

Building Research and Training Networks on Sustainable Development Goals

The SALSA Platform on Sustainable Agricultural Landscapes in Southeast Asia

Alain Rival, Cécile Bessou, Jean-Marc Roda, Marcel Djama and Sloan Saletes.
Cirad France, Malaysia & Indonesia. alain.rival@cirad.fr



On September 25th 2015 in New York, the United Nations adopted a set of 17 goals

Sustainable Development Goals were adopted to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda.

Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

For the goals to be reached, everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society and people like you.

SALSA. The regional context

Burning and recurrent questions...

- Deforestation/bushfires/haze
- Traceability of tropical commodities (palm oil, timber, cocoa, coffee...)
- Credibility of certification schemes (RSPO, ISPO, MSPO)
- Huge knowledge gaps on sustainability
- Lack of dedicated long term R&D

... are reflecting generic concepts in agricultural research

- Agricultural development vs Conservation
- Intensive Monoculture vs Agroforestry
- Agro-industries vs family farming
- Intensification vs resilience

SALSA. The science project

1. To decipher territorial dynamics in order to understand and qualify vectors of deforestation
2. To operationalize ecological intensification through agroecological practices
3. To ensure the inclusivity to smallholders of innovation pathways
4. To evaluate, harmonize and improve certification systems for sustainability
5. To organise academic and vocational training on the fundamentals of sustainability

SALSA. The partnership

In Malaysia, CIRAD has developed a network of partners building since 2009 on the assignment of research officers to Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). The first circle of SALSA members is mainly academic: it consists of **Universiti Putra Malaysia**, the **ASAHL network of ASEAN Universities** and the **University of Montpellier, France**.

In Indonesia, the founding members of SALSA are the two plantation companies **PT SMART** and **PT Socfindo**, long-time partners of CIRAD for field research on the sustainability of oil palm and rubber plantations, **PT RPN**, the national plantation crop research network, and the **Asian Pacific Coconut Community**, a regional association of coconut-producing countries, an institutional partner under the aegis of the United Nations.

