

# KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE IN IMPROVING INDEPENDENT OIL PALM PLANTATIONS

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Sintang District Head launching the Good Growth Partnership (GGP) Program, marking the start of the program in Sintang District on 19 December 2017.

### KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE IN IMPROVING INDEPENDENT OIL PALM PLANTATIONS

The success story of independent oil palm assistance since 2014 in Merarai Satu, Merarai Dua, and Suka Jaya Village, in Sungai Tebelian Sub-District, ignited WWF's steps to do the same in other villages in Sintang District. This is very reasonable considering that the oil palm plantation management practices implemented by independent smallholders has made oil palm as an

#### economic contributor for the region.

The Sintang District Government also positively responds to WWF's commitment in assisting independent oil palm smallholders. the cooperation continues. Efforts to promote sustainable oil palm management through assistance and strengthening the independent oil palm smallholders are reinstated.

WWF considers that early interventions in development and cultivation process are important. This is solely to ensure that independent oil palm plantations are developed in areas that are corresponding with the district's spatial plan, as well as to ensure a higher plantation productivity that still considers the environment.

Through full supports from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Good Growth Partnership Program was launched on 19 December 2017 at My Home Hotel in Sintang. This program aims to support sustainable commodity production in Sintang District.

The program is also focused in promoting sustainable development and management practices of independent oil palm smallholder's commodities, as one of the efforts to preserve forest areas and reduce the global impact of Greenhouse Gases (GHG).

Coinciding with the finalization of the National Action Plan *(NAP)* for Sustainable Palm Oil for 2018-2023 period which was led by the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil Forum *(FoKSBI)*, at the sub-national level, Regional Action Plan *(RAP)* for Sustainable Palm Oil in West Kalimantan Province was also promoted. In fact, at the district level, the Sintang District Government and WWF have promoted the establishment of Sustainable Palm Oil Forum in May 2018.

### The Good Growth Partnership Program targets the following four components as follow:

- 1. Dialogue, Action Planning, Policies and Enforcement;
- 2. Smallholder Support Systems;
- 3. Land Use Mapping and Planning;
- 4. Knowledge Management.

The program kick-off was opened by the Sintang District Head, Jarot Winarno, also attended by WWF-Indonesia representatives namely Aditya Bayunanda, Putra Agung, Hermayani Putera, Albertus Tjiu, Syahirsyah, Amri Yahya, Uray M Hasbi, Dedi Wahyudy, and Muhammad Munawir. Also present were representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, UNDP, Regional Apparatus Organizations *(OPD)* of Sintang District Government, Sintang Non-Government Organizations/Civil Society Organizations (NGO/CSO), Indonesian Palm Oil Entrepreneurs Association *(GAPKI)*, and the plantation commodity association of Sintang District.

A number of key points emerged during the program launching. Ari Agung from the Directorate of Plantation Product Processing and Marketing of the Directorate General of Plantation expressed his appreciation to the Sintang District Head for his commitment towards sustainable commodity development.

According to Ari, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia is committed to developing sustainable oil palm. One of the efforts to realize this commitment is that the Directorate General of Plantation has signed a joint agreement with UNDP through the Sustainable Palm Oil Initiative (SPOI) project which aims to support sustainable palm oil commodity development efforts through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

In October 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture has confirmed the establishment of Indonesian Palm Oil Platform which is the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil Forum *(FoKSBI)*. It consists of representatives from the government, private sectors, associations, and NGOs. *FoKSBI* serves to formulate, recommend and monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil *(NAP-SPO)*.

"FoKSBI has formed 4 (four) working groups, i.e. smallholder capacity, environmental management and monitoring, conflict management and mediation, and Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) and market access, "said Ari.

Meanwhile, Pisca Tias from UNDP conveyed several points, that Good Growth Partnership is a program funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), whereas its implementation is integrated into the SPOI. "SPOI is a collaborative program between the Government of Indonesia and UNDP which aims to accelerate the development of sustainable oil palm plantations, by strengthening multistakeholder cooperation," she explained.

According to Pisca, the GGP Production launched aims to contribute in addressing the various challenges in implementing sustainable development in the oil palm production sector. In addition, it also aims to reduce the global impact of various oil palm plantation development activities related to GHG and biodiversity. In relation to WWF's commitment, Aditya Bayunanda said that WWF encourages for sustainability to not only remain as an idea but to expand to the site level. "The process of expanding to the site level, inevitably, will require the government to play a central role," he said.

Furthermore, Aditya explained that development is not only based on the major things. Something small can be used as an example for the major efforts. "The tendency for commodity purchases in the world also requires clarity regarding origin and compliance to the environmental principles," he concluded.

The Sintang District Head, Jarot Winarno, said in his speech that the current trend of plantation development rests on sustainability commitments. "Developing without having to harm the current generations, and future generations by balancing economic, social and environmental aspects," he said.

Jarot said that Sintang has begun to apply the concept of Sustainable District. In fact, from the results of the mapping, there are approximately 2,000 hectares of Essential Ecosystem Area (*KEE*). "However, in the future, UNDP and WWF will assist the re-mapping, right?" he said.

Jarot acknowledged that Sintang does not have valid data on the number of independent oil palm smallholders. "There is no valid data available. I only wish for assistance for the oil palm plantation actors which is fair for the community. In principle, GGP can be developed with various stakeholders in Sintang District such as Sintang Freshwater Care (SFC), Oil Palm Farmers' Union *(SPKS)*, *Kontak Tani Nelayan Andalan (KTNA)*, etc., "he requested".



The Sintang District Head, Jarot Winarno delivered a speech at the Good Growth Partnership (GGP) program launching in Sintang.



The team discussed the location of Lepung Pantak Village in Ketungau Hilir Sub-District.

### FROM DIALOGUE TO ACTION PLANNING

After the launch of the Good Growth Partnership (GGP) Program at the end of 2017, WWF-Indonesia pioneers (Muhammad Munawir, Rico Pratama Putra, and Dedi Wahyudy) closed ranks. They immediately executed the mandate given by Component 1, namely building dialogue, action planning, policies, and enforcement.

