

# VILLAGE FIELD SCHOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE OIL PALM SMALLHOLDERS (SEKOLAH KAMPUNG PETANI SAWIT LESTARI)



Photo by Ricky Martin/CIFOR

## Driving sustainable palm oil trade by improving the practices, legality and productivity of oil palm smallholders

### Background

Palm oil is a key sector in Indonesia's economy. However, current production and trade practices result in trade-offs between economic and conservation goals (Purnomo et al. 2022a<sup>1</sup>). The growing movement towards sustainability in global trade is driving a restructuring of sustainability practices in Indonesia's palm oil sector (Purnomo et al. 2022b<sup>2</sup>). Compliance

with sustainability standards is the general measure of changes in sustainability practices and palm oil production. Independent smallholders' inability to meet sustainability standards threatens them with alienation from formal markets (Schoneveld et al. 2017<sup>3</sup>).

CIFOR-ICRAF (Center for International Forestry Research-World Agroforestry Center), in partnership with Jikalahari (*Jaringan Kerja Penyelamat Hutan Riau* or Riau Forest Rescue Network), is working closely with the Pelalawan Regency Government to improve

<sup>1</sup> Purnomo H, Okarda B, Kusumadewi SD, Kartikasara NH, Dermawan A, Ilham QP, Puspitaloka D, Brady MA. 2022. Adapting global palm oil deforestation-free trade to benefit local economies and landscapes. Bogor: CIFOR. <https://doi.org/10.17528/cifor/008636>

<sup>2</sup> Purnomo H, Kusumadewi SD, Ilham QP, Kartikasara NH, Okarda B, Dermawan A, Puspitaloka D, Brady MA. 2022. Harnessing political economy and global green trade to increase Indonesia's palm oil sustainability. Bogor: CIFOR. <https://doi.org/10.17528/cifor/008637>

<sup>3</sup> Schoneveld GC, Jelsma I, Komarudin H, Andrianto A, Okarda B, Ekowati D. 2017. Public and private sustainability standards in the oil palm sector, compliance barriers facing Indonesia's independent oil palm smallholders. Bogor: CIFOR. <https://doi.org/10.17528/cifor/006556>

sustainability practices in palm oil production and trade through the ***Sekolah Kampung Petani Sawit Lestari*** or **Village Field Schools for Sustainable Oil Palm Smallholders** programme. The programme is aimed at building independent smallholders' technical, networking and institutional capacities. We expect these improved capacities to result in higher productivity, more efficient use of land resources, and stronger capacity to comply with sustainability principles and practices in palm oil production and trade. Finally, we hope this programme can contribute to reducing pressures on forests from oil palm expansion.

## Programme objectives and outcomes

The programme will equip independent oil palm smallholders with the capacity and necessary practices to

produce and trade sustainable palm oil. In doing so, it aims to achieve the following:

1. Enhance the awareness and active participation of smallholders in advancing sustainable oil palm plantations;
2. Improve smallholder oil palm plantations' sustainability practices, legality, production and trade;
3. Increase the sustainability of local economies by optimizing land use efficiency to reduce the risk of forest and land fires while improving capacity to secure sustainability certification and access to markets.

## Programme location

The programme is being implemented in Segati Village, Langgam Subdistrict, Pelalawan Regency.

