

Human rights – perspective from a Financial Institution

RSPO
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil



SUSTAINABILITY
WHAT'S NEXT?



Rabobank

Thomas Ursem,
sustainable supply chain manager



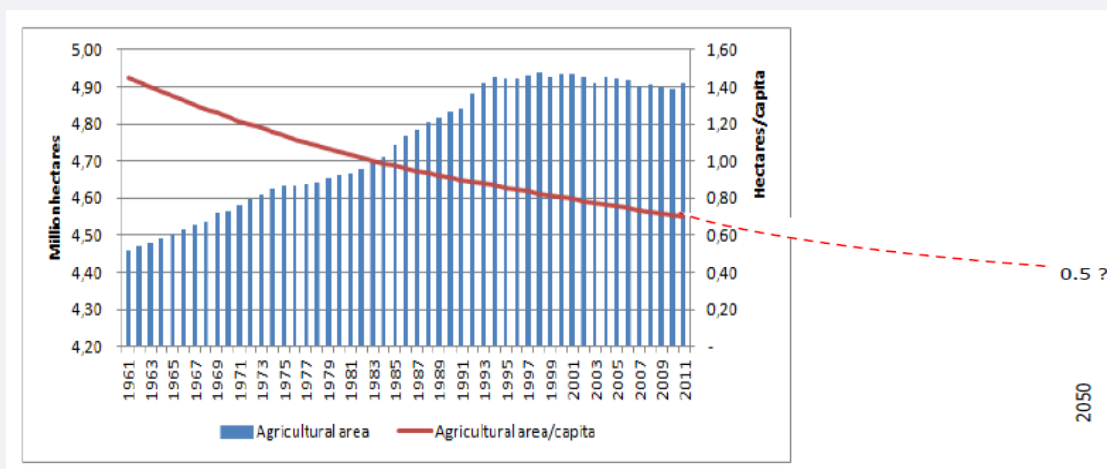
- Why do banks care about the performance of their clients on human rights issues? And if they care how do they go about in getting the comfort that their clients comply to their policies on human rights and labour issues? Banks are usually not the content experts on sustainability issues in a specific sector and depend on tools and processes to help them in their assessment. These questions will be discussed during the introduction by Rabobank on the HR topic.

Why do we care



- Role of the financial sector in promoting sustainability
- Largest bank in the Netherlands
- Cooperation with strong roots in rural areas
- Leading global Food and agribusiness bank

World's agricultural land is limited ... and declining..



Why do we care



- Role of the financial sector in promoting sustainability
- Largest bank in the Netherlands
- Cooperation with strong roots in rural areas
- Leading global Food and agribusiness bank
- We have a strong belief that avoiding HR risks is profitable

Benefits



Profitability and Sustainability in Palm Oil Production

WWF, CDC, the UK's development finance institution, FMO

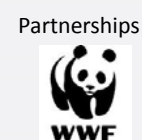
business benefits gained from sustainable practices and RSPO certification typically outweigh the costs of implementation

- Huge costs can be avoided by managing HR



How we respond

- *Banking for Food = Access to Finance, Knowledge and networks*
- We are not the content experts on human rights!
- Rely on information and network
- Get involved in multi stakeholder initiatives
- Promote credibility initiatives – strong governance and compliance
- Stimulate knowledge exchange and partnerships



What we do

- Set policies and standards
 - Assessment and engagement
- Support development of guidance and tools
 - Revised Guide on Free, Prior and Informed Consent
 - Land Governance workshop with USAID in Washington DC
 - Sustainable palm oil transparency toolkit
 - Complaints system review
 - ACOP procedure
- Support actions in FI sector
 - RSPO Financial Institutions taskforce
 - Banking environment Initiative



Conclusions



- HR is a key topic especially for a global Food & Agribusiness bank
- More attention from FIs
- Reliance on robust systems and procedures
- Importance of practical guidance needed, also for banks
- More FI to get involved

What we do



- Use our network to stimulate knowledge exchange
 - Organise farmer field days
 - Provide research including sustainability
 - Bringing different chain actors together
- Access to finance models
 - Improve livelihoods of smallholders through our Foundation

RSPO

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

Thank you

*Thomas Ursem,
sustainable supply chain manager
Thomas.ursem@rabobank.com*



SUSTAINABILITY
WHAT'S NEXT?

