

## ***Overview of Bonsucro, RTRS and RSPO***



**Gert van der Bijl**


Solidaridad Network

International Programme Coordinator Soy

*IPIECA Sustainable Biofuels Regulations Standards and Certification Workshop 18-19 September 2012 Brussels*

---

# ***Overview of Bonsucro, RTRS and RSPO***

1. Who am I?
  2. Solidaridad Network: expertise and track record
  3. Roundtable initiatives and certification
  4. Conclusion: *it all starts with defining your ambition!*
- 
- A thick, horizontal yellow bar with a slight gradient, positioned at the bottom of the slide.



# Gert van der Bijl

- MsC Development Economics
- Solidaridad International Program Coordinator Soy
- Worked for **Farmers' Union, Centre** for Agriculture & Environment (CLM) and Ministry of Agriculture
- Member of Executive Board of RTRS, the Roundtable on Responsible Soy + working groups RTRS + Bonsucro

*Gert.vanderbijl@Solidaridad.nl*

# Solidaridad Track Record

*Extensive experience in making sustainable production mainstream*

- in 1988, founder of Max Havelaar, the first fair-trade label for coffee
- in 1991, co-founder of Fairtrade International (FLO)
- in 1996, founder of AgroFair BV, the first fair-trade fruit company
- in 2002, co-founder of Utz Certified, a standard for sustainable coffee, tea and cocoa
- from 2006 co-initiator / active member of round tables for soy (RTRS), palm oil (RSPO), sugarcane (Bonsucro), cotton (BCI) and beef (GRSB)



# Solidaridad in numbers

- Activities
  - Support farmers implementing sustainable practices
  - Work with companies to implement responsible sourcing strategies
  - Share good practices to mainstream sustainable supply chains on a sector level
- 9 offices worldwide
- Active in 12 commodities, incl. coffee, tea, fruits, cotton, fruits sugarcane, palm oil, soy
- 174 staff members
- Solidaridad can help implement responsible sourcing activities on the ground



**Solidaridad realizes this with our global network of local centres.**



Coffee



Cotton



Textiles



Fruit



Cocoa



Soy



Palm oil



Sugarcane



Biomass



Tea



Gold



# Solidaridad



- European Union
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- Luxemburg
- France
- Switzerland
- Finland
- Sweden
- Denmark
- Germany
- United Kingdom
- Italy

- Canada
- United States
- Mexico
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Costa Rica
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Peru
- Chile
- Belize
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Brazil
- Bolivia
- Paraguay
- Argentina

- Mali
- Senegal
- Ivory Coast
- Ghana
- Cameroon
- Zambia
- Angola
- Namibia
- Botswana
- South Africa
- Burkina Faso
- Nigeria
- DR Congo
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Madagascar
- Mauritius
- Lesotho
- Swaziland
- India
- Ethiopia
- Uganda
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Madagascar
- Mauritius
- Lesotho
- Swaziland
- Zimbabwe

- South Korea
- Japan
- Pakistan
- Nepal
- Bangladesh
- China
- Vietnam
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Papua New Guinea
- Australia

## Solidaridad Netherlands

Head office: Utrecht

Active in all continents

## Solidaridad Andes

Head office: Lima

Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru

## Solidaridad West Africa

Head office: Accra

Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal

## Solidaridad Southern Africa

Head office: Gaborone

Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

## Solidaridad South and South-East Asia

Head office: New Delhi

India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam

## Solidaridad Central America

Head office: Guatemala City

Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua

## Solidaridad South America

Head office: Buenos Aires

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay

## Solidaridad East Africa

Head office: Nairobi

DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia

## Solidaridad China

Head office: Beijing

China

# Our challenge

- 🌍 Feed the world  
Increasing demand for food, feed and fuel
- 🌍 Scarcity of resources  
Ongoing race for land, water and forest
- 🌍 Climate change  
Increasing risk and insecurity due to extreme weather events






# Changing attitude of business towards certification and sustainability

*Originally:*

## ***Tactical risk management / tactical opportunity***

- Minimizing risks of negative publicity / campaigning
  - Limited public relations or relations with CSOs
  - Internally main role for Purchasing officers
  - Role of certification: compliance dominated
- 

