SPOP **2012**-2015	**Kick-off meeting** **12-13 March 2012** **Minutes**	**Cécile Bessou** **Alain Rival**	AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE ANR

Participants : Cécile Bessou CB, Alain Billand AB, Pierre-Marie Bosc PMB, Jean-Pierre Caliman JPC (tel), Marc-Philippe Carron MPC, Emmanuelle Cheyns EC, Béatrice Dhellemmes BD, Laurène Feintrenie LF, Eric Gohet EG, Claude Jannot CJ, Patrice Levang PL (visio), Hubert Omont HO, Sylvain Rafflegeau SR, Alain Rival AR, Hervé Saint-Macary HSM, Sloan Saletes SS, Julie Wohlfahrt JW.

Agenda

12. March (am + pm)	Intro EG (10mn)	Agrobiosphere 2011 AR (25mn)	SPOP CB(25mn)	Administrative aspects SS + BD (30mn)	Presentations of WP & Tasks PMB, EC, LF, JW (pm: 4hr)
13. March (am)	Discussion on the WP & Tasks, next steps (3hr)				

Context

SPOP, Sustainable Palm Oil Production, is one of the 7 granted projects out of 23 submitted for the call Agrobiosphere 2011. It is in line with the objectives of Agrobiosphere 2011, i.e. understanding the influences of global changes on production systems with emphasis on primary production (cropping systems) and how these systems can adapt to these global changes and subsequent constraints towards a sustainable production.

SPOP is important because of the great importance to develop sustainable palm oil production given the increasing global oil needs and pressure on the resources. Sustainability of palm oil production should be based on both RSPO P&Cs and scientific knowledge to allow for a better quantification of impacts and a greater efficiency of P&Cs. The trans-disciplinary researches within SPOP also are paramount in both involving local actors in improving the analysis grid and understanding the perception of global changes by local populations so as to define control levers and strategies towards a sustainable production.

SPOP duration: 1st March 2012 – 31 August 2015; Reports to ANR +6, +18, +30 months

Discussion points

Activities, brief overview and first steps:

Task articulation: T1.1, T1.2 and T1.3 are highly connected in time; T1.4 comes after. T1.5 already started but may be reinforced (more detailed) once the other WP1 tasks are fulfilled. WP1 and WP2 are independent and disconnected in time. T2.1 and T2.2 may be fulfilled in parallel, whereas T2.3 depends on the fulfillment of T2.1 and T2.2.

- WP1: T1.1; based on the current status of socio-economic and environmental indicators proposed within the frame of the WAW project and the experience of UR34 in assessing the performances of oil palm cropping systems in both Indonesia and Cameroon, SPOP members (CB, PMB, MPC, CJ, SR) will define the objectives and content of an internship aiming to produce the core set of indicators for the preliminary assessment grids (Task WP1.1): see Intern I.2 below.
- WP1: T1.2 + T1.3; task on assessing the perception of global changes by local actors (T1.2) and the reflexives (T1.3) to refine indicators (i.e. add site-specific indicators to the core set) with local actors both proceed from the necessity to involve local actors as much as possible, and should therefore allow for synergies between tasks. Indicators are the results of a social and political construction within a given context; they are not limited to technical aspects. Hence their co-construction with local actors is crucial in order not to miss the target. Investigating the perception by local actors of global changes and controversies on the diverse oil palm cropping systems can also help better identify the best adaptation strategies first by understanding how the multiplicities of perceptions interfere with the discontinuity between local and global levers, then by linking these perceptions with action types and ranges. For planned first steps in T1.2 and T1.3 see I.1 et I.3.
- WP1: T1.5; Raymond Nkongho (RN) started his Ph.D. thesis in 2011. The topic of his thesis work is notably to compare oil palm systems in Cameroon and Indonesia in order to identify from Indonesian history the best tracks for sustainable palm oil production in Cameroon. In 2011, RN focused on palm oil in Cameroon. In 2012-2013, he will more focus on the comparison between the two countries.
- WP2: T2.1; the global scenarios will be defined with local partners in both Cameroon and Indonesia following the approach of Participative Prospective Analysis. This approach consists of 4 workshops (3 at village level, 1 at district level) over 5 days each. During each workshop, actors are conveyed to discuss the frontier of the studied system (oil palm), the key variables for the system development, and the potential development tracks and preferential ones. T2.1 in Cameroon will be carried out by LF together with RN and PL in 2013-S2. T2.1 in Indonesia will be carried out by LF and an intern: see I.6, with the support of RN and PL, and the participation of the INRA PhD student.
- WP2: T2.2 + T2.3: these tasks will be carried out by the INRA Ph.D. student and the supervisors (JW and JMR). The developed model to simulate land use scenarios will combine a model based on spatial regularities (data mining and analyses of dynamics and trends) and a "multi-agent" model based on a more site-specific examination of parameters which should allow validating or not the assumptions on the key variables behind the assumed spatial regularities. The scenario simulations notably involve translating into calibrated parameters qualitative variables arising from the scenario build-up with actors. It is therefore essential that linkages with T2.1 be made upstream.

