

BACKGROUND

Palm oil is one of the most important vegetable oils worldwide. It is used by food and oleochemical industries and can be found as ingredient of everyday products such as shampoo, detergent and ice cream. Moreover, palm oil has gained significance as a renewable raw material for biofuel and bioenergy. Due to the versatile use of palm oil and its potential for rural development, palm oil has become more and more important. However, when pursuing the current debate on palm oil production in the public, the tenor is usually negative. The strong rise in demand of palm oil worldwide has led into a rapid cycle of production growth which is associated with severe negative social and environmental impacts in areas of oil palm expansion. This has brought palm oil in general into disrepute around the world, especially in Europe, and led to the emergence of private and public sustainability initiatives like the Roundtable on Sustainable palm Oil (RSPO) and the EU Renewable Energy Directive (EU RED).

As part of a sector-wide push for improvement and with the support from the **Thai-German Project on Sustainable Palm Oil Production for BioEnergy**, funded by the Climate Initiative of the German Federal Environment Ministry, the Thai palm oil sector is introducing sustainability standards and urges the feasibility of smallholder certification. Hence palm oil producers in Thailand could soon be able to guarantee the sustainability of their products and the raw material sourced from smallholders.

The conference on **Sustainable Palm Oil Production: The Case of Thailand** aims to offer a versatile view on the subject and to encourage policy makers, research institutes, oil processing industries and NGOs to discuss about sustainability issues regarding palm oil production. In addition to a range of speakers from these fields, a delegation of Thai palm oil stakeholders will support the conference by providing a deeper insight into the current situation of palm oil production in Thailand.



The conference is organized by the German-Thai cooperational project

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
Sustainable Palm Oil Production for BioEnergy

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Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Conference on Palm Oil and Sustainability: The Case of Thailand

March 18th - 19th, 2010

GTZ-Haus
Reichpietschufer 20
10785 Berlin



Office Bangkok



CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH 2010

- 10:00-10:15 Address of welcome
10:15-10:30 **Video clip: The Thai-German project on Sustainable Palm Oil Production for BioEnergy in Thailand**
10:30-10:50 **Presentation of the Thai-German project Sustainable Palm Oil Production for BioEnergy**
Daniel May (GTZ), Project Director

SUSTAINABILITY CONCERNS OF PALM OIL PRODUCTION

- 10:50-11:15 **Global sustainability requirements from a NGO perspective**
Martina Fleckenstein (WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature)
11:15-11:45 Coffee break
11:45-12:15 **Challenges to improve the sustainability of palm oil for BioEnergy**
Dr. Guido Reinhardt (Scientific Director, IFEU - Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Heidelberg)

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE THAI OIL PALM AND PALM OIL SECTOR

- 12:15-12:45 **Thailand's policy plan on oil palm and palm oil development**
Mr. Apichart Jongskul (Secretary General of the Thai Office of Agricultural Economics)
12:45-14:00 Lunch
14:00-14:30 **The Thai palm oil sector: From plantation to processing and use of by-products - Towards a zero waste industry**
Mrs. Wiwan Boonyaprateeprat (Thai Palm Oil and Oil Palm Association)
14:30-14:50 **The role of oil palm to serve the rising demand for vegetable oils in a sustainable way**
Dr. Thomas Fairhurst (Tropical Crops Consultants Ltd.)
14:50-15:10 **Compliance of imported palm oil used for biodiesel production in the European Union**
Thanasit Thamsiriroj (Sustainable Energy Research Group - Bioenergy Research, University College Cork, Ireland)

- 15:10-15:30 **High Conservation Value Mapping - A pilot study from Thailand**
Laura Meissner (Programme for Social and Ecological Standards, GTZ)
15:30-16:00 Coffee break
16:00-17:00 **Panel discussion: Sustainability issues of palm oil production in Thailand**
Mrs. Wiwan Boonyaprateeprat
Mr. Somchai Prachabut (Assistant Manager of Krabi Palm Oil Farmers Cooperatives Federation Ltd.)
Martina Fleckenstein
Dr. Thomas Fairhurst
Dr. Guido Reinhardt

- 17:00-19:30 Reception

FRIDAY, MARCH 19TH 2010

- 09:00-09:15 Address of welcome
Jessica Löhndorf (Ecologic Institute on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)

SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL PRODUCTION - CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

- 09:15-09:40 **The EU Renewable Energy Directive (EU RED) - Market requirements for sustainable biodiesel**
Laura Meissner (Programme for Social and Ecological Standards, GTZ)
9:40-10:00 **Palm Oil Processing in Germany from a Private Sector Perspective**
Josef Kunert (Association for veg-oil based block heat and power plants)
10:00-10:30 **The Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) - A multi-stakeholder process towards sustainability**
Martina Fleckenstein (WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature)

- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break

- 11:00-11:20 **Private sector approach towards RSPO**
Mrs. Sprick (OVID - Association of the oil seed crushing and oil refining industry in Germany)
11:20-11:45 **Sustainable practices in the Thai palm oil sector - The state of affairs**
Mr. Palat Tittinutchanon, Ph.D (Univanich Palm Oil Public Company Limited)
11:45-12:15 **Sustainability certification and implementation in Thailand - The way forward**
Mr. Sanin Triyanond (Secretary of Thai RSPO National Interpretation Working Group)
12:15-13:15 Lunch
13:15-13:45 **Challenges of implementing sustainability certification in Thailand**
Mr. Chuladit Chunekamrai (Thai Palm Oil and Oil Palm Association)

THE MARKET FOR SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

- 13:45-14:15 **Market outlook for sustainable palm oil**
Thomas Mielke (Oil World)
14:15-14:45 **WWF Palm Oil Buyers' Scorecard 2009**
Franziska Mey (WWF Germany, EU Policy & Sustainable Biomass)
14:45-15:15 Coffee break
15:15-16:15 **Q&A and Panel discussion on the market outlook and Thailand's way towards sustainability certification**
Thomas Mielke
Mr. Palat Tittinutchanon, Ph.D
Mr. Sanin Triyanond
Mr. Chuladit Chunekamrai
16:15-16:30 **Closing Address**
Daniel May (GTZ), Project Director