Other Standards?

Drs. Wim Oosterhuis
Chair: Dutch Product Board MVO

RSPO, RT 9 conference
November 22, 2011
Product Board MVO

- Chain Organization
- Vegetable Oil and Animal Fat
- Funded entirely by the Industry
- Represent:
  - Crushing Industry
  - Refining Industry
  - Margarines and Sauce Producers
  - Animal Fat Industry
  - Oleo Chemical Industry
  - Traders
  - Fat compounders
Challenge of Sustainable Food Security

‘Balance the Challenge’

Demographical changes + Public concerns

Growing Population  Biodiversity
Urbanization       Climate Change
Growing Wealth      Animal Welfare
Changing diets      Oils and fats in a healthy diet
Sustainability: ‘The licence to produce’

- Palm Oil; only one of many agricultural commodities that need to comply to sustainability
- ‘The License to produce’ is given by society / consumers / markets.
- Not any more by Governments only!
Need for Standards

- Consumers / Society / Markets:
  - need guaranties what they buy
- Producers / Supply Chain:
  - needs to know what the market expects from him
- ‘Level Playing Field’:
  - one standard for sustainability
Criteria for Sustainability Standard

- Developed and owned by the players in the chain – Multistakeholder
- International accepted by market players - credible
- Transparency - grievance panel
- Clear and simple
- Independent verification mechanism (third party certification)
- One standard for Food, Feed and Fuel
MVO: RSPO is the International Standard

- RSPO is driven by market demand
  - RSPO answers sustainability concerns in Europe and the world
- RSPO is a Multistakeholder initiative
  - growers, processors, traders, food industry, retail, NGO’s
- Transparent and Credible
- Internationally accepted
Other Standards 1

Value of National Governmental Sustainability Standards

- Obligatory for all palm oil players
- Introduction Good Agricultural Practices
- Raise the Sustainability bar / Set the minimum
- Important Stepping Stone towards RSPO certification
Other Standards 2

- Key issue: are they multistakeholder?
  - If so: combine forces and unite
  - If not: Chain partners outside won’t accept

- Remember: Markets (not governments) give licence to produce!
Other Standards 3

- RSPO is work in progress
  - RSPO is not (yet) the Standard for Fuel
  - Smallholder access to standard still an issue
  - International market demand needs to be further developed

- MVO opinion: RSPO should be standard for Food, Feed and Fuel!
RSPO is a shared responsibility

- Sustainable Supply ⇔ Sustainable Demand
- Producers feel responsibility for sustainable production
- Companies on the consumer’s side share equal responsibility!
- Positive: Continuously growing demand
- Negative: Growth rate of demand lower than production
- Problem:
  - Palm Oil is a small ingredient in many products and for many producers and not recognizable as such for the consumer
  - Producers have taken up their responsibility: compliments
  - Responsibility for market take-up: Food industry and Retailers
Dutch committed to sustainable Palm Oil

- MVO - Industry
  - RSPO members from the start
  - Initiated Task Force Sustainable Palm Oil
  - Call for EU zero-duty preferential tariff import for CSPO

- Government / Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH)
  - Political and Financial Support

- Civil Society Organizations (WWF / Oxfam Novib / Solidaridad)
  - Political + market support
  - Producers Support Program
Task Force Sustainable Palm Oil

- MVO initiative uniting palm processors and users
- Ambition: ‘By the end of 2015 all Palm Oil used in the Dutch Market will be Sustainable’
- Started in November 2010
- Addresses challenge: Palm Oil is a minor component in many products and often the presence is unknown!
- We demand processors and producers end-products to take responsibility for their use of palm oil!
Task Force Participants

- AKSV  Cooked Products and Meat Snacks
- BNMF  Margarine Producers
- CBL    Food Retail
- FNLI   Food Industry
- NEVEDI Feed Industry
- MVO    Product Board for MVO
- VERNOF Edible Oils and Fats Association
- VAVI   Potato Processing Industry
- VBZ    Bakery and Sweets Industry

Supported by Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative - IDH
Commitments Task Force members

Commitment Task Force members translated in yearly Action Plans

- Outreach and Communication: Seminars/Workshops/Factsheets
- Promote Membership RSPO and purchase RSPO Certified oil palm products
- Yearly Reports
Concrete results

- From Commitment to Concrete Actions and Results:
  - Annual Action Plans, first 2011
  - Annual Reporting, first Q1 - 2012
- Positive Attention Palm Oil in the media
- Industry Associations and Companies take ownership of sustainability of palm oil
- Growing number of Country Commitments
  - Belgium: “Alliance Belge pour le Palme Durable”
  - United Kingdom: Defra committed to transition
  - Germany: Retailers and Margarine producers committed
Preferential tariffs for CSPO

- MVO strives for free trade and market access
- On the basis of level playing field
- Remove all obstructions to free trade
  - Import Tariffs + Differential Export Taxes
- MVO:
  - Call for EU zero-duty import tariff for CSPO
- Malaysia / Indonesia:
  - Lower your Export Taxes for CSPO
The future is bright!
The future is sustainable
The future is in our hands

Product Board MVO
www.mvo.nl