#### **Building Dialogue at the Site Level**

Rico Pratama Putra was the first to "beat" this component on 14-18 February 2018. His focus was Sintang remote areas which are the target of the program. A number of villages were explored. Lepung Pantak, Setungkup, Baung Sengatap, Telaga Satu, and Telaga Dua Villages. These villages are located in Binjai Hulu and Ketungau Hilir Sub-District.

Rico conducted a field pre-survey to determine the location of the GGP program. This is also a series of program to support Sintang District Government in developing the District Plantation Master Plan, as well as an effort to reduce deforestation and promote sustainable commodity production in Sintang District.

Four aspects were targeted in the field pre-survey, namely biodiversity, spatial, social, and information on the independent oil palm smallholder's distribution. In Ketungau Hilir Sub-District, Rico found a number of key points for further in-depth study.

For the spatial aspect, the type of ecosystem in almost all villages are swamp, peat, and hills. In fact, there are still indications of key and protected species such as birds and primates, including orangutans. On the other hand, the existing peat is categorized as medium and deep peat.

Rico also identified a number of oil palm plantation companies near and surrounding the village, i.e. PT Sawit Khatulistiwa Lestari (PT SKL), PT North-Bonti Permai Jaya Raya (PT BPJR), PT South-Bonti Permai Jaya Raya (PT BPJR), PT Duta Rendra Mulya (PT DRM), and PT Satya Nusa Indah Perkasa (PT SNIP).

For the biodiversity aspect, the findings of the field pre-survey included the loss of several ecosystems and species such as fishes. Rico also proposed a model for the intensive management of Essential Ecosystem Areas, for peat ecosystems and wetlands.

For the social aspect, it is necessary to understand the community's perception about the importance of protecting conservation areas, forest areas, including peat ecosystems, customary forests, village forests, biodiversity, etc., hence land clearing for farming and independent oil palm plantations area will no longer occur. In relation to independent oil palm smallholders' distribution, the findings showed that there are approximately 50-60 households in Baung Sengatap Village and 40- 50 households in Lepung Pantak Village who switched their livelihoods by independently cultivating oil palm, and 7-15 households in Setungkup Village that own independent oil palm plantations.

In Binjai Hulu Sub-District, findings for the spatial aspect showed that the soil available in almost all villages are mineral soil and only a small portion of swamp/ lowland. Oil palm plantation companies located around the village are PT Sintang Agro Mandiri (PT SAM) and PT South-BPJR.

As the case with Ketungau Hilir Sub-District, the findings for the biodiversity aspect shows the decreasing population of some endangered and protected species. The community are also already aware of the regulations concering the riverbank area and that it must be protected as stated in the regulations.

For the social aspect, the two sub-districts targeted for the pre-survey shows some similarities, i.e. it is necessary to build an understanding of the community's perception regarding the importance of protecting conservation areas, forest areas, including customary forests, village forests, biodiversity, riverbanks, etc., hence land clearing for farming and independent oil palm plantations area no longer occur.

The majority of the community – both Telaga Satu and Telaga Dua Village – are from the Dayak Iban (Iban People) sub-tribe and some are transmigrants. The transmigrants then married with local people and then settled in. The majority of the community are Protestants and Muslims, also Catholics.

In terms of the aspect of independent oil palm smallholders' distribution, approximately 30-50 households in Telaga Satu Village, and 50-80 households in Telaga Dua Village own independent oil palm plantations. Most of the independent oil palm smallholders in Telaga Satu Village already hold land certificates and land evidence letter *(SKT)* for the legality of land ownership.

Based on interviews with the Secretary of Telaga Satu Village, 225 hectares of land is potentially being prepared to be planted with oil palm by independent oil palm smallholders.



The team explored the community land in Lepung Pantak Village.

### Pioneering the Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil (*RAP-SPO*)

Muhammad Munawir and Rico Pratama Putra took off to Bogor in the second week of May 2018. The two WWF-Indonesia representatives wanted to enrich their knowledge by participating in the Training Workshop on the Roles and Function of the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil Forum *(FoKSBI)*.

This training workshop was attended by participants from UNDP, Conservation International (CI), Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), WWF, and GGP project implementers from Liberia. The training facilitator was the Manager of the UNDP Green Commodities Programme, Nicolas Petit.

A number of materials were discussed, including the methodology of answering questions on: What-Who-How-When, Value of Stakeholders, Success Factors, and Knowledge Sharing. The ultimate goal is Collective Action for Change.

After undergoing the training, Muhammad Munawir and Rico Pratama Putra initiated the establishment of Sustainable Palm Oil Forum in Sintang District. The two WWF-Indonesia pioneers invited 40 participants for a discussion in Sintang.

The Head of Plantation Development of the Sintang Agriculture and Plantation Agency, Ir. Gunardi was asked to moderate the discussion. Some of the issues raised were independent smallholder database, productivity, inequity of the partnership/ plasma pattern, plantation conflicts, and subsidized fertilizers.

The outcome was an agreement to establish a Sustainable Palm Oil Forum for Sintang District. This forum was named the Sustainable Palm Oil Development Coordination Forum. The legality was proposed through a District Head Decree.

Taking the discussion evne further, Muhammad Munawir continued to follow-up on the initial discussion. Among others by preparing the draft Sintang District Head Decree on the Structure of the Sustainable Palm Oil Development Coordination Forum for Sintang District. This structure was also supported with job descriptions of each field.

The Sintang District Government jointly with WWF-Indonesia launched the Sustainable Palm Oil Development Coordination Forum for Sintang District on 21 -27 May 2018 – which established based on the Sintang District Head Decree Number: 525/305/KEP-DISTANBUN/2018. The launching was held in parallel with the Workshop on the Initiation for Preparation of the Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil (*RAP-SPO*) 2018-2023, and coordination discussion on the implementation of the GGP production project.

During the launching, *FoKSBI* of Sintang District was expected to be a medium to coordinate and integrate various oil palm programs by accommodating the interests of stakeholders.

The National *FoKSBI* and the Directorate General of Plantation – Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, also stated that this forum is led by the government. Its members consist of a number of stakeholders like NGOs, plantation companies, plantation smallholders, associations or other institutions related to oil palm development, including banking.

