

EXPLORING DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS WHEN DECIDING WHETHER TO CHANGE TO MORE SUSTAINABLE FARMING

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L.O: To research information for debate writing.

PRO (Members of RSPO community)	CON (Workers and locals who do not want change)
<p>New farming methods will produce better quality oil palm and yield (amount of crop produced).</p> <p>RSPO certification leads to more money, since companies want to buy sustainable palm oil.</p> <p>Land already cleared for farming can be used, so deforestation is not needed. There is no need to employ people to do this.</p> <p>If forest is not cleared, then the animals and plants are not affected. Biodiversity is not affected.</p> <p>The 'slash and burn' method of clearing the forest of vegetation removes plants and animals.</p> <p>The 'slash and burn' method of clearing the forest of vegetation releases carbon dioxide into the air, causing global warming.</p> <p>Burning land may lead to drainage and decomposition of peat lands, causing problems for the environment and communities.</p> <p>Peat stores huge amounts of carbon and is important in Indonesia for fishing, aquaculture (breeding animals and plants that live in water for food) and other farming.</p> <p>Sustainable oil palm plantations can bring a wide variety of new jobs.</p> <p>It is safer for workers and they have better working conditions and practices. Smallholders gain respect from the workers.</p> <p>Education from a young age will mean that more people in the future will understand the jobs that sustainable oil palm plantations can bring.</p>	<p>People have followed traditional methods for generations and the world has not been harmed. It is too difficult to change farming methods.</p> <p>Burning forests and using the ash as fertiliser is cheap, easily obtained and works for crops.</p> <p>Smallholders are often not linked to a company or mill, they do not receive the training and guidance to change farming methods and receive very little support from the government.</p> <p>It is expensive to pay for training and the documents and audits required to become certified.</p> <p>It is often expensive to pay 'middle men', who organise for the oil palm to go to mills.</p> <p>Income is not necessarily better for sustainable palm oil production. Smallholders would need to consistently receive more money for the better quality oil palm.</p> <p>Even if farmers receive some support initially, when this stops then they may not keep up what is necessary to keep the certification status.</p> <p>You can continue to pay the workers less and for longer – you don't have to stick to rules that need to be followed for RSPO certification.</p>

