

# BACP

BIODIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL  
COMMODITIES PROGRAM



## News

Issue 3, September 2009

## BACP Grantees in the Media

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### Did you know?

[Neste Oil commits to using solely certified palm oil by the end of 2015](#)



One of the Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program's (BACP) grantees, the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), was featured this quarter in a *Christian Science Monitor* article titled "[Palm oil](#)

[paradox.](#)" The article describes how the RSPO is working with high-profile multinational corporations such as Unilever, Johnson & Johnson, and Nestlé in an effort to reduce forest clearing and protect orangutan habitat through the production of certified palm oil in Indonesia and Malaysia. Although not mentioned in the article, this placement in the media was made possible by another BACP grantee, the PanEco Foundation, which is working in Tripa, the site mentioned in the article. PanEco is also mentioned this quarter in another article "[Oil boom threatens the last orangutans](#)" on The Independent.

## Send BACP your Soy Grant Application

BACP is seeking grant applications to fund projects and initiatives that contribute to the preservation of biodiversity within soy agricultural landscapes. The goal of these grants is to reduce the negative impacts of soy production and commercialization and to promote biodiversity-friendly production, demand, and commercialization of sustainable soy.

Guidelines for submitting proposals and application forms can be found at [www.bacp.net](http://www.bacp.net). BACP will be accepting applications on a rolling basis through **December 1, 2009**.

## BACP Recent Developments



In August 2009, IFC committed to develop a comprehensive strategy to guide its future investments in oil palm. While this process does not affect existing grantee projects, some **further consideration is needed before BACP can issue the next call for proposals in the oil palm sector.**

Stakeholders will be updated via the BACP website when the next call is issued. In addition, IFC will seek input from multiple stakeholders during the development of the oil palm strategy and we will be providing additional information soon on how you could participate.

BACP has **reviewed five proposals for the first round of the soy RFA**, and has sent four of these proposals for internal IFC review and no objection. Once approved by IFC the project summaries will be placed on the BACP website for a 10 day disclosure period before grant agreements are finalized.

BACP's initial four target commodities are palm oil, soy, sugarcane and cocoa. We've recently advanced our work in the latter two commodities by preparing **sugarcane and cocoa Market Transformation Strategies (MTS')** for steering committee approval. The MTS' are currently under review and we will update stakeholders on their final approval, as well as forthcoming work under these commodities, in future newsletters.

## Commodity Roundtable Updates



**Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)**  
[Significant rise in RSPO-certified palm oil in EU](#)- The volume of RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil imported to the European Union markets has increased significantly as producers in South East Asia comply with the Roundtable on Sustainable PalmOil (RSPO) Certifications.

The RSPO will be hosting its annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on November 2-4th. The BACP team will be there to host a booth, and current BACP palm oil grantees will be presenting during the biodiversity pre-meetings on November 1. Mark your **calendars - the RT7 is coming up very soon!** Find out more information about the RSPO at their website: [www.rspo.org](http://www.rspo.org)



### Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS)

The RTRS will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Board Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina on October 6,7, and 8, 2009.

Find out more about the RTRTS at their website:  
<http://www.responsiblesoy.org/>



### The Better Sugarcane Initiative (BSI)

The BSI is holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) November 2-6 in India. Version 2 of the BSI standard, currently under development will be discussed at this meeting. The AGM is open to the entire BSI membership.

Read more here at the BSI website:  
<http://www.bettersugarcane.org>

## About BACP

Agricultural expansion is the leading cause of habitat loss around the world and poses one of the gravest threats to global biodiversity. Tropical export commodities have dramatically increased production in the last fifty years, resulting in the destruction of much tropical habitat. The Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program (BACP) seeks to reduce the threats posed by agriculture to biodiversity of global significance by transforming markets for target agricultural commodities.

To transform the commodity markets, BACP supports projects that generate greater supply, demand and financing of biodiversity-friendly products. Projects must meet specific criteria and address one of the four following components:

- 1) Removing policy barriers
- 2) Supporting better production
- 3) Increasing demand for biodiversity-friendly products
- 4) Encouraging financial services to support biodiversity-friendly practices

For more information, see the [BACP website](#)

**To submit comments or suggestions, please email us at [commentsbacp@chemonics.com](mailto:commentsbacp@chemonics.com).**

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