

Terms of Reference

Study on Documenting the Economic values of Micro and Small-scale Oil Palm Processing in Central and West Africa.

1. Introduction

Throughout West Africa there are numerous examples of micro and small-scale oil palm plantations and palm fruit processing. These range in size from hand presses costing a hundred dollars that can process the fruit from less than a hectare of palm, to mills costing \$10,000 that can process the fruit from a few hundred of hectares. Being able to process fruits locally allows farmers and communities in remote sites to process and add value to their oil palm crop even in situations where they have no access to larger processing mills. Much of this production is traded and consumed locally and regionally.

Information on these micro and small-scale mill models can be shared by the NDJSG (no deforestation joint steering group between the RSPO and the HCSA) with communities and companies in high forest cover landscapes and/or in high forest cover countries as part of its socialisation efforts. The information will help communities to make informed decisions about the scale of oil palm development that would suit their situation.

2. Main Purpose

To identify and report on the existing micro and small-scale oil palm plantation models practiced in West Africa. The information by this study shall be used by the NDJSG to further progress the development of the 'specific procedures' as outlined in indicator 7.12.3 of the RSPO Principles and Criteria 2018 (P&C 2018)

3. Scope of Work

To conduct a study of existing research, and interview relevant researchers, smallholder farmers, Governments and organisations on existing micro and small-scale oil palm plantations and palm fruit processing practised in Central and West Africa¹. The study should include the following:

- a. Specify the existing models practiced; the costs and additional resources associated, and implementability in high forest cover areas in Central, West Africa and other regions.
- b. Explore the types of relationships and arrangements currently practiced between small/micro scale plantations and mills, and the benefits and disadvantages of each respective type for both parties.
- c. Provide recommendations to the NDJSG on the suitability of any of the existing models for certification, and considerations that should be accounted for, when developing the 'specific procedure' for development of oil palm by Indigenous people and local communities within HFCCs.

4. Expected Outputs

Report on the economic values of micro and small-scale oil palm processing in Central & West Africa, in a language and form accessible to community support organisations working in rural Central & West Africa. Recommendations to the NDJSG as per 3. b.

¹ The RSPO has identified four (4) African countries, namely Gabon, DR Congo, Republic of Congo and Liberia as High forest cover countries (HFCCs). While the study is not limited to these four countries, focus shall be given to them where existing research is available.

5. Timeline

Expected duration of this study is as follows: a draft is prepared within **eight weeks** from acceptance of the contract; members of the NDJSG are given two weeks to comment on the draft; the study is finalised within two weeks of receiving comments on the draft.

6. Proposal submission requirements

- a. Overall work plan with timeframe
- b. Budget proposal for revision including other costs deemed necessary.
- c. Curriculum vitae or company profile with highlights of relevant expertise

Applicants may submit their expression of interest together with to the RSPO Secretariat by emailing their CV or company profile to tender@rspo.org by **6PM MYT (GMT +8), 6 June 2021**.

Note: *Applicants must avoid and disclose to RSPO any real, perceived, or potential conflict of interest that they may have with RSPO or any entities in the research project. An apparent or actual conflict of interest may exist where an individual or entity has different, and potentially conflict, duties or relationships with respect to other individuals or entities within the research project and RSPO.*