



SHARP¹ Secretariat

Goal

To coordinate and support the [SHARP Partnership](#) as it develops tools that the private sector can use to expand responsible production of agricultural commodities from smallholders, improve smallholders' livelihoods and reduce risks of unsustainable production.

Proforest programmes create the enabling environment and capacity needed for the private sector, working with governments and civil society, to deliver agricultural and forest commodities sustainably at scale.

Recent highlights

- **Proof of concept** of two approaches for working better with smallholders - [Responsible Sourcing from Smallholders \(RSS\)](#) and simplified High Conservation Value (HCV). Field testing with:
 - 6 companies, national to global
 - over 2,000 smallholders, 3 continents
 - palm oil, rubber, sugar cane and soy
- **RSPO endorsement** of the simplified HCV approach for independent smallholders.
- **Scaling up:** working with Proctor & Gamble and Proforest Malaysia to move 1,000 palm oil smallholder in Malaysian supply chain towards sustainability.



Twin pillars of the RSS framework

"RSS helps us understand and implement what is really an effective certification for our plantations. It gives us hope to do things right." Jose María Madrid, Honduran palm oil grower

Context

Smallholder production of agricultural commodities is important in global trade. When done well, it supports the livelihoods of many rural populations without compromising social and environmental sustainability. But achieving and demonstrating such responsible production requires resources or know-how that is typically out-of-reach for smallholders. As a result, smallholders are locked out of the supply chains of companies committed to responsible sourcing. The SHARP Partnership addresses these barriers by developing and testing practical approaches that companies can use to support smallholders to improve their livelihoods and eliminate unsustainable practices.

¹ Smallholder Acceleration through Responsible Production and Sourcing



Approaches

The SHARP Partnership is a neutral, multi-stakeholder platform of companies and civil society organisations. It develops practical tools and approaches that make it feasible for companies to include smallholders in their supply chains, and at the same time to meet their commitments on responsible sourcing. The SHARP Secretariat, hosted by Proforest as one of its smallholder programmes, serves as a catalyst for collaboration across supply chains in Southeast Asia, Latin America, and West Africa.

The Secretariat:

- **Develops, adapts and disseminates practical open-source tools** that enable companies to engage with their smallholder suppliers to a) control risks to security of supply of commodities produced in line with private sector sustainability commitments and b) improve productivity.
- **Convenes and provides technical support** for partnerships and collaborations that scale up applications of these tools to supply shed level.
- **Facilitates learning** to address emerging issues around smallholder integration into responsible supply chains.



Conditions for paid workers is one area that smallholders can address through RSS

Priorities

To achieve its goal, the programme's priorities are to:

- Build the business case and support collaborations to catalyse landscape-scale application of SHARP tools by 2017.
- Increase awareness and understanding of RSS, learn from the pioneering use of RSS by companies and farmer's groups, and foster recognition of RSS by the private sector and policy platforms.
- Develop training materials and provide technical support to companies, through SHARP Regional Focal Points and others, to apply SHARP tools at scale.
- Promote the *simplified approach to HCV assessment and management* as the *de facto* option for smallholders in low risk situations.
- Maintain a platform for SHARP partners to exchange and consolidate learning from field experience.

Major partners Regional Focal Points: Rainforest Alliance, SNV, Proforest Latin America | Advisory Committee: Olam, Sime Darby, Fauna & Flora International, IDH | Private sector partners for field implementation: Procter & Gamble, Nestlé, Prosympac, Jaremar, Wilmar, Ghana Rubber Estates Ltd, NORPALM

Funding DFID Forest Governance Markets and Climate Programme | IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative | Proforest Ltd (through consultancy work for Procter & Gamble and Nestlé)