

NI-SCOPS Nigeria

The National Initiative for Sustainable and Climate Smart Oil Palm Smallholders (NI-SCOPS) is a partnership between Solidaridad and IDH – The Sustainable Trade Initiative to support the Nigerian Government and other stakeholders to meet the commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the SDGs. It does so by making the FAO concept of climate smart agriculture (CSA) operational in six Nigerian states in the oil palm belt: Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo, Enugu, Kogi and Ondo. In parallel, local governments are supported with the development and implementation of conservation & development plans, to protect and where necessary restore critical ecosystem values.

BACKGROUND

Nigeria is one of the major producers of palm oil in West Africa. Cross River, Akwa-Ibom, Edo, Ondo, and Kogi States are among the largest producers of oil palm in the country. These states have the largest concentrations of independent smallholders, accounting for 89% of the palm oil production in Nigeria, and therefore provide a viable avenue to trigger embracement of smallholders in sustainable climate-smart agricultural practices as the norm in oil palm production, and mobilize the sector (farmers, millers and traders) for protection and restoration of critical natural resources (soil, water, forests).

BUILDING ON STRONG GOVERNMENT COOPERATION

NI-SCOPS partners with the Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development; Industry, Trade and Investment; Environment -Department of Climate Change as well as the REDD+ National Secretariat. These are represented in the NISCOPS Nigeria Forum (NNF), an advisory body to the program convened by IDH and Solidaridad. The NI-SCOPS Key Performance Indicators (see box 1) have been developed with support from The Federal University of Technology, Akure – School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (FUTA-SAAT) and The Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD). Achieving the program targets will contribute to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Nigeria. Other policy instruments that the program will benefit are the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change for Nigeria (NASPA-CCN), National Agricultural Resilience Framework (NARF), the Nigeria REDD+ Strategy and the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) 2016-2020. All these policies contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 5, 8 and 13.

NI-SCOPS Key Performance Indicators Nigeria

- 1 Productivity:** Palm oil productivity increase, reported as % increase of ton of FFB/ha/yr;
- 2 Adaptation:** Uptake of adaptive/innovative/diversification practices, measured by the % increase in adoption of climate smart/innovative/ diversification practices
- 3 Mitigation:** Land cover change.

NI-SCOPS Outcomes Nigeria

- The business case for climate smart oil palm farming is established;
- The private and public sector (e.g. value chain companies, banks, climate funds and other impact investors) invest in climate smart palm oil and restoration of degraded (agricultural) land;
- The LGA, State and National governments are implementing and enforcing spatial planning, regulations and legislation on the protection of critical natural resources (soil, water, forests, GHGs).

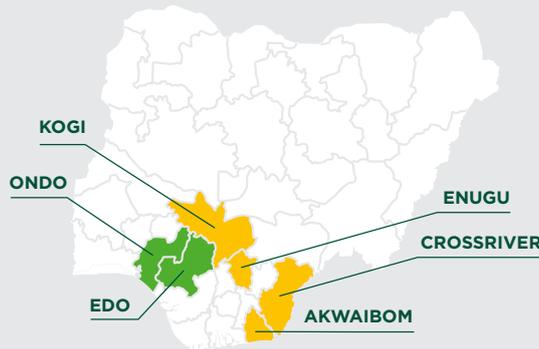
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

IDH and Solidaridad work with national-level actors on the development of and compliance with improved national sustainable palm oil policy and harmonization to meet demands in the market. Both organizations convene key stakeholders including government agencies, private companies to collectively develop, implement, and monitor sustainability standards and quality that satisfies both local and international markets. Specifically, attention is focused on mobilizing and convening oil palm stakeholders; sensitization of key oil palm stakeholders on appropriate local and international sustainability and quality standards; provision of opportunity for dialogue to influence policy formulation; and the collective establishment of modalities and mechanisms to guide implementation, and a framework to facilitate exchange, learning, monitoring and evaluation.

The NISCOPS Nigeria Forum (NNF) provides a platform where stakeholders have space for interactive exchange of ideas and learning, and considerations about how NI-SCOPS aligns collaboratively with relevant national programs of government resulting in robust achievements of NI-SCOPS' overall goals.

NI-SCOPS jurisdictions in Nigeria

- SOLIDARIDAD
- IDH



In the selected landscapes (see map), Solidaridad and IDH will offer technical assistance to farming communities and workers and support policymakers and authorities with improving natural resource management and restoration efforts. The main work areas are:



Supporting state level governance

Policy engagement and stakeholder convening to enable better spatial planning, land use planning and forest protection, sustainable production, and social inclusion. Including agreement on state level targets, governance, monitoring, and enforcement;



Supporting landscape level governance

Convening of multi-stakeholder initiatives at LGA level and development of effective agreements on sustainable production, natural resources protection and restoration, and social inclusion;



Catalyzing business and investment

Increasing public and private investment in the landscapes to incentivize sustainable climate smart oil palm production by OP smallholders and PO producers while protecting forests and restoring previously degraded land, and improving market uptake through sustainable inclusive value chains and/or creating Verified Sourcing Areas;



Implementing landscape-, farm-, and community-level interventions

Implementation of projects to ensure sustainable and climate smart production, social inclusion and natural resources protection and restoration by strengthening farmer and community-based organizations (FOs and CBOs) as well as local service provision SMEs.



Supporting market linkages

Facilitate market linkages by connecting independent smallholders and mills with domestic and international markets and to link market requirements on climate-friendly products. Develop private sector partnerships and platforms at local, national, Asian and global level, including China and India, building on existing partnerships with EPOA, Solvent Extractors Association of India and China Oil and Fats Industry Association.

MORE INFO?

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