 15 May 2010.
- First Smallholder Meeting: 11 May 2010.
- GNIWG meeting 3: 26th May 2010.
- Third public consultation period (+/- 2 months).
- GNIWG meeting 4: August 2010.
- August/September 2010: Final draft to be submitted to RSPO Executive Board for approval.

It was stated once again that public consultation is crucial in the whole process.

The second major point on the agenda was the question “how smallholders could be involved into the RSPO certification system”. In the following, the term smallholder was defined according to RSPO with special remarks on the differences between scheme and independent smallholders. As an outcome from the first smallholder meeting, the first national definitions were presented. It was stated that “scheme smallholders” comprises “outgrowers” and “smallholders” as used in Ghanaian context, whereby “independent smallholders” are represented by “private farmers” as used in the Ghanaian context.

It was mentioned that according to the RSPO Smallholder Task Force (STF) indicators in the Principles & Criteria should stay for now, while guidance sections are adjustable. Furthermore every national interpretation should incorporate the 2 guidances into the overall document.

Next, the audit certification protocol for scheme smallholders was introduced to the group. The scheme smallholders are linked to a mill and therefore the mill will have to ensure 100% RSPO certification of its schemes within 3 years from its “mill + estate” certificate. The auditors will assess each time a number for scheme smallholder farms based upon the formula “ $0.8\sqrt{y}$ ” (y = total number of entities). Additionally it was mentioned that independent smallholders need to group themselves to achieve a certificate through the Group Certification Protocol under the management of a central organization or an individual person (i.e. the group manager). This group manager is then responsible for the establishment of an Internal Control System. At the

end of the session, it was stated that the documentation could be found on the Ghana NI website (www.rspo-in-ghana.org).

After the presentation, the tasks for the meeting were titled as follows:

- Further work on the definitions for scheme and independent smallholders;
- Develop guidance for scheme smallholders (with help of the 2nd draft of the Ghana NI document and the international guidance for scheme smallholders)

From there the meeting developed into a workshop with valuable comments and interactions from and between the various stakeholders.

OUTCOME:

Definition Scheme and Independent Smallholders

The NIWG agreed on the following definitions for now, but further improvements are necessary. Therefore a draft definition would be circulated and discussed upon by email.

Scheme Smallholder:

- Agreement/ contract with palm oil producing company
- Service from company (extension, assistance)
- Supply with FFB to the company
- Groups: Smallholders, Outgrowers, Blockfarmers

Independent Smallholder:

- No contract
- Special arrangements may be possible
- How do they organize themselves → Associations?
- How can they be integrated in the system in terms of certification issues?

Develop guidance for scheme smallholders

The NIWG continued with the discussion on the smallholder guidance from principle 4 onwards, as principles 1 to 3 were already discussed during the GNIWG 2 meeting. The group went on to principle 6, criterion 6.9. The draft would be incorporated into the 3rd Draft and would be made available online (www.rspo-in-ghana.org) for public comments.

Way Forward

The Smallholder Working Group agreed on meeting a 2nd time in July to discuss the remaining principles and to finish the guidance on scheme smallholders. Furthermore, it was discussed to

launch 2 forums in regard to the smallholder issues. One of the forums will take place in the Eastern Region (held by GOPDC), the other one in the Western Region (held by Colandef/BOPP/TOPP/Norpalm). The forums are seen as a necessary tool to integrate the smallholders in the process.

Prepared by Isabel Schlegel

Annex 1: Attendants SH Meeting 1

Agronomy, Milling and Research	
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Anke Massart
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Emmanuel K. Wiafe
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Charles Baysset
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Isabel Schlegel
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Isaac Afrifa Acheampong
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Kemeh-Mensah Michael
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	B.K. Oppong
Benso Oil Palm Plantations Ltd.	Kwasi Baah Ofori
BOPP Outgrower/Smallholder Association	Fifi Ampong
BOPP Outgrower/Smallholder Association	Kweku Apaagya
TOPP Ltd.	Charles M. Sackay
TOPP Ltd.- Smallholder	Martin K. Arhirs
TOPP Ltd.- Smallholder	Paul Frimpong Tandoh
Norpalm Gh. Ltd.	Frank Owusu Amrado
Norpalm Ghana Ltd.	Charles Okata Mate-Kole
Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Susana Yohuno
AGRISERV	Raja A. Najjar
Environment & Natural Resources	
Ghana Sumatra	B.N. Nuerthey
ADVANCE/ TUF	Charles Ofon Addo
Energy Commission	Mawufamo Modjinon
Legal, License and Social	
Community Land and Development Foundation COLANDEF	Simeon Nketsiah
West Africa Fair Fruit Company (Solidaridad)	Rosemary Addo
West Africa Fair Fruit Company (Solidaridad)	Hans Perk
Ghana Oil Palm Producer Association	Nana Ayiem
Economics and Labour	
GTZ	Rüdiger Behrens
GTZ	Susanne Väth

Annex 2: Program SH Meeting

Date: Tuesday 11 May		
8.30 – 9.00	Arrival & Registration participants.	Centre for African Wetlands Building
9.00 – 10.00	<p>Introduction: “Participation of smallholders to RSPO Certification Scheme: Progress and Way Forward”.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing smallholder guidance for Ghana National Interpretation. • Creating awareness on the certification protocol for scheme and independent smallholders. • Demonstration website – smallholder page 	
10.00 – 12.00	Developing smallholder guidance through group discussion: session 1.	
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch.	
13.00 – 15.00	Developing smallholder guidance through group discussion: session 2.	
15.00 – 15.15	Coffee break	
15.15 – 17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing smallholder guidance through group discussion: session 3. • Closure remarks. • Way forward (smallholder forum, etc.) 	