

The Dutch Commitment: Transforming the market to 100 % Sustainable Palm Oil

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The European market demands more and more sustainable products, or, in other words, products of which it can be demonstrated that the production has met the sustainability requirements for people, planet and profit. This applies not only for palm oil or only vegetable oils, but also for other agricultural products such as timber, cocoa, coffee, tea, cotton, sugar etc. Despite the financial crisis, the sustainability challenge remains high on European business agenda. Sustainable sourcing is and will be one of the main challenge for the industry. Through the developments within the RSPO framework the Palm Oil industry has, as the first agricultural commodity, shown its pro-active responsibility towards sustainable production. The RSPO standard is seen as the international standard with which sustainable production practices can be demonstrated. A compliment for all partners and especially the producers, who made this happen.

RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil is now on the market and MVO strives for transformation to fully sustainable sourcing of palm oil. To reach this goal, MVO has together with nine industry organizations set up the Task Force Sustainable Palm Oil with the goal that all palm oil used and consumed in The Netherlands is sustainable in 2015, using one of the RSPO approved supply chain models. The Dutch government has given its support for these activities. Members of the Task have all committed to yearly action plans and yearly reporting on progress. The first reporting is due in Q 1 2012. By now already positive results can be mentioned including positive media attention for the use of palm oil, and in increased awareness on sustainability of the companies using palm oil and increased transparency on the use of palm oil.

MVO believes that all obstacles for the use of sustainable palm oil should be tackled. That is the reason that MVO recently has plead with the Dutch government to abolish the import duties of sustainable palm oil. MVO believes strongly in the sustainable future of palm oil and acknowledge the importance of the role the RSPO has played to defend the image of palm oil in Europe. MVO would like to continue the cooperation and dialogue with all palm oil chain partners within the RSPO and hopes that our activities may inspire others to take similar initiatives.