Nationally, *FoKSBI*'s priority is so oil palm smallholders can obtain an ISPO certification as the official standard and as a sign that smallholders already have implemented sustainable oil palm plantation practices.

According to the Sintang District Head, Jarot Winarno, the Sintang District Government is always pushing for existing NGOs/CSOs/Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to play a stronger role in supporting development in Sintang District. This forum is important to build trust among the oil palm industry actors. *FoKSBI* is also expected to play a role in conflict resolution in oil palm issues in Sintang District.

Some points drawn from the Workshop on the Initiation for Preparation of the Regional Action Plan are mapping the needs of the district and including several key components in the Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil (*RAP-SPO*).

In addition to the various initiatives above, Muhammad Munawir also visited oil palm plantation companies operating around the project target area. One of the companies is PT SAM. This company operates in Binjai Hulu Sub-District.

The goal is to prepare a work plan for the *RAP-SPO* in Sintang District. Munawir was accompanied by Rico Pratama Putra, Subarjo from the Agriculture and Plantation Office, and Yustus Laud as an *SPKS* representative.



West Kalimantan Program Manager of WWF-Indonesia, Albertus Tjiu delivered a speech at the Sintang District Sustainable Palm Oil Forum launching on 23 May 2018.

The meeting at PT SAM was a follow-up from the Workshop on the Initiation for the Preparation of the Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil *(RAP-SPO)*, where PT SAM played the role as the coordinator of the Plantation Management Sector. This meeting was also part of the approach to PT SAM, because the working area in Binjai Hulu Sub-District – namely Telaga Satu and Telaga Dua Villages – are adjacent to PT SAM's area. The goal is to explore the possibility for cooperation in the implementation of the assistance program for independent oil palm smallholders.

WWF continues to explore a number of plans that have been carried out to strengthen the context analysis of Sintang District *RAP-SPO* through the involvement of consultants from universities.

The consultant who will conduct the study is Prof. Dr. Gusti Zakaria Anshari from Tanjungpura University, Pontianak. A number of points that become the focus of this study describes the existing conditions of oil palm plantations in Sintang District compared to sustainable oil palm plantations.

The governance of oil palm plantation in Sintang District from the policy aspect is an important analysis in this study. Some secondary documents supporting the study are the Sintang District Spatial Plan (*RTRW*), Sintang District Medium-Term Development Plan (*RPJMD*), Strategic Plan of Sintang District Agriculture and Plantation Office, and National Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil.

To obtain inputs from the relevant stakeholders regarding the existing condition of oil palm plantations in Sintang District as materials for preparing the context analysis document for oil palm plantations – a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was held at My Home Hotel in Sintang. The FGD was attended by 40 participants from the government, companies, local NGOs/CSOs. The FGD was facilitated by the consultant who will prepare the context analysis document for sustainable oil palm in Sintang District. The FGD indicated that there is already a common understanding in viewing deforestation as a reduction of forest area used for other purposes.

The technical discussion related to Sintang District's vision, mission, objectives, targets, strategies, and policies on sustainable palm oil was held on 6-9 August 2018. Likewise, the identification of the action plan for each sector/field of the Sintang District Sustainable Palm Oil Development Forum became the center of attention.

The discussion produced agreements on several matters, including the systematics of the Sintang District *RAP-SPO*. At the same time, Draft 1 of the Sintang District *RAP-SPO* was discussed involving 52 participants from private companies, local governments, academicians, financial institutions, and NGOs/CSOs.

The duties and functions of each sector/field are comprehensively reviewed. Starting from the plantation business, plantation management, environment, corporate social responsibility, to economic empowerment and sustainable business improvement. This multi-stakeholder meeting continued on 14-15 October 2018 in Sintang. The stakeholders met again and discussed the Draft 2 of the Sintang District *RAP-SPO*.

Not only playing at the district level, WWF continues to take strategic steps up to the provincial level. This institution contributed to the Provincial Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil in West Kalimantan Province which was held in Pontianak on 7-9 November 2018.

The MTI Coordinator of WWF-Indonesia, Muhammad Munawir, attended the meeting. This discussion aims to re-discuss the draft of the latest Provincial Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil *(RAP-SPO)* in West Kalimantan Province which was carried out in July 2018 then adjusted it to the format of the *NAP-SPO*.

WWF then continued its efforts to finalize the Draft Provincial Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil in West Kalimantan Province for public consultation. The MTI Coordinator, Muhammad Munawir, took part in a meeting held in Pontianak on 12-15 November 2018.

The preparation of the final draft for material in the public consultation of *RAP-SPO* for West Kalimantan Province was completed. The discussion was opened by the Head of West Kalimantan Province Plantation Office with a number of directives.

Upon returning to Sintang District, WWF and the Sintang District Government then held a Public Consultation on the Sintang District Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil *(RAP-SPO)* on 21 - 24 November 2018.



Group discussion on the draft Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil in Sintang District.

The public consultation was opened by the Administrative Assistant, Abdul Syufriadi, and attended by 85 participants from the local governments, plantation companies, farmer associations, cooperatives, and CSOs/CBOs in Sintang District.

The *RAP-SPO* material was presented by Arif Setya Budi as the Secretariat Coordinator of the Sustainable Palm Oil Development Coordination Forum *(FKPKSB)* of Sintang District with Hartono from the Agricultural Institute *(Instiper)* of Jogjakarta as the moderator.

In general, the participants of the public consultation accepted the documents that have been prepared by *FKPKSB*. However, there were some notes from the participants. For example, Widian from the Sintang Regional Development Planning Agency (*Bappeda*) suggested that conservation cadres training activities be included in the 2019 budget.

Dharmanata from the Sintang Environmental Office expressed his appreciation towards the finalization of *RAP-SPO* document. He showed concerns on the certainty that the *RAP-SPO* could be implemented as planned.

After the public consultation, WWF-Indonesia followed up by finalizing the Sintang Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil. This process was initiated by Muhammad Munawir on 3-5 December 2018 in Sintang.

At this stage, in terms of principle, the Regional Secretary of Sintang District as the chairman of the Sintang District Sustainable Palm Oil Development Coordination Forum welcomed support from stakeholders onwards the implementation.

