Traceability Challenges and How to Overcome Them

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Why is traceability important?

Traceability is key in order to:

- Ensure that FFBs do not come from illegal origin
- Ensure that FFBs do not come from highly biodiverse and carbon rich areas which were subject to land use change (LUC) after 2008
- Ensure that the amount of sustainable FFBs delivered is equivalent to certified hectares

➢ Traceability back to the origin is a must for companies claiming to promote sustainability
Traceability challenges

General challenge:
- Ensure traceability throughout the supply chain, especially beyond the oil mill

Smallholder related challenges:
1. Clear geographical identification of smallholder fields
2. Correct determination of field size and yields
3. Connecting smallholder FFB deliveries to truck loads received by mills
4. Tracing back non-certified FFBs delivered to mills by middlemen

Note: Publishing the names of suppliers is not equivalent to traceability, although it’s a first step towards transparency
General challenge: ensure traceability through out the supply chain

Potential Options:

1. Step by step traceability based on sustainability declarations

2. Use of a track and trace database

Blockchain: please note – blockchain is a technology not a ‘silver bullet’
Solution 1. / 2. – Clear geographical identification of smallholder fields and correct determination of field size and yields
Solution 3 – Connecting smallholder FFB deliveries to truck loads received by mills

Material transfer
Information transfer
Solution 4 – Tracing back non certified FFBs delivered to mills by middlemen

- Define the sourcing areas (e.g. 50 km) of middlemen
- Assess the environmental risk exposure within the sourcing area (e.g. No-Go Areas, LUC, deforestation)
- Rank middlemen sourcing areas by risk
- Conduct on-site assessment for medium and high risk sourcing areas
- If possible, request geo-coordinates (or even better polygons) of smallholder locations
Many thanks for your attention!

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