

Ghana's Palm Oil Industry Smallholders and Sustainability

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What is palm oil?

- Plant= Elaeis guineensis or Elaeis oleifera
- Palm oil comes from the mesocarp
- One hectare yields 4-5 tonnes of crude palm oil per year.
- Elaeis Guineensis grows in tropical environments within 10° of the equator - native to West Africa





Why is palm oil consumed?



Palm Oil In Ghana

Palm oil production since British colonialism



Economic & Environmental Impacts

Positive

- Provides infrastructure
- Creates employment
- Promotes advancement & productivity in smallholder communities
- Year-round income & stability

Negative

- Labor exploitation
- Other crops at risk
- Threatens local land rights
- Destroys wildlife habitat
- Deforestation



Who's Driving the Palm Oil Industry Worldwide?

Private Enterprises	Smallholders	State-owned Plantations
- 20-40k ha in size	- Roughly 2ha in size	- Intermediate Size*
- 82% growth in last decade	- 190% growth in last decade	- 7% growth In last decade
- 88.3% deforestation	- 10.7% deforestation	- 0.9% deforestation
- 91% CPO CO2 emissions	- 9% CPO CO2 emissions	- 0.5% CPO CO2 emissions

Who are smallholders?

- People in rural communities
- Farmers who used to grow other crops
 - Palm oil can increase smallholder income by 60-150%
- Either independent or part of the plasma scheme:
 - Plasma Scheme work with large plantations
 - Independent sell to the local market or to middle men
- Don't have public pressure to conform to sustainability standards





Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil

- Private regulatory scheme started in 2004
- Global scale
- Members must comply with requirements to ensure production is:
 - Economically viable
 - Environmentally sound
 - Beneficial to society
- 40% global palm oil production is from RSPO members, 20% global palm oil is RSPOcertified





How to become a member of the RSPO

- Pay membership fees
- Register online & complete online application
- Upload a GIS map of their farm
- Submit an environmental impact assessment of their land
- Adhere to certification rules
 - Pass assessments & audits conducted by the RSPO Certification Body
- Major issue with RSPO is domination of membership by industry actors
 - High barriers and costs of entry
 - Lack of extension services



Recap

- Palm oil production is growing in Ghana
- Palm oil agriculture has significant detrimental effects on the environment.
- Private enterprises with large plantation make up most of the environmental impact, but smallholders are rising quickly
- RSPO is a sustainable palm oil certification process
- It can be difficult to get smallholders RSPO certified
 - Especially independent smallholders



Activity

Land Use Game

- Get into a groups of 3
 - Choose characters: Smallholder, Company Rep, or Conservationist
- Play land use game!!

Objectives:

The Smallholder with the most money at the end wins!

The Company Rep with the most money at the end wins!

The Conservationist with the lowest emissions at the end wins!

Land Use Game

- Game clock: Game ends at the end of the 5th year
 - Each year is 4 minutes turn starts with Smallholder
 - Can finalize 1 development each turn or do nothing
 - When it's your turn, convince fellow stakeholders to approve your proposed development
 - After development is finalized, next players turn
 - Maximum of 5 developments per year
- Only collect earnings at the end of the year
 - Current cash is used to fund new developments/special actions



One-Time Effects

Annual Effects

+90,000 kgCO2e when converted. +0 kgCO2e



Forest Can't Be Built

One-Time Effects | Annual Effects

+45,000 kgCO2e when converted. +0 kgCO2e



Farm

One-Time Effects **Annual Effects**

+15,000 kgCO2e when converted.

+2,000 kgCO2e

Smallholder -\$10

Smallholder +\$10



Company Plantation

One-Time Effects Annual Effects

See Land Tile

+6,000 kgCO2e

Smallholder +\$60

Smallholder +\$0

Company -\$3000

Company +\$1000

if on Forest.

Company -\$2000 if

on Peat.



Plasma Plantation

One-Time Effects | Annual Effects

See Land Tile

+6,000 kgCO2e

Smallholder -\$20

Smallholder +\$30

Company -\$1000

Company +\$500

if on Forest.

Company -\$500 if

on Peat.



Protected Forest

Annual Effects Don't Kick in Until You Have 3 Adjacent **Protected Forest Pieces**

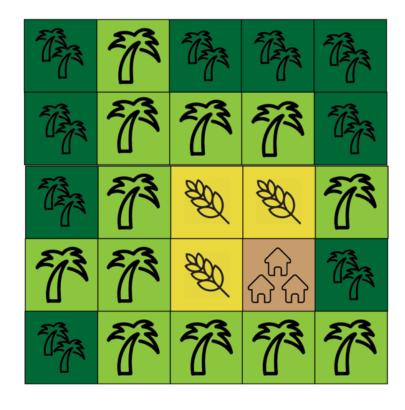
One-Time Effects | Annual Effects



+0 kgCO2e

Smallholder +\$20 Smallholder +\$20

Conservation -\$200 Conservation +\$200



- Each year ~4 minutes (w/ 1 minute warning). Collect annual effects.
- Smallholders own all land. Maximum of 5 plots of land can be developed each year.
- Once a plot is developed, it CAN'T be changed.

Land Use Game

Smallholder moves	Company moves	Conservationist moves
Develop farmland for independent use or sell land to company	Buy land from smallholder to build a plantation	Partner with smallholder to create protected forest
Enter a plasma scheme with company	Enter a plasma scheme with smallholder	Run a conservation campaign to hurt company profits & raise environmental awareness
Partner with conservationist to create protected forest	Become RSPO certified, Become immune to Conservationist campaigns	Try to convince smallholders/company to lower emissions
When company becomes RSPO certified, plasma scheme land must become certified – or not		

Smallholder Profit

- # of 👸 on board * 10 = ____
- # of on board * 20 = ____
- # of on board * 20 = ____
- # of ODD bonus rolls * 80 = ____
 - TOTAL = \$

Company Profit

- # of on board * 500 = ____
- # of on board * 1000 = ____
 - TOTAL = \$____

- Calculate earnings and CO2 emissions when we announce the end of the year.
- Add to running total on scorecard.

Conservationist Profit

of on board * 400 = ____

TOTAL = \$____

Emissions

- # of RSPO certified
- on board * 2000 = ____
- # of RSPO certified
- **&**
- 200
 - on board * 3000 = ____

- # of uncertified
- ...
- i im
- on board * 6000 = ____

TOTAL = ____ kgCO2e

Dice Events:

Conservationist Campaign (Initiated by Conservationist)

- Can be run ONCE per year
- When a campaign is launched, the Conservationist rolls the dice
 - EVEN = Successful campaign
 - Conservationist + \$400
 - Company \$3000
 - ODD = Failed campaign
 - Conservationist -\$200

RSPO Certification (Initiated by Company)

- When a company becomes RSPO certified, it becomes immune to Conservationist Campaigns.
- The cost of certification is \$1500 upfront paid by the Company
- In addition there is a \$100 fee per Plantation plot:
 - The Company must pay the fee for Company Plantation plots.
 - The Smallholders must pay for the Plasma Plantation plots. They have three options:
 - Cover the cost in full.
 - Negotiate with the Company and the Conservationist for financial support to cover the cost.
 - Lie about getting certified. To lie, the Smallholder rolls the dice.
 - EVEN = Successful Lie
 - Get certified status for free.
 - ODD = Get Caught
 - Smallholder -\$200. Get certified status.

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