Muhammad Munawir also coordinated with the Legal Division of the Sintang Regional Secretariat and discussed the legality of the *RAP-SPO* document that would be finalized. The outcome of the discussion is agreeing that the *RAP-SPO* will be legalized through a District Head Regulation and this document as an appendix of the regulation. As a result, the *RAP-SPO* document was then legalized through the Sintang District Head Regulation Number 87 of 2018 dated 3 December 2018.

After all documents have been finalized, Muhammad Munawir continued his mission by discussing the planned document design for the *RAP-SPO* with a consultant in Pontianak on 21-23 December 2018. "This *RAP-SPO* will be printed and distributed to the stakeholders", he said.

Discussions on the visual design of the Sintang District *RAP-SPO* 2018-2023 provided some inputs. Among others to add supporting photos to the printed document.

#### **Promoting Regulations on the Management of Protected Lakes**

Racing against the time, Dedi Wahyudy took part in this component. The initial step was to hold an FGD on the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and District Head Regulation on the Protection of Local Areas on 19 April 2018 in Sintang. A number of *OPD* representatives were present.

As a result, all the attending *OPD* agreed to unify all of the initiatives into an MoU to oversee the current and future cooperation programs. On the other hand, thematic of the regulation on the local protected area that gained the most attention is the management of protected lakes and riverbanks.

In addition to the FGD, Dedi also conducted a meeting with Dr. Hermansyah, a legal consultant from Tanjungpura University, Pontianak on 15-16 April 2018. They discussed the plan to promote environmental governance policies in Sintang District.

From the meeting, Hermansyah analyzde from the output of activities and suggested the need for a comprehensive and normative preliminary study from the legal aspect. The study will produce recommendations for strategic policy measures.

The consultant required several materials, including the *RTRW*, Local Regulations *(Perda)* concerning the environment and some documents of activities related to the protection and management of peat, lakes, rivers, etc. Furthermore, from the results of the study of those materials, the consultant will try to compile a list of needs and tentative agendas, including timeline and output indicators.

Dedi Wahyudy then proceeded to focus on the Draft District Head Regulation concerning Riparian Management. Stakeholders were invited to have a discussion on 9 July 2018 in Sintang. This discussion was attended by district government representatives and NGOs.

The stakeholder meeting particularly focused on the discussion of the Draft District Regulations on Riparian Management. As a result, inputs and changes in several clauses have been given to the consultant for further formulation.

Dedi Wahyudy then held a Coordination Meeting on the Preparation of the Local Protection Area Activities at the Bappeda Hall of Sintang District on 17 September 2018.

This meeting produced a number of inputs such and the consultant will formulate all information from stakeholders to build a scientific study. This scientific study is targeted to be completed in mid-October 2018.

To enrich capacity, Dedy Wahyudi also invited Sintang OPD to conduct a study visit to Meliau Sub-Village, Melemba Village, Batang Lupar Sub-District, Kapuas Hulu District on 14-17 November 2018.

The objective of the study visit is directly see the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (PSDABM) process in the context of village development.

Through discussions with stakeholders in Melemba Village, participants were able to understand the history, governance, and functions of protected lakes for communities and the village. Participants also gained further understanding about the technical management of lakes and ecotourism objects in Melemba Village.

The results of this study visit strengthened the team, even more, to promote the regulation on protected lakes in Sintang District. Therefore, the protection and management of lakes in Sintang District is accommodated through the Sintang District Head Regulation Number 88 of 2018 dated 3 December 2018.



Discussion promoting the formulation of policies related to protected lakes.

Discussion on the District Head Regulation concerning protected lakes.

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The team mapping independent oil palm smallhold er plantations.

**SUPPORT FOR** WWF carried out a number of strategies to implement Component 2 of the Good Growth **SMALLHOLDERS** Partnership Program. This component directly targets the life of the smallhold directly targets the life of the smallholders. Collaboration between the Sustainable Palm

> Oil Technical Officer, Rico Pratama Putra, and Community Enterprise Officer, Kusmiyati from WWF-Indonesiasufficiently address the challenges ahead.

#### **Building the Smallholders' Database**

The initial stage of intervention to the independent oil palm smallholders in the program site was to collect social, economic and environmental information according to the smallholders' perception. In this case, the database was built using the Training Needs Assessment (TNA) tool.

This process started with a training using the TNA for field enumerators. The field enumerators are from the nature lovers student community (Mapala) of Kapuas University, Sintang. This activity was held in Sintang on 2-3 May 2018, with Muhammad Munawir as the trainer.

After the training, the enumerator team headed to the field to collect data on 5 - 25 May 2018 in Telaga Satu, Telaga Dua, Baung Sengatap, Lepung Pantak, and Setungkup Villages. In addition to the socio-economic and environmental conditions, this document also discussed the capacity building needs for smallholders.

The next step is to map the independent oil palm plantations that are members of farmer groups (Gapoktan) at the program site. Similar to the TNA, this mapping also involved a team from Mapala of Kapuas University, Sintang.

Data Base and Spatial Planning Analysis of WWF-Indonesia, Rachmad Hafiz Zulfifar Alkadrie then conducted training for the team to agree on the data and information needed. This measurement was carried out using a Global Positioning System (GPS) device to obtain the meeting point (polygon).

Through this measurement, the location of each independent oil palm smallholder plantation can be detected, including whether it is in a forest area or areas for other use (APL). It is important to advocate the government. Among others is the need for the plantation's legal aspect in the form of a Plantation Registration Certificate for Cultivation (STD-B).



#### **Building the Capacity of Smallholders**

Kusmiyati practically plays an important role in this component. Her expertise in providing assistance to the community serves as a basic capital in carrying out a series of activities mandated by the Good Growth Partnership Program.

Her first debut was conducting a Training on the Best Management Practices/BMP – Good Agriculture Practices/GAP (institutional, nursery, and oil palm cultivation techniques) for independent oil palm smallholders in Telaga Satu and Telaga Dua Villages. The activity, which took place on 20-30 October 2018 in two villages was attended by relevant parties, including officials from the Sintang Agriculture and Plantation Office.

