

Impactful Movement: 10 Years of FORTASBI's Journey

On August 14, 2024, three days before Indonesia's Independence Day celebration, FORTASBI (Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil Smallholders Forum), initiated by several NGOs and palm oil smallholder organizations in Indonesia, marks its 10-year journey toward sustainable palm oil smallholder practices. This organization was established as a platform to assist independent smallholders group in managing their RSPO, ISPO and ISCC certificates and ensuring that the implementation of sustainable palm oil standard has positive impact on the livelihood and environment of independent smallholders.

In the past 10 years, FORTASBI members have continued to increase and currently, FORTASBI has 59 group of smallholders registered as members with a number of farmers reaching **16,394 independent smallholders**, covering **39,427.26 hectares of land certified** RSPO, ISPO and ISCC. The growing of number certified smallholder groups is due to support from NGOs palm oil mill who work non-stop in the field.

Over the past 10 years, **FORTASBI has assisted** its member smallholders in protecting 108.2 hectares of forest, monitoring 485.24 hectares of peatland, and 121 kilometers of riverbanks along with 13,346 hectares of riparian zones. These conservation efforts continue to expand alongside FORTASBI's initiatives and the good agricultural practices implemented by independent smallholders.

From the RSPO certification obtained by its members, **FORTASBI has generated IDR 621 billion** over the past decade. This has also benefited **1,470 orphans**, provided scholarships, and enhanced human resources in areas surrounding sustainable palm oil plantations. Additionally, **122 female employees** across various smallholder groups have gained access to proper welfare benefits, while **246 female independent smallholders** receive fair wages for their good agricultural practices.

Apart from helping smallholders certified, FORTASBI also expands the reach of sustainable palm oil by training independent smallholder in various region in Indonesia. **In 10 Years FORTASBI has trained 16,923 smallholders**, reinforcing their commitment to sustainable palm oil farming.

FORTASBI will continue to collaborate with all stake holder to encourage and help independent smallholders to integrate into the sustainable palm oil supply chain. Smallholders continue to move forward, promoting sustainable palm oil, protecting ecosystems and ensuring decent livelihoods. Let's make an impact. [here](#)



APKSM; finally has a new office, after 5 years certified



Good news comes from the Independent Palm Oil Smallholders Association (APKSM), located in Kadipi Atas Village, Pangkalan Lada District, West Kotawaringin Regency, Central Kalimantan Province. The RSPO credit achieved has allowed APKSM, which was **certified in 2019**, to establish a new, more representative secretariat building. APKSM Group Manager Widodo said that this achievement was the result of the hard work of independent palm oil smallholders in implementing good plantation practices and complying with

"We hope that with this success, more and more smallholders will be encouraged to implement better plantation practices. Next year, we will increase the number of awards," he said.

Widodo explained that at the inauguration of the new secretariat and the awards ceremony on August 10, 2024, APKSM invited representatives from its 804 members, along with stakeholders, local government representatives, and representatives from RSPO and other palm oil cooperatives that have received RSPO certification without findings.

"We want to continue learning from cooperatives that have received certification without findings. This September, we plan to undergo our seventh RSPO audit, which will be combined with the ISPO audit," he said.

FORTASBI Chairman Sutiyo, who attended the inauguration and award ceremony, expressed pride in the achievements of APKSM's independent palm oil smallholders.

"Hopefully, they will not stop learning about sustainable palm oil and will continue to increase the productivity of independent palm oil smallholders for mutual prosperity," he said. Currently, APKSM has 804 members managing 1,748 hectares of land. This significant increase in membership occurred during the 2022-2023 period.

the RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C). "We received RSPO credit worth Rp 3.3 billion, and Rp 500 million was used to buy land and renovate the building used as our secretariat," he said. In addition to acquiring productive assets, APKSM also awarded independent smallholders who demonstrated the best implementation of the RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C). According to Widodo, at least **six smallholders received awards**. Each smallholder group registered two of their best independent palm oil smallholders to be assessed and awarded. →