

SEMI-STRUCTURED GUIDELINE INTERVIEWS

Questionnaire for Mekar Jaya and Gurun Mudo

Individual Interview

a. Farmer's background

1. How many people live in this household how old are they?
2. Were you born in name of village?
3. Do you have a special position in the village?
4. Is the palm oil business your main occupation?

b. Household's income

1. Which income sources do the people living in this household have?
2. How much land do you own?
3. What do you cultivate? Since when?
4. Do you have a contract with a company?
5. How much (%) of your financial capital is invested in your farming business?

c. Criteria

1. Do you think there is a balance between the environment and humans? Why? Why not?
2. Which kind of services do you derive from nature? How do you define their value? (in terms of yields, spiritual benefits etc.)
3. Have you observed any changes on your farm, in your community? Which? And how can you indicate the change?
4. Which kind of risks/challenges exist threatening your livelihood? (E.g. Climate change, extreme events, dependencies from large corporations, food insecurity, standards and certification...)

d. Impacts of certification

1. What was the motivation to join Gapoktan/RSPO?
2. How do you understand the term sustainability?

Last question: Is there anything else you would like to share with me? Do you have remaining questions?

Guideline for Group Discussions in Mekar Jaya and Gurun Mudo

a. Perceptions

1. Have you observed any changes on your farm, in your community? Which? And how can you indicate the change?
2. Which kind of developments/challenges exist that influence your livelihood, business, community? (E.g. Climate change, extreme events, dependencies from large corporations, food insecurity, standards and certification...)

3. Do you think there is a balance between the environment and humans? Why? Why not?
 4. Which kind of benefits/services do you derive from nature? How do you define their value? (In terms of yields, spiritual benefits etc.)
 5. Why and when have you started cultivating oil palm in this community?
 6. If RSPO-certified: What is the most challenging RSPO-criteria?
 7. If not RSPO-certified: Have you heard about RSPO?
 8. How do you understand the term “sustainability”?
- b. Outlook
1. Would you agree, that the current state of the environment, economy, community should recover to a former state, stay the same (ability to sustain) or be improved for future generations (beyond sustainability)?
 2. What could be done to improve the village’s situation?
 3. What would your prediction for the future of oil palm be?

Questionnaire for Muaro Sekalo

This is a preliminary interview guideline. These question sets will be aligned to every interview, depending on the interview partner and the type of interview, prior knowledge of all participants, the time and resources available, etc.

1. General village characteristics

- Village history (year & reason of foundation)
- Origin of households, major ethnicities, major religions
- Short migration history
 - o Who was living in the village at the time of foundation?
 - o How has that changed?
 - o Has there been a lot of immigration/emigration in village?
 - o If yes, from where / where to?
- Infrastructure (water, electricity, roads, hospital, schools)
 - o Which is the next city (name, distance and time to get there)?
 - o Where is the next market place (distance and time to get there)?
 - o Which are the neighboring villages (name, distance and time to get there)?
- What are the most important current developments in the village (e.g. a new road, a granted concession)?
 - o What are **current** development challenges for the village (e.g. electricity, land conflict, migration)?
 - o Have there been any other challenges in the village **during the last years** (e.g. traditions, community cohesion)?
 - o Is there anything that shall be improved prospectively in the village and village life?
- Number of households
- Main income of households

2. Village landscape

- Dominant land use of today
- Short land use history
 - o What was the major land use at the time of village foundation?
 - o Did it change? Why did it change? Why do people prefer the current land use?
 - o Are there plans to change current land use? Why do you want to change land use?
 - o Are there remaining forest areas in the village? Is there still communal land? How is it currently used? Is that different to uses in the past? If yes, what uses do no longer exist? Why? Are there plans for converting them?
- Land ownership
 - o How much land is managed by smallholders / companies?
 - o How much land is owned by smallholders / companies?
 - o Are there differences among certain social groups? Who are those smallholders (e.g. locals, migrants)? Do they have small schemes or large plantations? What is the average land size? Do they produce for market sale or for subsistence?
 - o Do villagers own land outside the village? Why?
 - o Does a lot of land within village boundaries belong to people not living in the village? Do you know them? Where do they come from (neighbouring villages / regional cities / far away)?
 - o Are there many companies holding land in the village? Which companies exist in the village territory? How much land does each of the company possess? Are these private businesses or governmental owned? Do they have a Plasma/Inti-Scheme?
- Are types of land ownership or land management characteristics of this village comparable to surrounding villages? How do they differ? Why do they differ?

