

A Future Outlook on Sustainable Pathways for the Thai Palm Oil Sector

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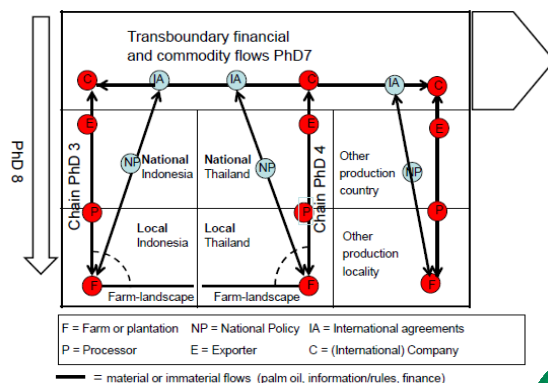


Background: INREF-SUSPENSE

"Towards environmentally sustainable and equitable palm oil: promoting sustainable pathways by exploring connections between flows, networks and systems at multiple levels"

Main objectives:

- (1) to identify **sustainable pathways** for the production, processing and governing of palm oil and
- (2) to **enable different stakeholders** to contribute to a more environmentally sustainable and equitable palm oil sector in a science-based and concerted way

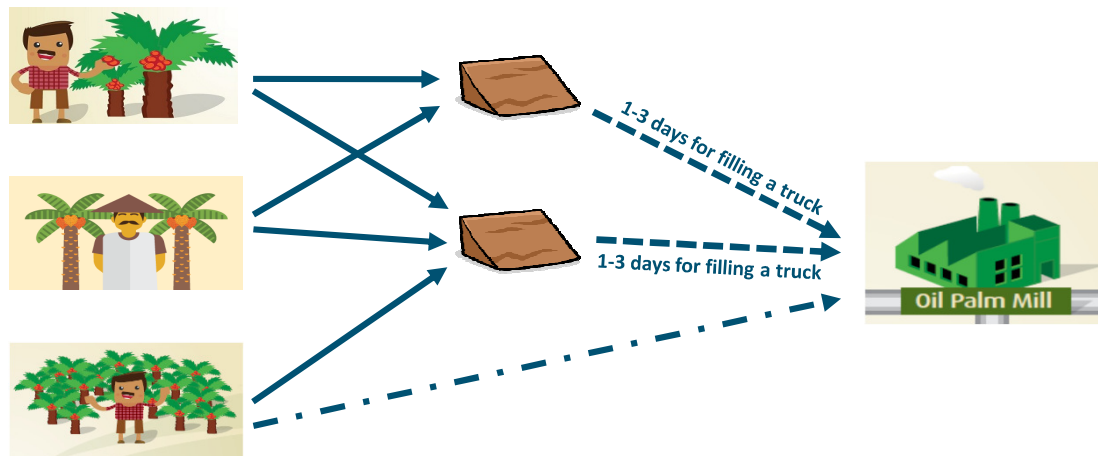


Sustainable pathways defined

- A combination of agronomic, environmental, land use planning, organizational and governance practices that together fit and generate more sustainable production and trade
- Sustained by actors who manage access to material and immaterial flows, networks and systems and connect these at critical locations



Current Thai palm oil value chain



Characteristics of the palm oil sector in Thailand

- Ramps
- Smallholder farmers
- Domestic production and consumption
- Government controls prices
- Under-supply of FFB



Sustainability challenges (1/2)

Oil palm small producers

- Low access of quality oil palm seedlings
- Low adoption rate of best management practices (BMP)
- Harvesting unripe fruits

Ramps

- Water/sand addition to increase FFB weight
- 1-3 days before transportation to mill



Sustainability Challenges (2/2)

Mills

- Under-supply of FFB
- Purchase of unripe fruits
- Low oil extraction rate

Government

- Policies are changing continuously



Sustainable pathways (1/2)

Our combined research shows a more environmentally sustainable and economically attractive Thai palm oil industry is possible!

- Supporting smallholders to access information on BMP/GAP
- Improved infrastructure
- Coordination along the value chain (ramps!)
- Implementation of cost-effective and environmentally attractive options



Sustainable pathways (2/2)

- Redefinition of the role of RSPO in the Thai context
- New forms of collaboration between the Thai government, value chain actors (including ramps), and the RSPO



Thank you for your attention!

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