



SHARP

Palm oil

Jambi, Sumatra,
Indonesia



Farmers and SNV staff in the field,
Sungei Gelam, Jambi

Model:	Oil palm mill as Implementing Entity.
Key stakeholders:	Indonesian company looking to establish smallholder supply base for new mill. SNV – SHARP Regional Focal Point. Local (ex-plasma) farmer cooperative. Local social NGO. International environmental NGO. Local government.
No. of participating SHs:	250
Priority risks:	5% of plantation area established on peat. Lack of awareness on worker health and safety. Lack of legal agreement between smallholder farmers and their labour.
Priority farmer needs:	To improve agriculture practices in order to increase yield and quality of oil palm fruit. Access to finance to invest in replanting of aging trees.
Change realised:	Increased yield and quality of FFB. Safe and efficient use of agro-chemicals. Steps towards ISCC and RSPO certification.
Lessons and challenges:	A committed company, as in this case, have capacity to manage most steps of RSS themselves, with some advice and technical inputs. Capital and business networks at the disposal of the company could serve to open up access to credit, agro-inputs, information, technology and markets for independent smallholder suppliers.



SHARP

Palm oil

Riau, Sumatra, Indonesia



RSS farmer needs assessment in the field,
Riau, Indonesia

Model:	Farmer organization as Implementing Entity.
Key stakeholders:	SNV – SHARP Regional Focal Point. Single farmer organisation formed by independent smallholders. Local RSPO certified palm oil mill – preferred buyer. Local social NGO. International environmental NGO. Local government.
No. of participating SHs:	139
Priority risks:	Irregular land tenure situation for most farmers. Proximity to National Park → risk to HCVs.
Priority farmer needs:	To meet expectations of RSPO certified mill on deforestation/HVC risk, legality and quality. To improve of agriculture practices in order to increase yield and quality of oil palm fruit. To strengthen farmer organisation.
Change realised:	Obtaining business licence to operate legally. Steps towards RSPO certification. Improvements in fertiliser use and other agricultural practices.
Lessons and challenges:	Few capable farmer leaders. Farmer organisation needed substantial advisory and technical support to implement RSS assessments, but proved capable of implementing measures to mitigate risk.



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Palm oil

Riau, Sumatra, Indonesia



Training for farmer cooperative members,
Riau, Indonesia

Model:	Cooperative as Implementing Entity.
Key stakeholders:	SNV – SHARP Regional Focal Point. Village unit cooperative. Farmer organisation of independent palm oil smallholders formed by cooperative. Local RSPO certified palm oil mill – preferred buyer for cooperative. Local social NGO. International environmental NGO. Local government.
No. of participating SHs:	209
Priority risks:	Irregular land tenure situation for most farmers. Proximity to National Park → risk to HCVs.
Priority farmer needs:	To meet expectations on deforestation/HVC risk, legality and quality for RSPO-certified mill. To improve agriculture practices in order to increase yield and quality of oil palm fruit.
Change realised:	Obtaining business licence to operate legally. Improvements in fertiliser use and other agricultural practices.
Lessons and challenges:	Both the cooperative and farmer organisation needed substantial advisory and technical support to implement RSS, but proved capable of implementing measures to mitigate risk. Loose affiliation with cooperative and growing competition between mills left independent smallholders free to sell fruit to undiscerning buyers, undermining business case for working towards RSPO group certification.



SHARP

Palm oil

Cortes, Atántida,
Yoro & Colon Departments,
Honduras



Field team in Honduras

Model:	Production company as Implementing Entity, aiming for progressive transfer of responsibilities to smallholder union.
Key stakeholders:	Production company. Smallholder union. Proforest Latam – SHARP Regional Focal Point. Advisory group composed of: 2 social NGOs, 2 environmental NGOs, 3 government representatives and a certification body.
No. of participating SHs:	120 Yr 1 + 230 Yr 2
Priority risks:	Noncompliance with legislation – insecure land titles and lack of environmental permits. Conversion of protected areas – national parks, watershed areas. Labour issues – contracts, labour conditions, living wage, child labour, health & safety.
Priority farmer needs:	To improve agriculture practices in order to increase yield of oil palm fruit and reduce impact of disease. Organizational development for smallholder union and group management for certification.
Change realised:	New recognition of risks and challenges ahead in pursuing smallholder RSPO certification. Awareness of and commitment to procedures for RSPO group certification.
Lessons and challenges:	Company committed, but discovered gaps in their capacity through the RSS process. Loose contract for purchase of FFB casts doubt on whether company will reap 100% of the benefits of investment in RSS.



