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
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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