# Changing attitude of business towards certification and sustainability 2

*Increasingly:*

## ***Sustainability seen as strategic opportunity***

- Instrument for supply security and resource efficiency
- Way to connect to own employees and stakeholders
- Integrated in all activities with involvement of top
- Recognizing that sustainability requires decisions with short term economic costs > benefits
- Certification as platform to address causes of undesired social and environmental impact

Source: RESOLVE / Steering Committee of the State-of-Knowledge Assessment of Standards and Certification. (2012). *Toward sustainability: The roles and limitations of Certification*, Washington DC



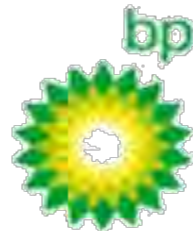
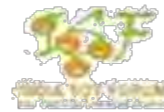
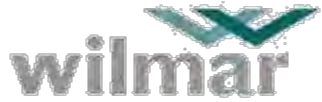
# Characteristics round tables

- Multistakeholder platforms to tackle major sustainability issues for commodities aiming to become mainstream
- Started 2004 – 2006
- First formulation of a common view on main issues
- Producers, Civil Society Organizations and Trade & Industry cooperate to improve sector sustainability performance
- Certification as one means to reach this

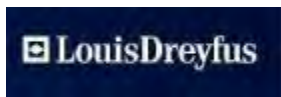


# Some of the 160 members of RTRS

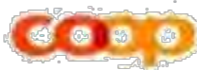
*RSPQ has more than 700 members*



Good Food. Good Life



FOOD GROUP



# RTRS Standard as example

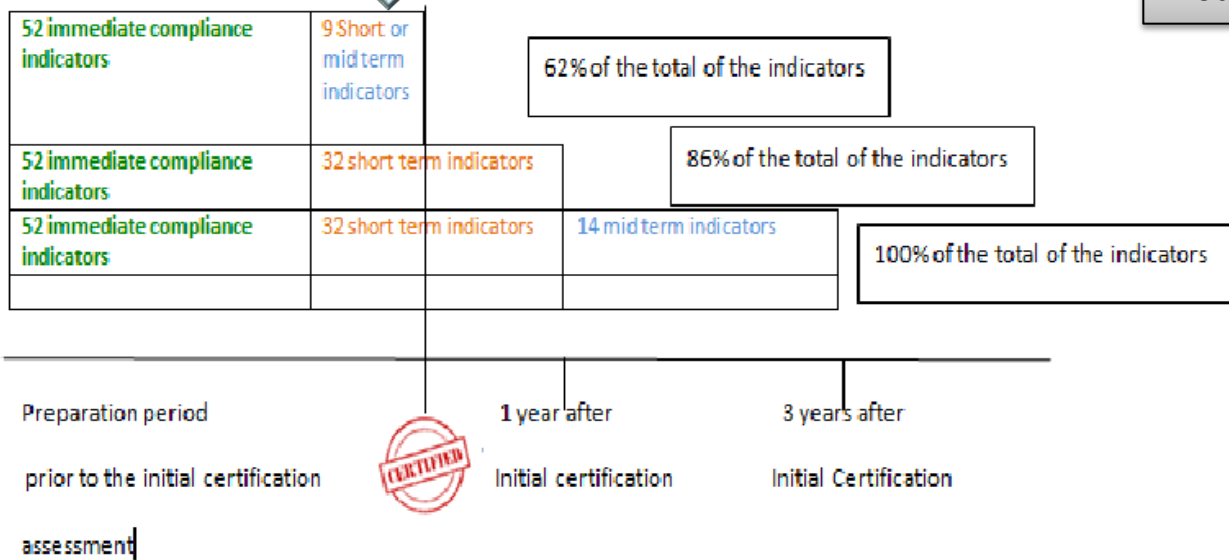
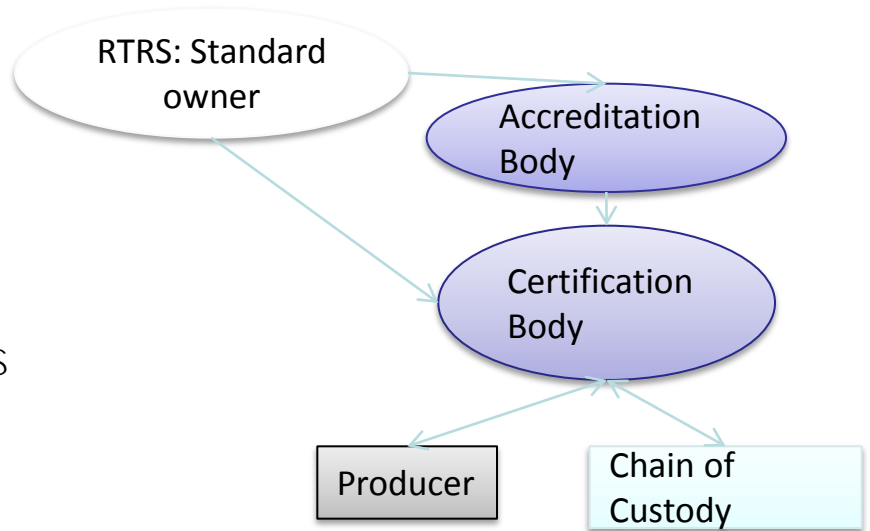
— Consists of 5 Principles:

1. *Legal compliance & good business practice*
2. *Responsible labor conditions*
3. *Responsible community relations*
4. *Environmental responsibility*
5. *Good agriculture practices*



5 Principles translated into 28 criteria and 98 auditable indicators

- Accreditation Requirements
- Certification Requirements
- Modules EU RED Biofuels
- Progressive entry level for farmers



# Chain of Custody Standard

In the case of RTRS, controlling material flows and claims:

- 1. Mass Balance*
- 2. Segregation*
- 3. Certificate Trading*
- 4. Non GM*
- 5. EU RED*

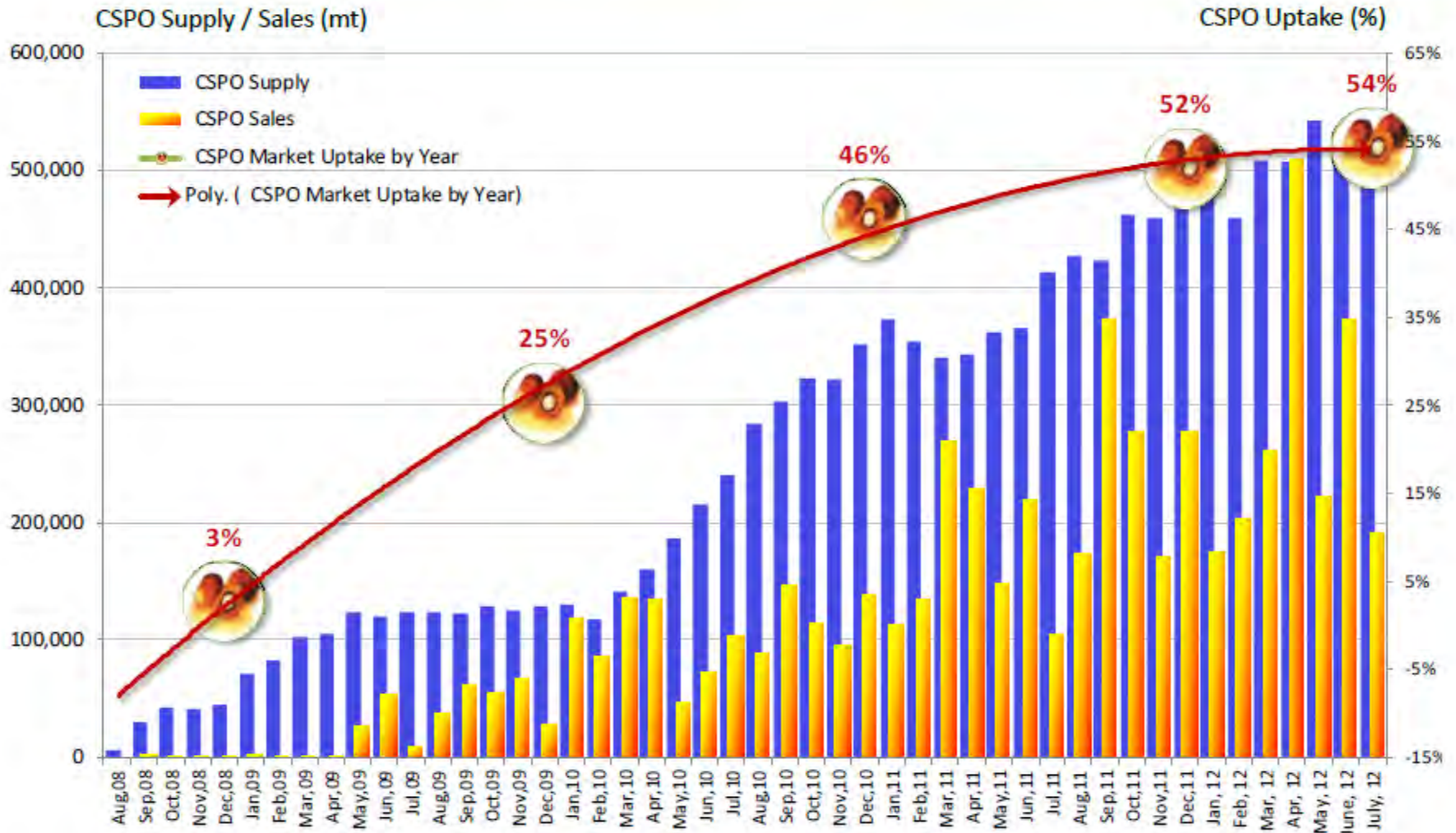


# Development of RT certification


- RSPO standard operational since 2007 / Bonsucro & RTRS since 2010
- Share of global production certified:
  - Palmoil : 10%
  - Sugarcane: 1.9%
  - Soy: 0.2%








# Bonsucro, RTRS, RSPO and EU RED

- Bonsucro, RTRS and RSPO have formulated optional add-on to meet EU-RED requirements.
  - RTRS and Bonsucro EU-RED approved
  - RTRS and Bonsucro beginning to certify for biofuels
  - Approval of RSPO-RED is still pending
- 

# **Advantages of working with RSPO, Bonsucro or RTRS standard**

1. Credibility because of support for standard from major producer organizations and Civil Society Organizations
  2. Address all major sustainability issues for involved commodities
  3. Part of larger sustainability community including CSO and buyers of feed and food
- 

# Selecting a certification system

From report : NL Agency | March 2012

