An inclusive approach for Smallholder Certification

A system for everyone?
Certification – Tick in the box, or behavioral change?

Stages of behavioral change

The Stages of Behavior Change

Precontemplation
(aware of the problem)

Contemplation
(thinks of the problem and of the desired behavior change)

Preparation
(intends to take action)

Action
(practices the desired behavior)

Maintenance
(wants to sustain the behavior change)

Sources: Kim (1997) (22); and Prochaska 1982 (148)
Step-wise approach for Smallholder Certification

1. Farmers meet Eligibility Criteria

2. Farmers meet criteria for Milestone A

3. Farmers meet criteria for Milestone B: End goal

4. Full compliance RSPO RS Standard

Guiding Principles for the development of the Standard and systems

1. Promotion of greater smallholder inclusion into RSPO system

2. Upholding core sustainability requirements (NDPE/P&C of Smallholder Standard), to ensure credibility
Applicability of the Standard

1. The RSPO ISH Standard applies to independent smallholder farmers only

2. Scheme smallholders are excluded from using this Standard. Scheme smallholders are:
   - Farmers or their delegates that do not have the enforceable decision-making power on the operation of the land and production practices; and/or
   - Farmers that do not have the freedom to choose how they utilise their lands, type of crops to plant, and how they manage them (whether and how they organise, manage and finance the land);

3. For the applicability of the ISH standard, all smallholder farmers that are not considered to be scheme smallholders are considered independent smallholder farmers.
Eligibility Criteria to enter the ISH House

7 out of 27 criteria prioritised in order to enter “ISH house”. Focus on exclusion of highest risk in terms of environmental and social practices.

1. Individual SH can demonstrate they have the legal or customary rights to use the land.
2. SH are located in areas that are outside of those classified as a national park or protected area, as defined by national law.
3. SH commit there will be no new plantings or expansion of smallholder farms in primary forests and HCV areas and no new planting on peat.
4. SH commit to no use of fire in preparing or clearing land.
5. For new plantings, SH commit that they will consult with indigenous people and local communities […] to ensure rights and interest of affected parties are respected.
6. SH commit to no use of child labour and forced labour.
7. SH sign a farmer statement to: a) declare all land holdings; b) commit to continue progress; c) commit to participate in training and share knowledge.

Principles in the SH Standard

Proposed principles include:

1. Respect for land rights and neighbouring communities
2. Environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources
3. Sustainable farming practices
4. Respect for human rights and rights for workers
5. Commitment to transparency and traceability for smallholders
6. Positive long term economic, social and financial impact for farmers

Criteria and Indicators are in development.
Market Incentive Mechanism

1. Farmers meet Eligibility Criteria
2. Farmers meet Milestone A
3. Farmers meet criteria for Milestone B
4. Full compliance RSPO Standard
5. 3rd Party Audits
6. 3rd Party Audits

Measure of success?

A ROADMAP TO EMPOWER SMALLHOLDERS
Smallholder farmers produce 60% of the world’s palm oil but continue to suffer from lower yields. This is why the RSPO’s goal is for smallholder farmers to improve their livelihood by joining the sustainable palm oil supply chain. This is how the RSPO plans to achieve this.

Objective 1
Smallholder livelihoods are improved

Objective 2
The number of smallholders within the RSPO system is increased

Objective 3
The business case for smallholder inclusion in the RSPO is made through increased support
Thank you