The information dissemination and training on nurseries for independent oil palm smallholders was conducted by the government in cooperation with WWF-Indonesia for the first time. Almost all independent oil palm smallholders in Telaga Satu and Telaga Dua Villages do not understand the process of obtaining certified seeds/seedlings.

The training material on oil palm nurseries focused more on nurseries with superior seeds and clear origins, also referring to the Minister of Agriculture Regulation Number: 50/Permentan/KB.020/9/2015 concerning the Production, Certification, Circulation and Supervision of Plantation Seeds and referring to the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia Decree Number: 31/Kpts/KB.020/10/2015 concerning the Guidelines for the Production, Certification, Distribution, and Supervision of Oil Palm Seedlings.

The development of oil palm plants must use superior seeds. Regenerative seed production is carried out to ensure the sustainable availability of seeds. On the other hand, the aim of nurseries certification is to maintain the purity of varieties and maintaining the quality of seeds as well as providing assurance to the users.

The smallholders in Telaga Satu and Telaga Dua Villages were advised to cultivate non-oil palm commodities such as rubber, coconut, cocoa, pepper, or gamal if they still have vacant land. Therefore, when the price of oil palm falls, the community would still have income to support their family and do not entirely depend on oil palm commodities. This is part of an effort to promote diversification of commodities for smallholders.

After the BMP-GAP Training, Kusmiyati continued the mapping of independent oil palm smallholders in Baung Sengatap Village. The mapping, which was conducted on 26-30 November 2018 targeted three sub-villages, namely Tanjung Semunti, Baung Hilir, and Banjur. The mapping process was conducted with the approval of the local village apparatus, including traditional leaders.

Discussions on technical mapping and identification of the number of independent oil palm smallholders was conducted at the Tanjung Semunti Sub-Village meeting hall, on 26 November 2018.

Based on the results of the interim mapping, there was a total of 50 independent oil palm smallholders in Baung Hilir, 84 in Tanjung Semunti, 30 in Pedadang Hulu, and 3 in Banjur. The total number of independent oil palm smallholders in Baung Sengatap Village reached 167 smallholders.

After conducting a series of mapping in the program's target villages, WWF also planned to build a demonstration plot in Telaga Satu and Telaga Dua Villages. Kusmiyati attempted to implement the plan on 18-23 November 2018. A multiparty discussion was established, especially with the smallholders and leaders at the site level.

WWF tried to convince smallholders that capacity building and demonstration plots are intended to make Telaga Satu and Telaga Dua Village as examples for other villages in terms of independent oil palm management.

Furthermore, Kusmiyati carried out the mission of establishing a joint farmer group *(Gapoktan)*. Together with Rico Pratama Putra, Kusmiyati headed to Baung Sengatap Village, Ketungai Hilir Sub-District. They chose Tanjung Semunti Sub-Village as the location for a meeting with the independent oil palm smallholders. This meeting took four days, from 24 - 27 November 2018.

The meeting also identified some data of the estimated number of independent oil palm smallholders in Baung Sengatap Village, i.e. reaching 102 smallholders. The establishment of this joint farmer group *(Gapoktan)* will be followed up with similar steps in four other sub-villages. Especially those related to the agreement to finalize the management of *Gapoktan* and legitimation of the Minutes on the Establishment of *Gapoktan* Baung Sengatap. The minutes that has been signed by several parties will be submitted to the Agriculture and Plantation Office in Sintang.

In addition, it was also agreed that the *Gapoktan* and Field Extension Officers (PPL) would hold a meeting to discuss the *Gapoktan* working program and the regulations on *Gapoktan* operations (AD/ART). Including data collection on independent oil palm smallholder members, hence all of the smallholders' names in Baung Sengatap are listed in the Extension Information System (*Simluh*) of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Field Agricultural Extension Officer giving some directions to the independent oil palm smallholders.



#### **Exploring the Opportunity for Cooperation**

The MTI Coordinator of WWF-Indonesia, Muhammad Munawir, also contributed to this component. A number of tasks had to be completed. Starting from a visit and discussion with the management of PT Sintang Agro Mandiri (PT SAM), and supporting the UNDP gender consultant.

Munawir visited PT SAM's concession area in Binjai Hulu Sub-District on 4-5 June 2018. He was accompanied by Rico Pratama Putra, Subarjo from the Sintang Agriculture and Plantation Office, and SPKS representative Yustus Laud.

In addition to visiting the management of the oil palm plantation company, they also wanted to discuss the work plan for the Sintang Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil. This meeting was also part of the approach to PT SAM to explore the opportunity for cooperation in the implementation of assistance programs for independent oil palm smallholders.

Muhammad Munawir's other role was to support the UNDP gender consultant in in collecting information on the role of women in oil palm plantations. The target of this visit was Telaga Satu Village. Together with Rico Pratama Putra and the consultant, they departed from Sintang to Telaga Satu on 15-17 July 2018.

The information was collected by conducting interviews using questionnaires with 30 female smallholders as the respondents. The core questions were about the general family information, the role of women in the household, and expected training. The results of this interview will be analyzed in an FGD.



Visiting and having a discussion with the management of PT. SAM in Binjai Hulu Sub-District.



WWF-Indonesia Staff, Rachmad Hafiz explaining on how to fill in the table for High Conservation Value identification.

### DIGGING SPATIAL DATA AT THE SITE LEVEL

One of the keys to the success of a program is data. Data is the plural form of *datum*, a Latin word which means "something given". In daily use, data refers to a statement that is received as it is. Therefore, data is a record of a collection of facts. The Good Growth Partnership (GGP) journey will be half-hearted if it is

not supported by accurate data. With data, success indicators can be measured.

The Data Base and Spatial Planning Analysis of WWF-Indonesia, Rachmad Hafiz Zulfifar Alkadrie started his efforts. Based on his expertise, he manages Component 3 of the GGP Program. This component focuses more on aspects of land use planning and mapping.

Hafiz's work began with spatial data collection, preliminary studies and survey design on the identification of Critical Land Areas (CLA) using High Conservation Value (HCV), High Carbon Stock (HCS), and Essential Ecosystems Area (KEE) tools in Sintang District on 20-21 September 2018.

