

Participants : Cécile Bessou CB, Pierre-Marie Bosc PMB, Emmanuelle Cheyns EC, Laurène Feintrenie LF, Raphaël Marichal RM (skype), Margot Moulin MM (visio), Alain Rival AR, Julie Wohlfahrt JW (visio)

Absents : Marc Benoît MB, Jean-Pierre Caliman JPC, Marc-Philippe Carron MPC, Marcel Djama MD, Raymond Nkongho RN (input to the meeting per email), Patrice Levang PL, Sylvain Rafflegeau SR, Jean-Marc Roda JMR

Agenda

1. Quick feedback on the ANR meeting in May by Cécile & Alain
2. Feedback on RSPO Europe meeting by Alain
3. Brief insight on Roxane's report (T.1.2) by Emmanuelle (more details on July 9.)
4. Feedback from the recent prospective workshop in Cameroun by Laurène (incl. inputs from Patrice)
5. Margot's thesis by Margot and Julie & the synergies between tasks 2.1 and 2.2/3
6. Raymond's thesis (email from Raymond)
7. Flash info on the new thesis ANR SPOP-Cirad
8. Miscellaneous

ATTENTION: next ANR report to be submitted at the end of August 2014. SPOP members should provide the coordinators with the necessary material on realised tasks and expenses before the end of July! It is important to refer to the initial planned deliverables and deadlines in parallel to what has been done.

Updates

1. **ANR meeting:** On May 16. 2014, a meeting was held in Paris (ANR office) conveying members of six of the seven projects within the Agrobiosphere 2011 call. From SPOP, were present: CB, PMB, AR, JW. The objective was to make the point on the first outcomes of the projects and the difficulties encountered during their first halves (+26/48 months in the case of SPOP). A specific report was submitted to ANR about 10 days ahead to prepare this meeting, although no report between +18 and +30 months was part of the administrative follow-up procedure by ANR. Hence, the delay to gather the information from all the SPOP members and submit the report was short. The exercise ended up to be quite difficult, since we were asked to emphasise on the difficulties but there was very little time to actually discuss the reasons of the difficulties and the solutions that were adopted or that could have been proposed by the commission. The main output was the surprise of the commission regarding the lack of available data on palm oil production systems in Indonesia, "given that Cirad has been working on this topic for several decades". This surprise illustrated the lack of knowledge from the scientific community on the huge diversity of palm oil production systems and the potential heterogeneity of their performances, which implies a need to compile a lot of field data. Cirad has a long experience in the industrial palm oil sector but few experiences and data sets on the smallholders' palm oil sector. The latter represents still some 40% of the global oil palm planted area.
2. **The second RSPO European Roundtable** took place in London on June 4. 2014. AR explained that this second edition was more informative than the first one, which had aimed essentially to introduce RSPO to the European actors. AR attended the parallel session on the smallholders (moderated by Petra from NBPOL) with the topic: how to foster the certification of smallholders' palm oil production? There may be opportunities nowadays at the European level to grasp some funding from the European Commission to improve the knowledge of smallholders' performances and the traceability of smallholders' supply chains. AR has participated in a meeting in Brussels where premises of such opportunities were discussed.
3. **Roxane (T.1.2)** finished her visual sociology internship on the perceptions of global changes by micro actors last year. However, she has not yet finished writing her report. 3 over 5 chapters were sent to EC, whose main outputs will be presented by EC on July 9. EC noticed that students from the same university as Roxane may not be suitable for further research internship at Cirad because the university does not require a scientific report on their internship work. Students are rather asked to conduct an introspective analysis on the impact of the internship on their personal development. There may be a possibility to publish a paper based on Roxane's results.
4. **T.2.1** Based on the same approach as the PPA organised in 2013 in Indonesia, LF, PL and RN (together with a trainee from Dschang University, Sadou Haman) organised 3 workshops in villages from 3 different palm oil supply areas in Cameroon. These 3 supply areas also were the study sites within Raymond's thesis. The PPA workshops in Indonesia had questioned the populations about their views of the possible developments of the palm oil sector within the next 30 years. The PPA workshops in Cameroon were more targeted, considering as a background the National Palm Oil Strategy, which is being written down by experts among which are some SPOP members and further people from Cifor, as well as people from WWF, ZSL etc. This strategy notably assesses the potential roles of partnerships between agroindustries and smallholders, as individuals or associated, in national palm oil development. The type of potential partnership was introduced to the workshop participants depending on whether such smallholder associations already existed or not in the investigated supply areas. The role of such partnerships was then considered as the framework for the scenario building process. Each workshop last 4 days and conveyed farmers/growers, representatives from palm industries and local authorities. As defined in the PPA process, the first 2 days were generally used to analyse the palm oil sector and decompose the drivers and control levers underpinning potential developments. The 2 further days were then used to build-up scenarios. In the last workshop in Muyuka, though, the first step was avoided and discussions directly started with scenario building. The idea was to check for its influence and necessity. Over the three workshops, outcomes were:
 - a. In Eseka (with Socapalm industry), the most important drivers for the growers were the public policies, technical assistance, trust and transparency-based partnership with the industry (including the agreement content), and infrastructures. The percentage of the fresh fruit bunches supplied by smallholders to the industry was among key factors discussed. Some growers would prefer the contract to concern 100% of their

productions, provided that the industry agrees to give back some oil for their personal consumption (including relatives' network). Whereas other growers would rather keep the fruits they need to transform them into oil by themselves. This percentage may be critical since palm fruit price is fixed in the case of a contract with an industry, whereas home-made palm oil price may highly vary depending on seasonal availability. On a general basis, growers agree that they lack organisation and that they would gain in negotiation power and action lever if they were more federated.

