

## Build a Brighter Future for 521 Children through RSPO Credit Support



Children are the hope and future of our society, and it is our job to nurture and empower them. On **National Children's Day** celebrated every July 23 in Indonesia,

we shed light on the commendable efforts of smallholders who are going above and beyond to support children through their initiatives. Members of FORTASBI understand the importance of protecting children's rights and avoiding them from harm, including child labor in oil palm plantations so they have many ways to protect children through support from RSPO Credit.

Several models were done by **Gapoktan Tanjung Sehati** (Jambi), **Asosiasi Petani Berkah Mandah Lestari** (Jambi) **Koperasi Konsumen Bersatu Makmur Jaya** (North Sumatra) →

## Ahead of EUDR, Indonesian Smallholders Visited Malaysia

The recent European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) has raised concerns among independent



smallholders. It is very important to ensure that the regulation promotes inclusivity for smallholders.

In response to this, Indonesian independent smallholders who are members of FORTASBI, **Mutingah** (KUD Pemura, South Sumatra), and **Ade Akbar** (Koperasi Jasa Mutiara Kongbeng Group Manager, East Kalimantan), visited Malaysia to take part in the International Smallholders Workshop initiated by Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries, and involving smallholders from other countries such as Malaysia and Papua New Guinea.

Their participation was not only in sharing sustainable palm oil but also in increasing knowledge and understanding regarding one of the agendas that discuss EUDR.

Ade Akbar expressed his views regarding the EUDR, according to him, traceability of palm oil products entering the EU market will be one of the challenges faced, because not all smallholders partner with companies, "in addition, the time to implement the EUDR is quite short", he added, so a supporting system is needed so that this regulation can be implemented.

EUDR is an important step in promoting sustainable practices. However, to ensure inclusivity, smallholders must be empowered and supported within this regulatory framework. Encouraging the EU to consider **products from sustainable smallholder** groups to prioritize entering the EU market, **providing time, and adopting a step-wise approach** is essential. By doing so, we can build a more equitable future for smallholders and the palm oil industry as a whole.

Read the full article here: [#EUDR](#)

**KUD Sumber Rejeki** (South Sumatra), **KUD Mekarsari** (South Sumatra), and **Koperasi Sawit Bangkit** (Central Kalimantan). They provide a variety of initiatives in education, from scholarships, appreciation to outstanding children, and assistance for underprivileged children. By investing in educational initiatives, they ensure that children have access to quality education, opening doors to endless opportunities.

There are also several other movements such as training and tutoring conducted by **APKSM** and **Koperasi Belayan Sejahtera** both of which come from East Kalimantan. Through these initiatives, independent smallholders aim to inspire and nurture future leaders and change-makers, so that children will grow up to be compassionate and responsible leaders who will drive positive change in their communities.

Not only contributing to the educational aspect, but other cooperatives also assist to increase nutrition through the provision of healthy food by **KSU Makarti** in East Kalimantan. Recognizing the importance of proper nutrition for the overall development of children, smallholders ensure that children receive adequate nutrition.

At this moment, we celebrate the remarkable efforts of independent smallholders in Indonesia who prioritize the well-being and prospects of children. Through their commitment, these smallholders are made a lasting impact on the lives of a total of **521 children and more**, also made countless impacts. Let us acknowledge their endeavors and continue supporting initiatives that empower children, ensuring that they have the tools and support they need to thrive and create a brighter future for these young minds, a sustainable one for all.

## Strengthening Smallholders on National Cooperative Day



**National Cooperative Day** takes on new meaning this year, going beyond its usual celebrations and serving as a powerful call for change. Guided by an unwavering commitment to sustainability, the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs

joins hands with the RSPO to carve a groundbreaking path through a strong Memorandum of Understanding, to **strengthen independent smallholders'** capacity to accelerate the implementation of sustainable palm oil in Indonesia.

FORTASBI appreciates this step because this MoU will provide **broad benefits for smallholders**, "smallholders who are members of a cooperative will get many benefits. Especially for oil palm smallholders so that they can immediately carry out good and sustainable practices," said Sutyana, Chairman of the FORTASBI Advisory Board who attend the activity.

Apart from Sutyana, the RSPO Board of Governors from smallholders representatives, H. Narno (Chairman of FORTASBI) and Rukaiyah Rafik (Head of FORTASBI Secretariat) also witnessed the event which took place on 10 July 2023.