The spatial data collected included the location permit for plantations in Sintang District. The steps taken were that Hafiz and the team identified forest areas of at least 100 hectares as the target for the study from land cover interpretations of the 2015 spot imagery been overlain with the 2018 Landsat; the classification was reviewed and adjusted to the Indonesian National Standard *(SNI)* 7645-1:2014 concerning the classification of land cover part 1; and small and medium scale.

On 4-14 September 2018 Hafiz re-established the coordination related to CLA identification with the Sintang District Government and also prepared the documents. He involved a number of stakeholders, including representatives of the Sintang Agriculture and Plantation Office as the leading sector and other relevant regional apparatus organizations.

In that meeting, several stakeholders expressed their opinions. Gunardi from the Sintang Agriculture and Plantation Agency stated the legal basis for planning, such as Law No. 39 of 2014 concerning Plantations, Minister of Agriculture Regulation No. 08/Permentan/kb.400/2/2014 concerning Spatial-Based Planning Guidelines.

Meanhile, WWF-Indonesia represented by Amri Yahya focused more on the macro planning aspects for plantations in Sintang, program implementation, project output components, and policy direction.

Prof. Dr. Dwi Astiani, a consultant representative assigned to conduct Critical Land Areas identification as a direction for managing areas with protection and cultivation functions, was also present in the meeting.

The results of the meeting described that Sintang District, which consists of 14 sub-districts, has different characteristics. The preparation of the Plantation Macro Planning supported by WWF-Indonesia is expected to help local governments and the communities, especially smallholders and plantation business actor, in determining and maximally increasing their commodity productivity.

This certainly requires a holistic study. Especially from a social, economic, cultural and environmental aspect. This is where Dwi Astiani plays a role as a consultant from the Faculty of Forestry, Tanjungpura University to work on the environmental field. Likewise, with Dr. Emi Roslinda, also a consultant from the Faculty of Forestry, who is in charge of conducting studies on social, cultural, and economic aspects.

In relation to the CLA identification plan, a number of inputs arised. For example, in terms of district spatial planning, the documents produced will serve as a new reference for the government. This document is actually an affirmative document that can be followed up and complied.

In terms of development planning, Bappeda Sintang data shows that 500,000 hectares out of the 800,000 hectares of land available are plantations. This means that more than 300,000 hectares land is not used by companies. There are other development plans such as the housing industry, natural dye extraction, green schools, and livestock farming. Therefore, this development plan should ideally be aligned.

In response, Amri Yahya said that there were always consequences behind a policy. Therefore, in-depth studies are needed, especially in areas for other uses (APL). These areas consist of open land, of which the utilization is not just limited to the agriculture and plantation sectors. Nevertheless, public facilities and settlements can also be built. As partners, relevant stakeholders can play a role as facilitators and still consider other sectors.

Another opinion came from the Sintang Environmental Office. One of the *OPDs* in Sintang emphasized on the importance of peat swamp protection. Meaning that the preparation of this macro plan also has to evaluate the peat swamp map because it is continuously revised.

In addition, the Production Forest Management Unit (*KPHP*) for North/East Sintang only expects that the draft macro plan would be aligned with the existing Long-Term Management Plan (*RPJP*). Because 95% of the North/East Sintang *KPHP* area is included in the District Strategic Area (*KSK*) and this requires synchronization with the CLA document.

Arif Setya Budi, a representative of the Sintang Agriculture and Plantation Office, gave the key word that his party expected the plantation macro plan would only modify areas that had already been utilized or existed. Because this is a treatment to halt the rate of land degradation which has already occurred.

Rachmad Hafiz worked hard juggling a full schedule. Discussions on the establishment of Sintang plantation planning document preparation team and preparation for HCV and HCS surveys were carried out on 13-31 October 2018.

Discussions were held in three different locations, at the WWF office in Pontianak and Sintang, and at the sub-district or village office that included in the transect point. In addition to determining survey locations to measure the depth of peat land, the team also determined the number of villages and timing to conduct the surveys and studies.

On 5 November 2018, Hafiz visited the Spatial Planning and Land Agency Office and Public Works Ofice in Sintang District. This visit was to discuss the establishment of Sintang plantation planning document preparation team as well as the HCV and HCS survey preparation.

This meeting discussed the teams involved in the preparation of the district plantation planning, also HCV and HCS surveys. Moreover, the legal basis of the planned activity, namely West Kalimantan Local Regulation No. 6 of 2018 concerning Sustainable Land-Based Business Management was also discussed.

The regulation states that all business permits shall have a conservation area of at least 7% of the total area under the business permit. Therefore, the company must also be involved in this activity in addition to the relevant *OPD*, NGOs, and financial institutions.

Discussion after discussion continued to take place. The Data Base and Spatial Planning Analysis of WWF-Indonesia, Rachmad Hafiz Zulfifar Alkadrie then decided to carry out a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on the social, economic, and cultural identification as well as community important areas in Sintang District.

FGDs were held in two different locations on 19 November - 1 December 2018. At the Faculty of Forestry - Tanjungpura University in Pontianak and in the target subdistricts in Sintang.

Coordination steps were taken to finalize the meeting with the OPD and 14 subdistricts throughout the Sintang District. A technical briefing for the FGD in the field was also discussed. In addition, it was also agreed that five teams will be assigned to work in the field.

Team 1 was assigned in Ketungau Hulu and Ketungau Tengah Sub- Districts. Team 2 in Ketungau Hilir and Binjai Hulu Sub-Districts. Team 3 in Kayan Hilir and Kayan Hulu Sub-Districts. Team 4 in Serawai and Ambalau Sub-Districts. Team 5 in Sepauk, Dedai, Sintang, Tempunak, Sui. Tebelian, and Kelam Permai Sub- Districts.

The results of all the team's work were then reviewed to identify the field findings that can be used as the basic material for policy making. The HCV 5 and HCV 6 in all sub-districts were finally identified. Ranging from carbohydrate sources for local communities, protein, clean water, wood, medicinal plants, customs and culture, and historic sites.



Photo session with independent oil palm smallholders.

### WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS SUCCESS

The key to the success of a program is togetherness. By working together, heavy burdens can be borne without causing any problems. The key is transparency. This is the only way that all components and personals can compensate for each other's weaknesses.

#### Self-Evaluation

The MTI Coordinator of WWF-Indonesia, Muhammad Munawir felt something amiss during the program implementation. The results of the monitoring and evaluation of activities implementated in Quarter 1 (January – March) 2018 indicated slow progress. A number of activities had not been carried out according to plan. Therefore, on 22-24 March 2018, Albertus Tjiu, Dedi Wahyudy, Uray M Hasbi, Amri Yahya, Lia Syafitri, and UNDP representative Pisca Tias had a meeting.

In addition to the delay in the implementation of activities, a number of other internal issues arose. Among others, financial absorption only reached 20%, and assets have not been purchased. This condition indicates the need for better strategy in future implementation of activities.





After several checks, the trigger of the problem above was that the activities agenda implemented by WWF is still participatory in nature and only limited to prioritizing NGO values. On the other hand, the distribution of WWF resources has not been well consolidated. In addition, the numerous activities of other projects made it slightly difficult for time management and for the staff to focus on their work. In relation to asset purchases, some financial changes also affect the execution.

The agreement reached in that occasion was that the next strategy needed was to well-distribute the role of each person/staff through the work plan for the next quarter. Through this approach, the activities could be implemented simultaneously and without having to wait for other activities.

The monitoring and evaluation scheme of the UNDP program is conducted quarterly. The WWF team and UNDP representative coordinated with the Sintang District Government for the second monitoring and evaluation on 9-13 July 2018. The meeting was held at the Sintang District Agriculture and Plantation office on 13 July 2018. The discussion resulted in a number of points.

Those points are the importance of directing the company's CSR for community empowerment around the plantation area, not only focused on building basic infrastructures. Other points are the problem among smallholders who are still struggling with the procurement of production facilities, road infrastructure, GAP, etc.

The outcome from the meeting with the local government were then followed up with a visit to PT Sintang Agro Mandiri to initiate a cooperation plan regarding independent oil palm farmers empowerment in the PT SAM area.

A meeting with the company management revealed that basically, PT SAM welcomed the cooperation plan to support independent oil palm smallholders within the company area. Another agreement was to prepare a plan for cooperation between the Sintang District Government, PT SAM, and WWF in the form of a pilot project. The cooperation scheme includes purchasing FFB, agronomic workers, etc.

On 12-13 August 2019 the UNDP Global Manager, Pascale Bonzom had the opportunity to directly visit the project site. At the same time, a Focus Group Discussion was also held to develop a context analysis on sustainable oil palm in Sintang District, this was facilitated by Prof. Gusti Z Ansari from Tanjungpura University, Pontianak. This discussion resulted in a common understanding among stakeholders on the issue of deforestation and Sintang District self-portrait using a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknessess, Opportunities, Threats) analysis.

In this occasion, the UNDP Global Manager also had the opportunity to directly meet with the Sintang District Head to discuss global deforestation and oil palm issues. The Sintang District Head expressed his appreciation to UNDP and WWF for their work in Sintang and reiterated Sintang District's commitment in promoting sustainable commodity production.

Efforts to improve program implementation management continue to be intensified. The Communication and Outreach Coordinator of WWF-Indonesia, Lia Syafitri also took part in supporting a number of program achievements. Among others by organizing several meetings, both internally and with a consultant. The meeting was held at Harris Hotel Pontianak on 21-23 October 2018.

This coordination meeting was a follow-up of the third UNDP monitoring and evaluation results conducted in early October 2018. This meeting was also effectively used to present the draft UNDP project communication strategy from consultant, as well as to discuss plans for Component 4 activities in 2019.



Dr. Hermansyah, a legal expert from the University of Tanjungpura Pontianak delivering inputs on the draft Policy Brief related to the oil palm sustainable trading system in Sintang District.

#### **Developing a Communication Strategy**

Referring to a number of achievements in all components, WWF considers that it is important to convey the issues to the public. The Communication and Outreach Coordinator of WWF-Indonesia, Lia Syafitri conducted another field visit. Lia intended to convey a number of program achievements to the public. The decision was to conduct a media gathering on 29 November 2018 at Grand Asoka Room, Ibis Hotel Pontianak.

The theme of the press conference was "Towards Sustainable Oil Palm Development in Sintang District". This strategic step was carried out to disseminate information related to programs and conservation work performed by WWF, especially on the issue of sustainable independent oil palm plantations in Sintang District, and also to maintain good relations and stay in touch with the journalists.

The Media Gathering was attended by 17 journalists from 15 media. Namely representatives of Pontianak Post, Tribun Pontianak, LKBN Antara of West

Kalimantan, RRI Pontianak, Suara Pemred, Suara Kalbar, Rakyat Kalbar, Kun Dian Ri Bao, Kapuas Post, Kompas.com, Akcayanews.com, Okezone.com, Student Press of IAIN, Volare Radio, and Ruai TV.

This Media Gathering was held through CV Pemuda Masa Kini, a company offering communication consulting services. A number of WWF staff (Syahirsyah, Putra Agung, Muhammad Munawir, and Lia Syafitri) also took part in this media gathering.

Syahirsyah facilitated the discussion by explaining about WWF's assistance program through several sustainable oil palm management projects in West Kalimantan.

According to Syahirsyah, this activity is quite often conducted as a media for sharing information. WWF asked the journalists to take part in obtaining information on conservation. "Today, we will share the information on sustainable oil palm," he said.

In 2017, WWF received support from UNDP for a sustainable oil palm program. UNDP supports the efforts that have been carried out since 2014, i.e. assistance for independent oil palm smallholders.

Furthermore, Syahirsyah explained that oil palm is growing rapidly, especially in Sintang. There are 47 oil palm companies in Sintang and the number of smallholders are also growing rapidly. Fatalities will occur if this rapid development is not accompanied or followed by good knowledge of agriculture. Therefore, WWF attempeted to provide assistance.



Sustainable Palm Oil Manager of WWF-Indonesia, Putra Agung presented WWF's strategy in promoting sustainable palm oil in Indonesia to the journalists in a Media Gathering in Pontianak in November 2018.

