LESSONS FROM ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

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HISTORY OF RSPO

2001: WWF explored the possibility for an RSPO
2002: Meeting between 7 founding members incl. Unilever
2003: First Roundtable meeting in Kuala Lumpur (August, attended by 200 participants from 16 countries)
2004: RSPO created, first EB elected
Nov. 2005: Principles and Criteria document accepted, 2 years’ trial period starts
2006: National Working Groups: Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Colombia, Brazil
2007: Verification framework launched
2008: Certification can start
RSPO’s objectives are to promote the growth and use of sustainable palm oil through co-operation within the supply chain and open dialogue with its stakeholders.
WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL?

- Defines sustainable palm oil production
- Basis for certification standard

Principles & Criteria:

1. Transparency
2. Legal Compliance
3. Economic Viability
4. Best Practices
5. Environmental Responsibility
6. Responsibility to Community
7. Responsible New Plantings
8. Continuous Improvement
PRINCIPLES

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 growers and mills
7. Responsible development of new plantings
8. Commitment to continuous improvement in key areas of activity
RSPO Code of Conduct:
Every member is committed to production, procurement and use of sustainable palm oil

National Interpretation:
Ensuring congruence between P&C and national laws, norms and values
CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

- Principles & Criteria
- Accreditation Requirements
- Certification Process Requirements

Certified palm oil
Total members (18-02-08): 294
(of which 201 ordinary members)
LESSES LEARNED

- Working together with stakeholders is the best way to build trust
- Trials do engage growers
- National implementation is essential
- The partners in the supply chain want to have a system that works in practice
- External recognition of the system has been encouraging
LESSONS LEARNED

• The Roundtable approach is used for other commodities and supply chains
• Private sector initiatives require support from adequate national legislation
• It requires a certain amount of time in order to agree on the approach and to set up a practical system
• Climate change and renewable energy policies have added new challenges to the system
LESSONS LEARNED

Crop-specific criteria such as those of RSPO do not address:

- Reduction of GHG-emissions vis-à-vis fossil fuels: this is not part of the crop certification scheme
- Indirect land use change of non-certified production to peat land or forested land
- The food security concerns. They have to be addressed at macro level
CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

01.05.2008: Unilever commits to certified sustainable palm oil

- Intention to have all palm oil certified sustainable by 2015 with a traceability target for Europe in 2012
- Continue to work in partnership with governments, suppliers, NGO’s and other users of palm oil
- We need to combine efforts against further deforestation in Indonesia for palm oil