3. Networks

- Social relations
 - o Where do your relatives and friends live? Do many of your relatives or friends live in this village, do they live close by or far away?
 - o Do you have friendship or family relations with villagers living in Jambi city or abroad? How often do you meet?
- Information flows
 - o How do you get information about, e.g. market prices, weather forecast, regional, national or international news? [Personal contact (e.g. extension worker, trader, friends, family members), IT and media (e.g. radio, TV, newspaper), others (e.g. phone, mailing)]
 - o Why did you decide to plant oil palm / jungle rubber / rubber / paddy / fruit trees / horticulture / ...? How do you take decisions on your land use? Do you rely on your own experience or include other information in your decision? What kind of information and from whom?
- Migration and People
 - o Do many people immigrate or do villagers rather emigrate? When did they do? Why do they do? Who are those migrants?
 - o Are there any social groups, institutions, or organizations in this village (e.g. farmer groups, women groups, political groups, NGOs)? Where do they come from? Who belongs to these groups? What is their aim?

Questionnaire for Merlung

1. Farmers Background/ History

Can you tell me something about your household and your family?

- Where did you (your family) come from? Since when are you living here?
- Why did you move here?

Can you tell me something more about your work and your plantation?

- How much land do you have?
- How much of it do you use to grow oil palm?
- What was your motivation to grow oil palm?
- Do you have a contract with a company (name/which kind of contract)?
- Since when are you growing oil palm?
- What have you done before?
- Why have you decided to grow oil palm?
- Would you like to buy more land for oil palm?
- Where did you learn how to grow vegetables/oil palm?
- Are you satisfied with the quality and quantity of your harvest?
- How do you know how much fertilizer or pesticides you need?
- Do you write down how much harvest you have each time and how much fertilizer you use and things like that? Why, why not?
- Do you have a goal for the future in regard with the oil palm harvest?
- In your view, why does the price sometimes change (quality of fresh fruit bunches)?
- What are the current most important challenges for you to grow oil palm? (If they name some, then you can ask: Are there more challenges you did not mention yet)
- Could you list all obstacles smallholder could face in the future while growing palm oil?

2. Questions in regard to certification schemes

How would you describe a sustainability certificate?

Are you in any certification process?

Can you tell us how you perceived the certification process?

- What kind of expectation do you have from a certification?
- Does it make sense to you?
- What does not make sense?
- Who implements the scheme/promotes the scheme (NGO, government, neighbors)?
- Have you perceived improved conditions because of the certification process (working and living conditions/knowledge?)
- Which obstacles are you facing in the certification process?
- Would you like to have more support?

The government (Ministry of Agriculture) has its own certificate. It is called Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil. Have you heard of it? What is your opinion?

- What do you think of it? Does it make sense to have two certification schemes?

3. Questions about the natural environment

- What comes to mind when you hear the word natural environment?
- Do you think palm oil cultivation has a negative impact on the natural environment? If yes, where?
- Do you have problems with the quality of the water?
- Are there less wild animals in your area than two years ago?
- Do you have problems with soil erosion due to more rainfall within the last years?
- In your opinion, who should take care of these issues? (The plantation owners, the government, large oil palm companies or the consumer all around the world.)

4. Additional Questions

- What are your wishes for the future (if they do not understand we can add “regarding their plantations, regarding village’s government?”)
- Is there still something what you want to tell me, that I didn’t ask for