

## Particulars

### About Your Organisation

#### 1.1 Name of your organization

Cirad

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#### 1.2 What is/are the primary activity(ies) or product(s) of your organization?

- Grower
  - Processor and/or Trader
  - Consumer Goods Manufacturer
  - Retailer and/or Wholesaler
  - Bank and/or Investor
  - Social and/or Development NGO
  - Environmental and/or Conservation NGO
  - Supply Chain Associate
  - Affiliate
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#### 1.3 Membership number

8-0004-04-000-00

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#### 1.4 Membership category

Organisations

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#### 1.5 Membership sector

Affiliate

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## Affiliate

### 1. Operational Profile

#### 1.1 What are the main activities of your organisation?

CIRAD is the French agricultural research and international cooperation organization working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions.

CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) is a public establishment (EPIC) under the joint authority of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development. Its activities concern the life sciences, social sciences and engineering sciences, applied to agriculture, the environment and territorial management.

Its work centres on six main topics: food security, climate change, natural resource management, reduction of inequalities and poverty alleviation.

CIRAD works with its partners in southern countries to generate and pass on new knowledge to support agricultural development. It puts its scientific and institutional expertise at the disposal of policymakers in those countries and global debates on the main issues concerning agriculture. It also supports French scientific diplomacy operations.

CIRAD has one main objective: to build sustainable farming systems capable of feeding ten billion human beings by 2050 while preserving the environment.

It considers that to develop long term and draft appropriate public policies, societies have to participate in generating the knowledge they need. That development through research relies on the ability of the countries concerned to build a suitable higher education and research system that is supported by the authorities but remains independent.

On a local and a global level, through its long-term partnerships, it contributes to the development of farming systems that benefit all, and particularly smallholders, who make up the majority of farmers.

In this way, it responds to the global challenges of food security and climate change, and also the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris agreement on climate change.

Training, dissemination of information and knowledge and innovation sharing naturally complement agricultural CIRAD's research mandate by giving its partners and development players the means to make the choices incumbent upon them.

Diploma and vocational training in southern countries is an essential part of this, and relies on a commitment on the part of each and every researcher.

CIRAD is also a major player in talks between Europe and the South. It belongs to numerous European and international networks, and facilitates access for its partners in the South to EU programmes and their involvement in international scientific cooperation networks.

CIRAD has a network of partners on three continents, and 14 regional offices, from which it works with more than 100 countries. Its long-term partnership strategy centres on 23 platforms in partnership for research and training (dPs), associating 200 organizations in southern countries, to which 200 of its researchers are assigned (100 in Africa, 50 in Asia and 50 in South America).

In France, it provides the national and global scientific communities with extensive research and training facilities, primarily in Montpellier and the French overseas regions.

CIRAD is a member of two French consortiums: Agreenium/IAVFF and AllEnvi .

CIRAD in figures

A staff of 1650, including 800 researchers.

Joint operations with more than 100 countries and 200 organizations.

Three scientific departments: Biological Systems (BIOS), Performance of Tropical Production and Processing Systems (PERSYST), and Environment and Societies (ES).

33 research units.

14 regional offices throughout the world.

Some 30 collective research Tools open to partners from the South and from Europe.

Almost 5 million euros spent on PhD courses.

More than 400 PhD students supervised each year, 60% of them from southern countries.

International Masters courses set up with grandes écoles or universities in the South.

800 researchers and technicians from all over the world received and trained each year.

An annual budget of 220 million euros in 2019.

#### 1.2 Does your organisation use and/or sell any palm oil?

No

### 1.3 Activities undertaken to promote sustainable palm oil, the RSPO and/or members in the reporting period.

CIRAD is engaged in a partnership for the generation of knowledge on sustainable palm oil production, thus providing science-based evidence to the certification process.

During the Paris International Agricultural Show in February 2017, Michel Eddi, President Managing Director of CIRAD, and Guillaume Réveilhac, President of the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil (now the Alliance for Preservation of Forests) announced the signing of a three-year partnership agreement, in front of an audience of NGOs and representatives of public authorities.

The partnership draws on CIRAD's expertise to support the Alliance's work with its members to develop the sustainable palm oil chain and protect biodiversity in all oil palm growing regions globally.

CIRAD is currently working on the gradual strengthening of a network of technical, scientific and technology transfer projects conducted in partnership in South East Asia on the sustainability of perennial cropping systems. This program, called SALSAs (Sustainable Agricultural Systems in Southeast Asia), supported by the Alliance for the Preservation of Forests, should allow a concrete integration of disciplines and multi-stakeholder teams on a network of experimental platforms in South-East Asia. In 2018, Cirad and APF developed a series of joint projects in SouthEast Asia.

#### A. A decision Support Tool for Pesticide Management

How to assess the risks of pesticide leakages in order to improve practices? Research is aiming at adapting an agri-environmental indicator derived from the INDIGO, I-Pest-Palm method, taking into account the very specific palm oil practices and the culture conditions favoring or not the risks of leakage. The indicator has been validated using herbicide loss measurements on experimental plots over several years. The idea is to provide science based information against the belief that the oil palm is a big consumer of pesticides.

#### B. Life cycle analysis of compost from oil mill residues

How to recycle oil palm waste to reduce the carbon impact of CPO production while improving soil quality? The process of composting mill residues allows the concentration of residual nutrients in the waste to optimize the logistical cost of return to the field; it reduces the external input of synthetic mineral fertilizers, and limits the generation of greenhouse gases emitted during the anaerobic treatment of effluents because they are injected into the composting process without being treated. On the other hand, the composting process itself requires energy and can emit greenhouse gases. The life cycle analysis approach, through its holistic perspective, allows for a complete assessment of whether the final impact is indeed positive and where the process can be improved to reduce its negative impacts.