The Sustainable Palm Oil Manager of WWF-Indonesia, Putra Agung explained about WWF-Indonesia's strategy in promoting sustainable oil palm in Indonesia.

He explained that oil palm was first brought to Indonesia by Dr. D.T. Price, a total of four seedlings (2 seedlings from Bourbon-Mauritius, 2 seedlings from Amsterdam) were brought and planted in the Bogor Botanical Garden in 1848. At that time, oil palm was used as an aesthetic or ornamental plant. The plant then started to be commercially cultivated in 1911 on the eastern coast of Sumatera (Deli to be precise).

The pioneer of the oil palm plantation business in Indonesia was Adrien Hallet, a Belgian citizen. There was 5,123 hectares of plantations that year covering Deli and Aceh. During the Dutch colonization, oil palm plantations rapidly expanded to the extent that it could replace the dominance of African exports at that time. The development of oil palm experienced a setback during the Japanese colonization.

That was the history of oil palm in Indonesia. The four seedlings and its derivatives can still be found in the Bogor Botanical Garden to this day. Research carried out by experts shows that oil palm can only grow in a tropical climate. As a result, oil palm can grow well in Indonesia, Amazonia, and other tropical countries. Agung added that many factors increased the popularity of oil palm. For example, only needed 0.27 hectares of land is needed to produce 1 metric per ton area of commodities. As comparison, soybean requires 2.63 hectares, sunflower requires 2.08 hectares, and rapeseed requires 1.49 hectares. In terms of effectiveness and productivity, nothing beats oil palm.

In Indonesia, said Agung, a total of 11.7 hectares of oil palm plantations have been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. Howeverfrom WWF-Indonesia's data from the field indicates that the total plantation area exceeds the data published by the government. The government data does not cover oil palm in illegal forest areas.

In terms of increase, the private sector has greatly increased land area. The increase in land area from 2009 to 2017 is relatively high for smallholders. Unfortunately, this was not followed by a boost in productivity. The independent smallholders still lack knowledge in good managemend of oil palm.

Based on records, the largest production area in Indonesia is located in Riau Province. Followed by North Sumatera, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan and South Sumatera (based on order). In terms of productivity, West Kalimantan ranks fifth among the provinces with the largest oil palm plantation area.

Agung also explained about the impacts of irresponsible oil palm plantation management. For WWF, he said, oil palm is not an issue. Oil palm is a commodity like rubber, cinnamon, pepper, etc. The problem lies in the fact that oil palm is cultivated in national parks, in protected forests, degrading large forests areas, causing social conflicts, or convert wildlife habitats.

The impacts caused by oil palm are among others: exploitation of workers with low wages, loss of biodiversity, decrease in water quality, climate change, and deforestation. These are the impacts of the unsustainable management in several sites.

WWF's target is that in the next five years there will be no more deforestation caused by the expansion of oil palm plantations and 25% of palm oil production will be under the RSPO scheme. At present, approximately 1.8 million hectares have been RSPO certified. It is expected that the certified land area will increase to 25% in the next five years.

"How do we do that?" Agung asked. First, by working in five locations in Indonesia (Northern and Central Sumatra, Hulu Kapuas Landscape, Sebangau-Katingan Landscape, and Southern Papua), promoting sustainable demand for domestic consumption.

Indonesia's role in the oil palm sector is quite unique. Indonesia is the largest producer in the world, yet we are also the second largest consumer in the world. The domestic palm oil market is very large. Therefore, we also need to carry out interventions towards behavior and consumers, because awareness is still lacking. In addition, a pilot jurisdictional approach must also be implemented. The Market Transformation Initiative Coordinator of WWF- Indonesia, Muhammad Munawir, also explained about some oil palm-related programs in West Kalimantan in Sintang, Kapuas Hulu, and Melawi. "We are currently discussing about the support from UNDP and GGP. The main idea is reducing deforestation through sustainable commodity production, "he said.

Munawir said that WWF has started to assist independent oil palm plantations in Sungai Tebelian Sub-District in Sintang in 2014. Another thing that became the focus was the support from the Sintang District Government because Sintang District has declared itself as a Sustainable District.

In the context of an approach through sustainable commodity, Munawir continued, WWF encouraged agreement and joint planning as outlined in paralegal policies at the district level. WWF also supports independent smallholders at the site level, land use, and published their efforts. The focus of this project is Binjai Hulu and Ketungau Hilir Sub-District.

Furthermore, Munawir explained that in the context of intervention, the first thing to do was to involve multi-stakeholders and bind them through a joint forum and develop a joint action plan. These two contexts are reinforced by regional policies through a District Head Decree and District Head Regulation.

The District Head Regulation concerning protected lakes was used to promote policies on oil palm and conservation in Sintang District. There are 12 lakes affected by oil palm companies in Sintang. These lakes are very important for the Sintang community.

The next step is to build a system and promoting sustainable oil palm to the independent smallholders. The root of the problem for independent smallholders is limited access, both access to information and technology. Therefore, the lack of knowledge of smallholders about seedlings, peatland and so on, resulted in the concept of cultivation not being well implemented. This could be due to the imbalance of information from the government and conditions in the field. It is very necessary to develop a model to influence other independent smallholders.

For land use, we use High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) tools. After the analysis has been completed, guidelines on which areas in Sintang District can be managed for plantations and which cannot will be available. This activity will produce a document. In the future WWF encourages the issuance of the Sintang District Plantation Plan.

Last but not least, the smallholders' knowledge in the field shall be explored and exchange with other smallholders shall be facilitated. At present, the transfer of knowledge is not only from external parties but can be applied farmer to farmer who have experiences from previous programs.\*

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Jimmy Syahirsyah facilitated the media gathering in Pontianak, one of the strategic steps to disseminate information on sustainable oil palm assistance programs for independent smallholders in Sintang District to the public is through media reporting/publication.



Muhammad Munawir presented about the Good Growth Partnership Program to the journalists.

# **WWF-Indonesia in numbers**

## 1962



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WWF-Indonesia engages in conservation work in more than 28 field offices, from Aceh to Papua

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