SHARP

Natural rubber

Central and Western Regions of Ghana



Rubber plantation, Ghana

Model:	Production company as Implementing Entity.
Key stakeholders:	Production company. Rainforest Alliance – SHARP Regional Focal Point. Producer association representatives. Traditional leaders. Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Financial institutions (ADB, NIB).
No. of participating SHs:	600+
Priority risks:	Deforestation driven by smallholder plans for expansion. Risk to sites or resources of cultural or spiritual importance. Risk to IUCN Red List animal species (e.g Duikers, Pangolin). Use of fire for land preparation.
Priority farmer needs:	Ability to assess risk to HCVs when planning expansion.
Change realised:	Greater company understanding of their smallholder supply base and the risks and opportunities they face. Company provided with transparent point of reference to talk about its supply base and deforestation risk.
Lessons and challenges:	RSS provided effective and retrospective assessment of the evolution of the company's land documentation procedures. Smallholder engagement and organization takes time, effort and investment to surmount. A public private partnership may be the solution. As monopoly buyer in the region, the company can invest with confidence in building capacity of their smallholder suppliers.



SHARP

Soy

Paraná State, Brazil



Field work for soy farm risk assessment,
Parana, Brazil

Model:	Roundtable sustainability standard as Implementing Entity, aiming to transfer these responsibilities to local organisation.
Key stakeholders:	Proforest Latam – SHARP Regional Focal Point. International roundtable sustainability standard. International conservation NGO. Local conservation NGO. Local cooperatives and associations of smallholders.
No. of participating SHs:	25
Priority risks:	Legal compliance on use of pesticides. Non-use of Personal Protective Equipment.
Priority farmer needs:	Ability to assess risk to HCVs when planning expansion.
Change realised:	Demonstrated existing good practice on biodiversity, soil, air and water protection. Work plan agreed with SHs and potential partners for implementation of requirements of sustainability standard and to meet farmer training needs.
Lessons and challenges:	SH were not organized as an entity that could take forward the RSS framework without outside support. Further progress towards certification requires a local organization prepared to act as 'group manager' and engagement with buyers of certified product.



SHARP

Palm oil

Western Region, Ghana



RSS consultation session, Ghana

Model:	Production company as Implementing Entity
Key stakeholders:	Production company. Rainforest Alliance – SHARP Regional Focal Point. Commissioned agents dealing directly with independent smallholders.
No. of participating SHs:	c. 300
Priority risks:	Risk of conversion to agriculture of tree cover outside PA's which may have conservation value, including use of fire for land preparation. Proximity of plantations to forest reserves, rivers and streams important for local communities and ancient burial grounds, shrines and sacred forests.
Priority farmer needs:	Ability to assess risk to HCVs when planning expansion.
Change realised:	Support for farmers to work together in groups for training, access to services and shared learning. Knowledge of good agronomic practices and improved yields. Access to appropriate loan, banking services and capacity for financial planning. Support to improve transport of FFB to the mill.
Lessons and challenges:	Company improved their understanding of risks and needs in their smallholder supply base. Bio-physical risks mapped and recognized by the company.



SHARP

Natural rubber

Jambi, Sumatra,
Indonesia



Farmers and SNV staff in the field,
Sungei Gelam, Jambi

Model:	Farmer group as Implementing Entity.
Key stakeholders:	SNV – SHARP Regional Focal Point.
No. of participating SHs:	40
Priority risks:	<p>Lack of formal land title for 60% of farmers could compromise access to services but no immediate consequences on security of tenure or incidence of conflict.</p> <p>Occasional presence of RTE species which could be affected by move from low to high intensity production.</p> <p>Health and safety in farm operations.</p>
Priority farmer needs:	<p>To improve agriculture practices in order to increase yield and quality.</p> <p>Farm record-keeping as a basis for decision-making to improve farm profitability.</p> <p>Access to finance to invest in replanting of aging trees.</p>
Change realised:	Improved farmer knowledge of best management practice, including profitable introduction of intercropping with turmeric.
Lessons and challenges:	<p>Farmer group selling only to dealers, isolated from market signals on price and quality.</p> <p>Downstream supply chain actors not yet fully engaged on question of sustainable production.</p>