#### C. Socioeconomic mapping of bushfires over the 2009-2015 period including the El Nino episode (in partnership with WRI)

This project focusses on the economic and social typology of fire outbreaks and on the identification of risk areas and families of probable causes. Ongoing research relies on the establishment of prospective models. The aim is to address the misconception that fire outbreaks and their regional consequences (haze) are mainly due to activities from the oil palm industry. The idea is that replacing rural practices (getting rid of biomass residues by using fire) through the purchase of biomass from villagers could prevent up to 42% of fires.

This study presently focuses on the impact of industrial concessions exploiting the oil palm, certified RSPO or not, on fire outbreaks.

#### D. Harvesting of biomass and peatland restoration at a pilot District level

The project under discussion with Ogan Komering Ilir district - OKI in South Sumatra and Bureau of Peatland Restoration of Indonesia).

A R&D Project BIGHGDEAL: Biorefineries, GHG and DEgraded Agricultural Landscapes, is presently under design with Universiti Putra Malaysia. The aim is to innovate sustainably to fight against the outbreak of fires: to give value to the biomass to push to harvest it on the village exploitations. The project is also based on the restoration of peatland areas in agreement with their inhabitants, giving villagers a sustainable economic activity with a high ecological impact: the valorization of biomass for the production of energy and/or biomaterials.

#### E. The SALSAs Platform

In order to realize this ambition, CIRAD is setting up a Platform in partnership for the construction of scientific projects and training curricula with its public and private partners in Southeast Asia, a region of the world where problems related to the sustainability of major agricultural sectors are particularly prominent (deforestation, rural poverty reduction, family farming, etc.).

SALSAs (Sustainable Agricultural Landscapes in Southeast Asia) aims to federate and mobilize regional scientific and training skills in the sustainability of perennial crops sectors. SALSAs will promote, within a framework of collective action, the concrete integration of disciplines and multi-stakeholder teams into research, training and development projects that will be conducted on the ground through shared experimental networks and academic and training curricula tailored to the needs for present and future skills.

#### F. Cost and Benefit Analysis of RSPO Certification for Smallholders in Malaysia

This research was granted RSPO funding and it is implemented by CIRAD and Universiti Putra Malaysia. In order to close knowledge gaps, this study aims to investigate, using a comprehensive industry cross-section, the financial costs and benefits of RSPO certification. It will include certified, prospective, non-certified and uncertified scheme and independent smallholders. The overarching objective will be segmented to address the research questions below:

• To what extent and in what way is RSPO certification profitable for Malaysian smallholders?

• Do different types of smallholders experience varying outcomes over time and what is the extent of the difference?

• If any are identified, for what reasons do different categories of smallholders experience different outcomes?

• If certifications costs are self-funded by smallholders, will RSPO certification still be profitable to them?

**1.4 What percentage of your organisation's overall activities focus on palm oil?**

5%

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**1.5 Did members of your staff participate in RSPO working and/or taskforce groups in the reporting period?**

Yes

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**1.6 Do you have any collaborations with the industry players/private sector to support them in the market transformation towards CSPO?**

Yes

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**1.7 How is your work on palm oil funded?**

CIRAD budget is 60% from the French Government and 40% from R&D contracts with third parties (both public and private).

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**2. Actions for Next Reporting Period**

**2.1 Outline activities that you will take in the coming year to promote sustainable palm oil along the supply chain.**

Finalizing the construction of the SALSA platform and circulating its Roadmap and Consortium Agreement will be the major target for Cirad in 2019, which means reinforcing partnership links between Cirad and Universities, Research Institutions and plantation companies in South East Asia for advanced research on sustainable commodity chains, including palm oil. Collaboration with French Alliance for the Preservation of Forests will be hopefully renewed by contract in 2019. It will provide a basis for long term research programs focusing on smallholders practices and livelihood. Cirad officers will continue to actively participate in RSPO working groups and RoundTables, including EU-RT.

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**3. Challenges**

**3.1 What significant economic, social or environmental obstacles have you encountered in the production, procurement, use and/or promotion of CSPO and what efforts did you make to mitigate or resolve them?**

- Awareness of RSPO in the market
  - Difficulties in the certification process
  - Certification of smallholders
  - Competition with non-RSPO members
  - High costs in achieving or adhering to certification
  - Human rights issues
  - Insufficient demand for RSPO-certified palm oil
  - Low usage of palm oil
  - Reputation of palm oil in the market
  - Reputation of RSPO in the market
  - Supply issues
  - Traceability issues
  - Others
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**Other:**

Knowledge gaps on many issues.

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**3.2 In addition to the actions already reported in this ACOP, how has your organisation supported the vision of RSPO to transform the market for sustainable palm oil in other ways? (e.g. Funding; Engagement with key stakeholders; Business to business education/outreach)**

- Engagement with business partners or consumers on the use of CSPO
- Engagement with government agencies
- Promotion of CSPO outside of RSPO venues eg trade workshops industry associations
- Promotion of physical CSPO
- Providing funding or support for CSPO development efforts
- Research & Development support
- Stakeholder engagement
- Others

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**Other:**

Providing science-based evidence and training to stakeholders.

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**3.3 Please attach or add links to any other information from your organisation on your palm oil policies and activities (e.g.: sustainability reports, policies, other public information)**

[https://collaboratif.cirad.fr/alfresco/s/d/workspace/SpacesStore/ecc64dea-3c96-4220-9b94-3225e45d85bc/RA2017\\_ENG.pdf](https://collaboratif.cirad.fr/alfresco/s/d/workspace/SpacesStore/ecc64dea-3c96-4220-9b94-3225e45d85bc/RA2017_ENG.pdf)

<https://shop.bdspublishing.com/checkout/Store/bds/Detail/WorkGroup/3-190-56021>

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