Choice of studied fields:

- In Cameroon, the palm oil production area is limited and has been already deeply studied by Raymond. The reflexives "experts" will help focus on a set core of indicators and define the sampling size for T1.4. The grain for the analysis of cropping systems in Cameroon may be coarser than that in Indonesia, given the project first focus on Indonesia. However, the results of Raymond's thesis and the complementary information carried out within SPOP should be relevant to provide key elements for adaptation strategies towards sustainable production.
- In Indonesia, Sumatra had been first identified within SPOP as the relevant area for the study. From the discussion, it appeared that the province scale would be more relevant, especially the provinces Riau and Jambi. Indeed, the North Sumatra province was the cradle of palm oil development in Indonesia and hence has the longer history of production with a great diversity of cropping systems. However, unlike in Riau and Jambi provinces, the issue of new planting and land use competition is no longer pregnant in North Sumatra. In both Riau and Jambi provinces, diverse cropping systems can be found as well as new on-going or planned planting. Impacts related to land use competition, improving

cropping systems, hiring manpower and trans-migrants are particularly relevant. SPOP would also benefit from very active partnerships with local research and institutional partners in these two provinces.

Potential bottlenecks/opened questions:

- RSPO might be in jeopardy after Gapki got off and with the development of national Indonesian guidelines ISPO. However, RSPO is not the studied object of SPOP but rather a potential "user" of SPOP results. Hopefully, SPOP results might underpin the maintaining and further reinforcement of RSPO P&Cs.
- Malaysia would also be an interesting field for SPOP but it was not included in the project budget. It might be suitable for further research work in case the project is extended. Kalimantan was also briefly mentioned, but also is currently out of reach of the project due to budget limitations.
- Importance to cross-checked the information to avoid bias due to intermediates
- It is paramount to inform local partners and institutions about SPOP asap. People from Rainforest, Ph. Guizol (CIRAD B&SEF + working in Indonesia at the BAPPENAS office (minister of plan)), and others might help us contacting the right people.
- Conditions in the diverse Indonesian provinces are very contrasted and evolve quickly; we have to be aware that modeling work (WP2) may only help identify key factors in land use changes and palm oil development scenarios without aiming at a robust modeling reproducible at larger scales (temporal and spatial).

Decisions

	Responsible people
♦ Review: benchmarking of on-going projects related to palm oil production and sustainability assessments.	AR/2012-S2
♦ Institutional concept note on SPOP for CIRAD and INRA web page	AR/2012-S1
♦ Communication cell:	
- via the CIRAD web page and communication tools such as publications (Graines d'info, CIRAD annual report etc.): what we know about sustainable palm oil, what we do not know and what we seek for	SPOP coordinators
- via the CIFOR communication team which is very efficient	Contact to be taken by LF
- SPOP web page with public and logged-in accesses: importance to organize a collaborative space to share documents	CB + B. Girardot/2012-S1
♦ Steering committee: an invitation letter presenting SPOP will be sent to the institutional representatives and scientific department directors of the diverse partners + institutional representatives of local partners. Members of this committee will be then informed about SPOP updates and potentially provide feedbacks on a yearly basis.	SPOP coordinators with the help of local contacts
♦ Technical committee: conveying the people responsible for SPOP tasks and other key players (same people as the one present at the kickoff meeting incl. some absents) will meet every quarter of year (1st Thursday in the month)	
⇨ Next meeting Thursday 7. June 2012, 9 am (Paris time)	

Interns (not exhaustive)

	Tasks	Country	Year - semester	Supervisors	Objectives
I.1	T1.1 + T1.3 validation of the assessment grids by experts during reflexives "expert"	Cameroon	2012-S2	CB+SR? (+RN, PL, LF)	Reflexives "experts" to validate the set core of indicators of the assessment grids (+ define the district in Cameroon for T2.1)
I.2	T1.1 set core of the assessment grids and sampling area for T1.4 +T2.1	Indonesia	2012-S2	PMB (+SR, MPC, CB)	Review of existing indicators and selected approach within WAW, historical data and literature mining to refine the grids and precise the study zones and sampling sizes for T1.3 et T1.4 (Riau + Jambi?) and T2.1 (district in Indonesia)
I.3	T1.3 reflexives to validate the assessment grids with local actors	Indonesia	2013-S1	EC + MD Potentially 2 interns with one from Indonesia	Reflexives to complete/validate the assessment grids with local actors (+ analyzing the perception of global changes by local actors)
I.4?	T1.4 assessment	Cameroon	2013	RN (+SR?)	Assessing the 3D impacts of the diverse cropping systems
I.5	T1.4 assessment	Indonesia	2013/4	CB (+MPC, SR, PMB)	Assessing the 3D impacts of the diverse cropping systems
I.6	T2.1 global scenarios	Indonesia	2013-S2	LF (+PL, RN, an intern, PhD student at INRA)	Defining the global scenarios
I.7	T2.2 + T2.3	Indonesia	2013/4	Ph.D. student at INRA (+JW, JMR)	Model build-up and land use scenarios modeling.

Documents to be uploaded on the web:

- **7 power points as pdf (AR, CB, BD, PMB, EC, LF + PL, JW)**
- **CV + Thesis project of RN as pdf**