



SA SIPEF NV



Press release
Regulated information

CERTIFICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL PRODUCTION

RSPO

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

The SIPEF Group is pleased to announce that its wholly-owned subsidiary Hargy Oil Palms Limited (HARGY) in Papua New Guinea has been awarded the certification for sustainable palm oil production, in accordance with the rigorous standards of the *Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil* (RSPO).

The RSPO certification is a voluntary system aimed at promoting sustainable palm oil development, taking into account economic, environmental and social aspects of palm oil production in a balanced way. It was set by the RSPO, a global, multi-stakeholder initiative made up of different players in the entire palm oil production supply chain, including plantation companies, manufacturers, merchandisers and retailers of palm oil or related products, industry associations, civil organizations and financial institutions. The principle objective of RSPO is ‘to promote the growth and use of sustainable palm oil through co-operation within the supply chain and open dialogue between its stakeholders.’

The two mills of HARGY which have been awarded RSPO certification, collectively produce approximately 78,158 metric tonnes of sustainable palm oil and 5,830 tonnes of sustainable palm kernel oil annually. Their supply base in West New Britain province consists of 3 plantations of more than 9,800 hectares planted and 3,700 surrounding smallholders, with 14,700 hectares planted. Smallholders produce approximately half of HARGY’S total palm oil production. HARGY is the second producer of palm oil worldwide to achieve this standard for their smallholders supply base.

HARGY’S RSPO certification is a first but important step in the SIPEF sustainability roadmap towards certification for all the SIPEF mill operations which is expected to be achieved within the next three years. It underlines its full compliance with strict social, environmental and economic criteria and demonstrates that the SIPEF Group is wholly committed to sustainability. It is also a strong endorsement of the quality of the management and operations of the SIPEF Group.

HARGY’S certification was received from *BSI Management Systems*, an RSPO-accredited certification body, following an in-depth audit process that found the Group’s plantation and mill operating practices comply with RSPO’s Principles and Criteria. It is an accomplishment, given the complexity of the requirements and the significant number of stakeholder’ interests, including smallholder operations, which must be considered. The experience gained in the process has strengthened the Groups’ management teams’ resolve to strive for continuous improvement.

For more information on RSPO, please see www.rspo.org

Schoten, 9th April 2009.

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S.A. Sipef N.V. is a Belgian agro-industrial company listed on Euronext Brussels. The company mainly holds majority stakes in tropical businesses, which it manages and operates. The Group is geographically diversified, and produces a number of different commodities, principally palm oil. Its investments are largely ventures in developing countries.