

## Wilmar Supports Sustainable Entrepreneurs (WISSE)

Third Progress Report  
October 2020 - April 2021

DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you very much for your continuous support towards MARIPOSA! With your support, we are able to provide further assistance to palm oil growers in Latin America. The end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021 brought us some good news and some bad news.

Starting with the good news: Forty-two smallholder farmers within the Asapalsa palm oil mill supply base have been certified together with Asapalsa mill itself. Together, they demonstrated compliance with the sustainability requirements of the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) system. As Olenex, we are proud of the smallholders' achievement and congratulate the farmers and Asapalsa's group managers.

The bad news came via the two category 4 hurricanes *Eta* and *Iota* that hit Honduras catastrophically at the end of last year. Farms, palm oil mills and infrastructure were completely inundated for several days, twice in a row. The flooding directly affected many of the smallholder farmers participating in the WISSE program.



Out of the 19,000 hectares planted with oil palms by 1867 WISSE smallholders, a total of 10,800 hectares were affected by the floods. While quite a number of trees were irreversibly destroyed, even more trees suffered from diseases that spread after the heavy rains withdrew.

Hectares affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota

MILL	TOTAL INITIAL PRODUCERS	TOTAL INITIAL HECTARES	FLOODED HECTARES	%	LOST PLANTED HECTARES	%	HECTARES WITH DISEASES	%	HECTARES OK	%
ASAPALSA	450	4052	581	14%	0	0%	581	14%	3471	86%
PALMASA	338	3768	1567	42%	5	0%	783	21%	2201	58%
HONDUCARIBE	279	3174	3040	96%	794	25%	631	20%	134	4%
HONDUPALMA	800	8000	5663	71%	839	10%	115	1%	2337	29%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1867</b>	<b>18994</b>	<b>10851</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>1638</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>2110</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8143</b>	<b>43%</b>

Smallholder farmers delivering to the palm oil mill Honducaribe were affected the most. Due to the heavy loss of area planted with oil palm trees, Honducaribe had to reduce the number of farmers in the WISSE program. Nevertheless, Honducaribe remains committed to have another 30 smallholders certified at the end of the program, in addition to the 103 farmers who have already been certified. Similar to Honducaribe, the other mills were reviewed and where necessary, adjusted their goals for the number of smallholders to be certified.

**57% of the area planted with oil palm trees by farmers enrolled in the WISSE program were flooded following hurricanes Eta and Iota**

Thanks to the support from the MARIPOSA Friends, each smallholder enrolled in the WISSE program received a pair of rain boots protecting the farmers from animals and foot fungus. Even with the rainy season over, the boots continue to serve as protective equipment.

*Letters of gratitude from the mill managers after receiving the rain boots for distribution among smallholder farmers.*





*“Thank you very much for this gift.  
It motivates me to continue working and it empowers me to strive much  
more for my plantation.”*

Claudio Rutilio Padilla  
Smallholder farmer enrolled in the WISSE program.

## Adjusting the WISSE program

Due to the unforeseen events, the WISSE program implementation team of NES Naturaleza had to adjust the schedule of the second year. Despite the necessary adjustments, the team managed to organize two Trainings of Groups Managers (TOGM) on *Decision making* and *Cross-verification*. In addition, two Trainings of Smallholders (TOSH) were conducted which covered the same topics with more focus on the qualities that the smallholders have to develop.

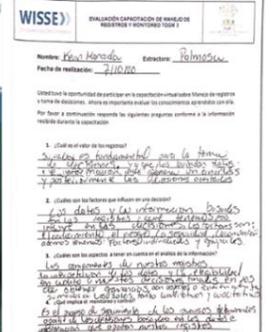
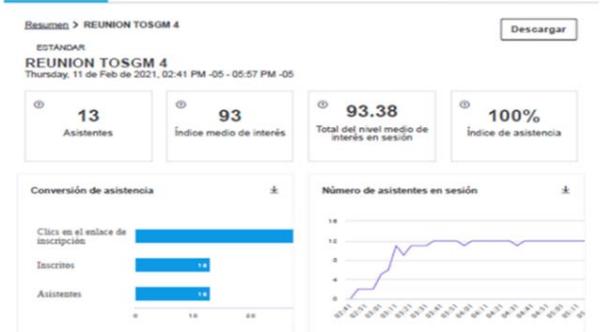
	YEAR 2 (SEPTEMBER 2020- AUGUST 2021)																															
	Q1 Project (Q4 2020)				Q2 Project (Q1 2021)				Q3 Project (Q2 2021)				Q4Project (Q3 2021)																			
	September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August									
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S1	S2	S3	S4	S1	S2	S3	S4	S1	S2	S3	S4	S1	S2	S3	S4	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	S11	S12
Design and illustration Handbook TOSH4 and TOSH5																																
Printing booklets TOSH4 and TOSH5																																
Second WISSE Report																																
TOSH3( Prerecorded + cartoon video+ short messages)																																
TOGM 3 GM Training ( Decision making)																																
Risk Assessment tools development																																
Multiplication Decision making																																
TOSH4 /TOGM4 ( crossed cheking)																																
Animated video																																
Multiplication Crossed checking																																
self-Risk Assessment tools review by GM																																
TOSH5 /TOGM5 ( Child labour)																																
Animated video #4																																
Multiplication Child Labour																																
Risk tool implementation adjustment																																
RSPO SHA HONDUCARIBE/ PAIGUAY (Group Manager)																																
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## 1. Training of Group Managers – TOGM

Just before the hurricanes hit in October 2020, a virtual training session for group managers (TOGM 3) was organized. This training session addressed monitoring and control. The second session for this period (TOGM 4) was held in February 2021. In this training session, the group managers learnt how to do *cross-checking verification*. This topic relates to evidence and verification of compliance with the sustainability system. The number of technical staff trained increased from 28 to 31 persons, giving more opportunities to consolidate the knowledge within the mills.

GROUP MANAGER TRAINED UNDER WISSE												
Mill	TOGM 1			TOGM 2			TOGM 3			TOGM 4		
	Leaders	Goal	%									
Asapalsa	7	7	100	7	7	100	7	7	100	7	7	100
Hondupalma/ (Parguey Group Manager)	4	4	100	7	7	100	8	7	114	8	7	114
Honducaribe	5	5	100	7	7	100	8	7	114	8	7	114
Palmasa	4	4	100	10	7	143	10	7	143	8	7	114
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>111</b>

During the trainings, the WISSE organizers opened a space to discuss about the difficulties farmers currently face due to the spreading of the bud rot disease. After the hurricanes hit, this disease spread even faster in the plantations. Considering that the disease has been very destructive in Colombia and Ecuador, the training organizers are looking for an opportunity to have trainings related to this new situation and how to best tackle it. Therefore, the WISSE organizers investigate possibilities on how this new need by farmers and group managers can be addressed.



## 2. Trainings of Smallholders – TOSH

The third smallholder training session (TOSH 3) commenced roll-out in October 2020. But due to the hurricane emergency, the roll-out had to be stopped and only resumed in January 2021 once the smallholders had overcome the initial difficulties. The fourth training session for smallholders (TOSH 4) began in February and ended in April 2021. The topics addressed were *Record Keeping* and *Sustainability Verification*. This training topic is interlinked with the cross-checking verification taught to the group managers.

SMALLHOLDERS TRAINED UNDER WISSE														
Mill	TOSH1					TOSH2			TOSH3			TOSH4		
	SH TRAINED NES	SH TRAINED GM	TOTAL SH TRAINED	Goal	%	TOTAL SH TRAINED GM	Goal	%	TOTAL SH TRAINED GM	Goal	%	TOTAL SH TRAINED GM	Goal	%
Asapalsa	158	464	622	450	138	455	450	101	450	450	100	450	450	100
Hondupalma/(Parguey Group Manager)	102	432	534	800	67	615	800	77	763	800	95	733	800	92
Honducaribe	186	93	279	279	100	279	279	100	156	150	104	156	150	104
Palmasa	80	256	336	338	99	325	338	96	338	338	100	294	338	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>1245</b>	<b>1771</b>	<b>1867</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>1674</b>	<b>1867</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1707</b>	<b>1738</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1633</b>	<b>1738</b>	<b>94</b>

Similar to the trainings during the first year, the trainers and mill managers employed training videos and cartoons for contact-less or contact-reduced trainings. In addition, we developed a training video that was sent to the growers via email and WhatsApp. Whenever possible, group managers performed direct trainings with the growers using the video.

**Training participation rate of smallholder farmers enrolled in the WISSE program was >94% on average in the first two years.**



We are positively surprised by the continued demand for trainings that we offer through the WISSE program even after the break due to the hurricane disaster and given the challenges due to the Corona pandemic. The high participation rate demonstrates the commitment by the farmers and the value WISSE provide them in order to become sustainable entrepreneurs.

The interest by smallholder farmers to strengthen their aptitudes and skills to reach sustainable production practices motivated us to create new tools. After a development phase in Q2 2021, a self-assessment tool is being rolled out starting July 2021 together with the commencement of virtual smallholder audits. The self-assessment tool will facilitate smallholders' understanding and implementation of sustainability certification.



We are excited to continue the WISSE program and look forward to sharing further all the progress we make with your support. Meanwhile, we are gearing up for the next MARIPOSA program, called WISSMA. Details will be shared soon.

*WISSE is the first program under the [MARIPOSA](#), which is a crowdfunding initiative created by [Olenex](#) together with its customers. By implementing programs like WISSE, Olenex customers directly contribute to change on the ground in the palm oil industry in Latin America; a great example of [#SharedResponsibility](#). Please direct all your questions to [palm\\_sustainability@olenex.com](mailto:palm_sustainability@olenex.com).*