

## How Do Independent Smallholder Groups, PPMH Fight Deforestation?



Dig deeper into the efforts of Perkumpulan Petani Mitra Harapan (PPMH), an RSPO-certified group of 310 independent smallholders in Ketapang District, West Kalimantan, who seek to maintain harmony between responsible palm oil practices and managing customary forests at once. To date, they maintain 30 hectares of customary forest in Asam Besar Village, and they are dedicated to preserving it, including preserving the trees and preventing the conversion of the forest into oil palm plantations.

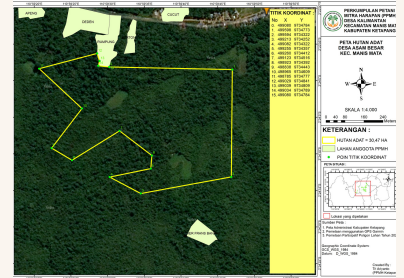
"We don't want to just take care of palm oil, the forest is also our life, so we have to protect and defend it," said Group Manager of PPMH, Sandi Priana.

In addition, the results of caring for trees in the customary

forest provide benefits to smallholders and residents, ranging from additional income and also self-consumption when the fruit on the trees is ready to harvest. Even porcupines and pangolins can live safely and comfortably, as part of the ecosystem and biodiversity of the forest area.

"Currently, we don't think about the carbon capture that can be generated from preserved customary forests. At least we can maintain a clean water supply, and even additional income from forest products," he said.

PPMH even uses satellite imagery to maintain forest boundaries as they recognize the long-term impact of their actions today on future generations. PPMH respects traditions and sustainable management



practices. They exemplify the harmonious coexistence of agriculture and forest conservation.

Customary forests are forests located in the territory of indigenous peoples or Masyarakat Hutan Adat (MHA). The community group, MHA, which has lived in a geographical area for generations, was formed due to ties to ancestral origins. It is important to acknowledge the environmental impact of preserving customary forests, as they contribute to maintaining clean water sources and supporting sustainable livelihoods. Check out the full article [here](#)

## PPMH Pilots Indonesia's First RSPO-Certified Physical FFB Distribution to Cargill

Sustainable palm oil trading practices in Indonesia have entered a new stage. Since February 5, 2024, one of the cooperatives under Perkumpulan Petani Mitra Harapan (PPMH), KUD Sinar Beraduk Jaya (SBJ), conducted a trial delivery of RSPO-certified physical Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) to the Paku Juang Mill, an RSPO-certified mill that is a subsidiary of Cargill Tropical Palm. Throughout this month, KUD SBJ supplied around 15-20 tons of FFBs per day.

PPMH Group Manager, Sandi Priana expressed his gratitude to be involved by Cargill in the physical trading of RSPO-certified FFBs, "This is more than just a transaction, it is a long-term partnership that aims to collectively improve sustainable palm oil governance", he said.

Cargill's Sustainability Lead, Yunita Widiastuti said the purchase of RSPO-certified FFBs from independent smallholders at the Paku Juang Mill was a trial involving them in the segregated product supply chain. Referring to [RSPO requirements](#), segregation ensures sustainable palm oil from different certified sources is kept separate from ordinary palm oil throughout the supply chain. This scheme also has the highest level of claims compared to other schemes such as Identity Preserved, Mass Balance, and Book and Claim.

In its commitment, Cargill plans to buy 100 percent RSPO-certified FFB, "Cargill is fully committed to supporting the physical trade of RSPO-certified FFB products produced by independent smallholders", she explained.



Not only with PPMH, Cargill plans to involve two other independent smallholder groups in the physical FFB trading process: Perkumpulan Petani Swadaya Mitra Hindoli (PPSMH) in Musi Banyuasin, South Sumatra, and Perkumpulan Petani Swadaya Ketapang (PPSK) in Air Upas Ketapang, West Kalimantan.

PPMH is located in Dusun Cinta Damai, Desa Kalimantan, Manismata Subdistrict, Ketapang Regency, with 310 certified smallholders managing 1365.5 hectares of land. During the RSPO certification process, PPMH was supported by Inisiatif Dagang Hijau (IDH) and JDE Peet's, Cargill, and field assistance from FORTASBI. You can access the complete story [here](#).