*Selecting a biomass certification system – a benchmark on level of assurance, costs and benefits*

Two main issues: Level of assurance and costs

Conclusion:

***"It can be concluded that the systems that are most compatible with the requirements as benchmarked in this study, are also the more expensive ones".***

A thick, horizontal yellow bar with a slight gradient, positioned at the bottom of the slide.

# But:

**Costs of Round Table certification may be somewhat higher compared to others**

Main question for companies is ambition. Is it:

- a. Opportunity and compliance driven
- b. Based on policy that sees sustainability as strategic opportunity and new way of connecting with stakeholders

**Working with RSPO, RTRS and Bonsucro would fit in ambition b.**




# Sustainability as strategic opportunity?

- Certification can be part of a policy to work together with stakeholders on selecting responsible feedstuff and thus improving sector performance
- But certification cannot address all issues, for instance when it comes to balancing food, feed & fuel



# Balancing and dialogue

- Balancing food, feed and fuel requires a constructive dialogue between companies, science, producers, governments and CSOs
  - RSPO, Bonsucro and RTRS provide tables for such a constructive dialogue
- 



# **Solidaridad**

---

Thank you!

Find us on **[www.solidaridadnetwork.org](http://www.solidaridadnetwork.org)** or email [gert.vanderbijl@solidaridad.nl](mailto:gert.vanderbijl@solidaridad.nl)