- b. In Ekondo Titi (with Palmol industry), participation was particularly proactive and the dialogue fruitful. In this area, growers already are more organised in an association. In this context, growers see partnerships based on more balanced powers (some even envisaged to be part of some administrative boards of the industry or to enter the industry capital). They want to be informed about the industry choices and give much importance to trust and transparency as baselines for the partnership.
- c. In Muyuka (with CDC industry), participation was intense and discussions could get quickly messy and hard to handle. The two-step PPA process proved to be more efficient in order to better decompose the system and anticipate on scenario building in a more structured and constructive way. Independently from the 1- or 2-step process, participants always gave positive feedback on the workshops.

On a final not, overall conclusions were that the organisation of smallholders in associations is a needed preamble to allow for efficient partnerships between growers and industries. A good information flow between these actors is also essential and could be facilitated by a dedicated intermediary within the industry, being the contact person to dialogue with representative from the associations.

5. **Margot (T.2.2)** has finished the analysis of the field data from interviews on growers' practices in Riau and Jambi; data extracted from the industry flow management software was also used to complete the datasets. Key parameters that allow differentiating growers on their practices are the amounts of nitrogen, phosphate, Paraquat, and Glyphosate applied per plot. Clusters show a significant inter-diversity between industry and smallholders practices, as well as an intra-diversity among smallholders. Further details of her ongoing work will be discussed during her 2nd steering committee being held in Montpellier on July 7.
6. **Raymond (T.1.5)** has just completed the writing of a report on "The history of partnership schemes between agro-industries and oil palm smallholders to be published as a SPOP report". The other report concerns "The non- industrial palm oil sector in Cameroon", which will be out any time from now as a CIFOR working paper. He is presently developing 2 draft papers, which need to be submitted for publication in the next coming months. After this, he needs to complete the remaining chapters of his thesis, with the defense scheduled for next year 2015.
7. A Ph.D. project on coupling LCA and an N-balance indicator, with a case study on oil palm in Indonesia, will start in September 2014 co-funded by ANR SPOP and Cirad. We are currently selecting a candidate.
8. Miscellaneous
 - ICOPE 2014: 1 oral presentation and 1 poster on the preliminary results of SPOP were presented at the ICOPE conference in 2014 (with proceedings). We also organized a Reflexive workshop to discuss with stakeholders the SPOP objectives and method and the building-up of the global scenarios. Unfortunately the timeframe for this workshop was too short; few participants could attend and we lack time to discuss all topics in depth. Nevertheless, the preparatory work on the global scenario building could be used to produce a scientific paper.
 - 2nd GLP Open Science Meeting in Berlin: 1 poster presented.
 - Recalling: please mention the support of ANR SPOP in all your communications; you may use the following citation: "The author(s) is(are) grateful to ANR (the French National Research Agency) which supported (part of) this research within the framework of the Sustainable Palm Oil Production (SPOP) project (<http://spop.cirad.fr/>)".
 - Outputs
 - Scientific paper on Roxane's study by EC: 2015
 - Report on cross-analysis of the perceptions of global changes by micro or macro-actors by EC: 2015.
 - Report on smallholders-industry partnerships by RN : 2014
 - Scientific paper on the methodology of PPA workshops at the village level (never done before) by LF: 2014/5
 - Scientific paper on the PPA outputs in Cameroon by LF, RN and Sadou: 2014/5
 - Scientific paper on the PPA outputs in Indonesia by LF and Soytavanh: 2014/5
 - Scientific paper on the characterisation of the diversity in palm oil smallholders' practices in order to better adapt recommendations by MM, JW: 2014

Discussion points

- Data on smallholders might be made available to the project by NBPOL. CB or AL may go to the field to check for what would be available.
- A paper on the results from the workshop reflexive on global scenarios (+ potential further inputs) will be submitted to a scientific journal: AR takes the lead on the writing.
- We are in the process of hiring 3 Indonesian students to conduct field interviews under the supervision of RM. It is important to make sure that they have personal motivation to do the internship, since the academic curriculum itself might not really value such internship. It is also crucial to ensure a good supervision in the field, especially when interviewing smallholders in remote villages during several days.

Responsible people/timing

Decisions ⇒ Next meeting: July 9. 2014

Documents to be uploaded on SPOP web page: