

**The Declaration of Serikat Petani Kelapa Sawit
Sanggau District, West Kalimantan, Indonesia
Wisma Tabor Pusat Damai, 9 June 2006**

The development of oil palm plantations in Sanggau district started in 1979. The operations have now been going on for 27 years. These oil palm plantations have mainly been established on the customary lands of the Dayak indigenous peoples, both on their individually held farmlands, which they have been cultivating for generations, and on their wider customarily held territories.

Based on data in 2005, the total area of oil palm plantations in Sanggau district to has reached 131,148.64 hectares, consisting of large state-owned company holdings of 20,512.60 ha., domestic private companies holdings of 30,453.40 ha., and foreign investing companies which control 21,999.30 ha.. The small holdings of oil palm farmers, on the other hand, totals 77,383.30 ha.

By 2004, the production of palm oil from the district reached 1,059,335.104 tons from 119,617.90 ha. of productive oil palm plantations. Small holdings of oil palm farmers contributed 197,345.03 tons annually. The productivity of small holdings roughly reached 11.56 tons of CPO per ha. per year. On the other hand, the productivity of large-scale plantations of state-owned, domestic and foreign investing companies has reached the average 13.046 tons of CPO per ha. per annum.

The development of oil palm plantations has played a significant role in improving peoples' incomes, particularly of those involved in partnerships with the oil palm plantation companies. However, this does not mean that the development of oil palm plantations has been without any problems. Ever since the initial developments of oil palm plantations in the district, there have been significant and growing concerns and serious impacts on local communities, especially small oil palm farmers, among others:

1. Land acquisition for oil palm developments has not recognised the customary rights of indigenous peoples and the rights of local communities;
2. Allocations of farmers' plots are obviously unfair, not transparent and have been accompanied by falsified promises, infringed agreements and the fraudulent application of the relevant regulations;
3. Compensation, if any, paid for land has been insufficient;
4. Credit has been decided without involving farmers in a participatory manner;
5. Farmers are not involved systematically in the process of pricing of Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) so that the prices are not based on an agreed consensus;
6. Local communities do not have opportunity to be employed as workers on nucleus plantations and CPO processing mills;
7. The main and connecting roads to the smallholders' oil palm plots get lack of maintenance by both the companies and the government;
8. The areas of oil palm plots allocated to smallholder are not commensurate with the areas of land released by the communities for oil palm development;

9. Social conflicts have resulted between communities and companies, between communities and the government, and within the communities;
10. Environmental pollution by mill effluents and chemicals used in the oil palm plantations of downstream river waters, soils and the air is a serious problem;
11. Companies do not recognise and respect local customary laws and applicable national laws.

Based on the situation noted above, therefore, we, oil palm farmers associated as the SERIKAT PETANI KELAPA SAWIT (SPKS) hereby declare that we will:

1. Struggle to achieve an oil palm development system that will definitely benefit the people;
2. Struggle to get back the lands acquired by the companies without respect for the customary rights of indigenous peoples;
3. Struggle to establish an effective transparent and systematic participation of farmers in the pricing of the FFB;
4. Struggle for the elimination of the debts on farmers' oil palm plots, as compensation for the lands surrendered to the oil palm companies;
5. Struggle to ensure the fulfilment of the promises made by the oil palm companies in the process of ongoing oil palm development;
6. Call on companies to take measures to maintain the roads to the small farmers' oil palm plots;
7. Call for transparency in accessing information and data relevant to the whole system for the development of oil palm plantations;
8. Call on the government to favour local communities in resolving problems affecting the people and avoid using intimidatory practices, whilst prioritising persuasive and educative measures;
9. Call on regular independent audits of companies' assets to be carried out by the state auditing agencies and/or public accountants;
10. Struggle for improved conditions for oil palm farmers;
11. Reject the expansion of oil palm plantations all along the Indonesia – Malaysia border.

This is declaration of SERIKAT PETANI KELAPA SAWIT (SPKS). By means of this declaration, we hereby convey our views and aspirations to the government, companies and other parties involved in the system of oil palm plantation development.

Pusat Damai, 9 June 2006

UNION OF OIL PALM FARMERS (SERIKAT PETANI KELAPA SAWIT (SPKS)

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