

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?

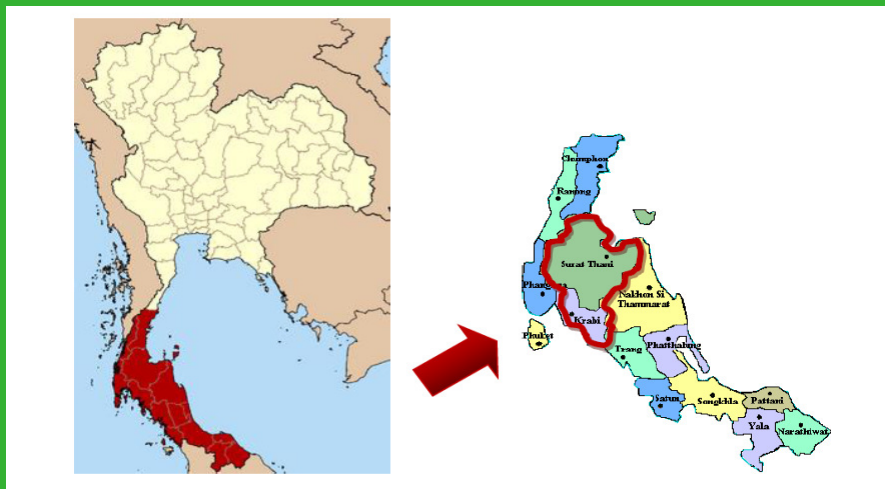
- Empirical research in Thailand among smallholders (2013/14) – cultivating oil palm trees on a plantation smaller than 50 hectares:
 - RSPO-certified smallholder farmers
 - Non-RSPO-certified smallholder farmers
 - GAP-certified smallholder farmers
 - Non-GAP-certified smallholder farmers



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

	Total Members	Total area (Ha)
Community Enterprise Group for Sustainable Palm Oil Production UPOIC (Nuakhleng - Khaopanom) supported by United Palm Oil Industry Public Co., Ltd, Krabi province	159	1,478.32
Sustainable Oil Palm Smallholders Production (Univanich-Plaipraya) Community Enterprise Group supported by Univanich Palm Oil Public Co., Ltd., Krabi province	158	645.76
Community Enterprise Group – Suratthani supported by The Southern Palm Oil Industry Co., Ltd (1993), Surat Thani province	39	187.89



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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