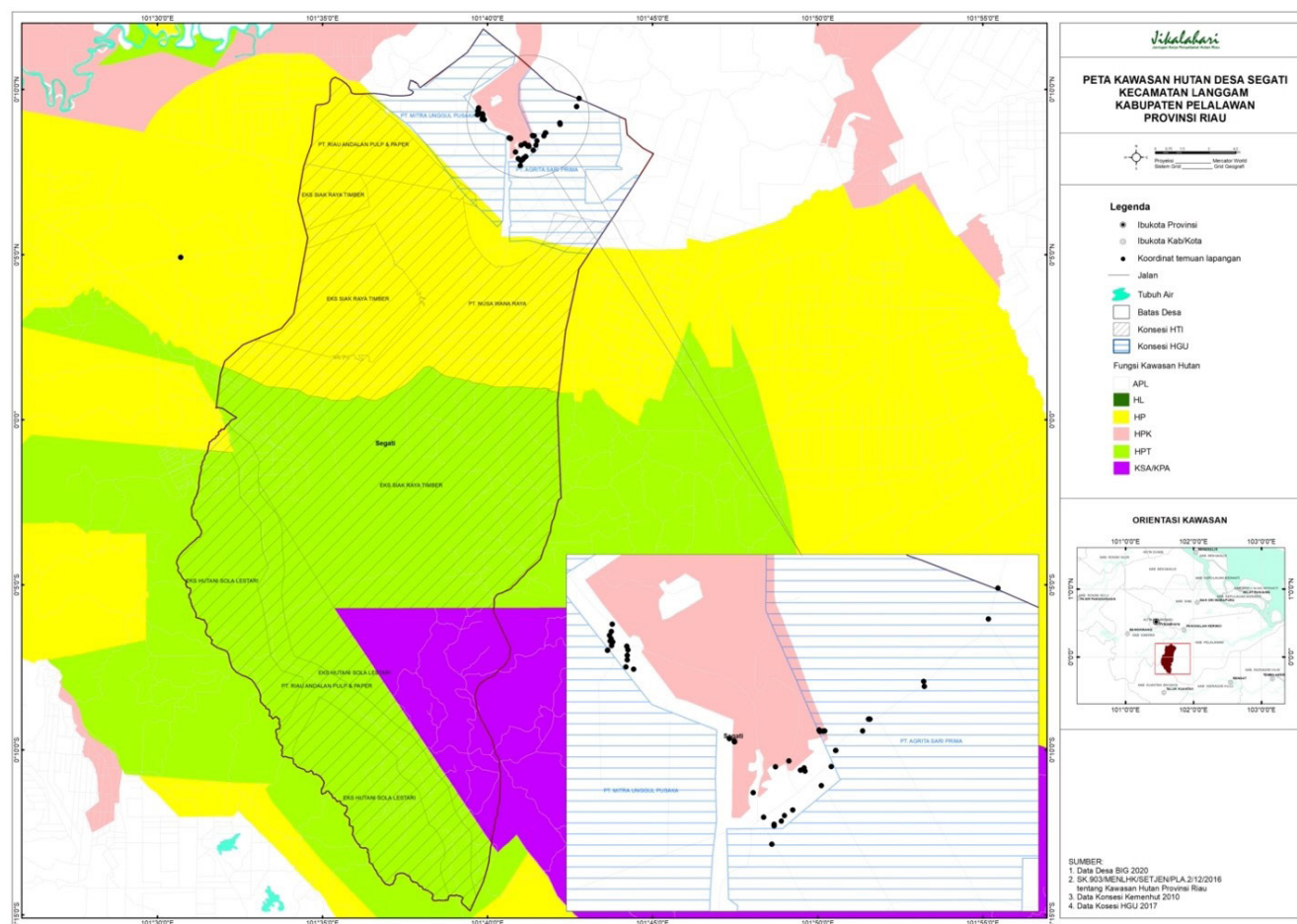


Figure 1. Programme location map



## Programme activities

No.	Activities	Objectives
1.	Program outreach	To build consensus or agreement between the village government, oil palm smallholders and communities on protecting forest, sustainable oil palm plantation management, and sustainable trade
2.	Database development and independent smallholder mapping	To map and identify independent oil palm smallholders inside and outside the forests estate
3.	Establishing independent smallholder groups	To facilitate the development of institutions and capacity building on sustainable palm oil at the smallholder group level
4.	Registering independent smallholder groups	To facilitate the formal registration of independent smallholder groups in the government's SIMLUHTAN agricultural extension management information system to ensure extension from the government beyond the programme duration
5.	Training on Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and High Conservation Value (HCV)	To improve independent smallholder capacity in Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and High Conservation Value (HCV)
6.	Study visit to the Amanah Group (an ISPO- and RSPO-certified independent smallholder group)	To facilitate exchanges of knowledge, information and experience, and to motivate smallholder groups
7.	Formulating a roadmap and business model canvas on sustainable palm oil practices, production and trade at the independent smallholder level	To facilitate the development of a roadmap and strengthen business models in sustainable palm oil practices, production and trade



Figure 2. Programme outreach



Figure 3. Independent smallholder identification and mapping





Photo by Miguel Pinheiro/CIFOR

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