Global and National Certification Systems: the Adoption of GAP and RSPO by Oil Palm Smallholders in Thailand

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Certifications and Sustainability

- Sustainability
  - Economic viability
  - Environmental conservation
  - Social responsibility
- Certification
  - Environmental protection
  - Sustainable management
  - Market-based measures to entail sustainability
Certification of smallholder palm oil growers in Thailand

- **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)**
  - GAP is the sustainable certification schemes that was introduced as voluntary standard in the country for agricultural production
  - It was developed by the Department of Agriculture (DOA) in 2004

- **Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)**
  - A multi-stakeholder initiative to promote the sustainable production of palm oil worldwide

**Research Objective**

- What factors influence the decision by smallholders to adopt sustainable oil palm through the national GAP and/or the global RSPO certification system?

- Empirical research in Thailand among smallholders (2013/14) – cultivating oil palm trees on a plantation smaller than 50 hectares:
  - RSPO-certified smallholder farmers
  - Non-RSPO-certified smallholder farmers
  - GAP-certified smallholder farmers
  - Non-GAP-certified smallholder farmers
Research methodology

- Qualitative in-depth interviews
  - 29 key informants

- Survey:
  - 77 RSPO-certified and 108 non-RSPO-certified smallholder farmers
  - 87 GAP-certified and 67 non-GAP-certified smallholder farmers

- Performed in Surat Thani and Krabi provinces

Research Area
RSPO Smallholder Farmer Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Enterprise Group for Sustainable Palm Oil Production UPOIC (Nuakhlong - Khaopanom) supported by United Palm Oil Industry Public Co., Ltd, Krabi province</th>
<th>Total Members</th>
<th>Total area (Ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>159</td>
<td>1,478.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Oil Palm Smallholders Production (Univanich-Plaipraya) Community Enterprise Group supported by Univanich Palm Oil Public Co., Ltd., Krabi province</td>
<td></td>
<td>645.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Enterprise Group – Suratthani supported by The Southern Palm Oil Industry Co., Ltd (1993), Surat Thani province</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>187.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Findings

- **RSPO**: adoption is positively influenced by:
  - Membership of farmer groups
  - Goal of the certification scheme
  - Trust
- **RSPO**: adoption is not influenced by:
  - Monetary support
- **GAP** adoption is positively influenced by:
  - Positive image of the certification scheme
  - Concerns about the quality of land
  - Concerns about the quality of water
  - Monetary support
  - Trust
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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