

Golden Agri-Resources echoes calls for consolidated industry approach to addressing labour challenges in palm oil sector

Jakarta, 30 November 2016 - Golden Agri-Resources (GAR) recognises and shares the concerns regarding labour standards within the palm oil sector raised in the Amnesty International report and supports calls by Wilmar, the RSPO and others for collective action to address poor labour practices within the industry.

Recognising, respecting and strengthening the rights of workers is the third of four pillars within the [GAR Social and Environmental Policy](#) which was reviewed and expanded in 2015.

The commitment to worker rights includes contract, temporary, and casual workers of all genders, it builds on existing GAR human resources policies and standard operating procedures (SOPs) and draws on both Indonesian labour laws and international best practices, e.g. the International Labour Organisation's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Input was also gathered from civil society organisations specialising in labour. The GSEP applies not only to our own operations, but to our subsidiaries, investments and third party suppliers as well.

GAR recognises that there are sector-wide challenges within the palm oil industry in relation to labour and believes the renewed focus on this aspect of our industry should be accompanied by a collective effort to address poor practices. We are participating in a [joint study with Wilmar, being conducted by Business for Social Responsibility \(BSR\)](#) – a global non-profit organisation that works to build a just and sustainable world by developing sustainable business strategies and solutions – to conduct a review of current labour practices in the palm oil sector in Indonesia. The results of which we hope to publish in early 2017.

With the assistance of our implementing partner TFT we have conducted No Exploitation site visits of our own concessions and are using their Aggregator Refinery Transformation (ART) approach to identify common issues and challenges for our suppliers within a refinery supply shed. Our Supplier Support Team is developing tools, guidelines, training and workshops to support suppliers in implementing best practices in environmental, social and labour areas.

Agus Purnomo, Managing Director Sustainability, said: "People are the driving force behind the palm oil industry and our most valuable asset. It is important for the future of the industry that key stakeholders come together, as we have done in addressing deforestation questions, to address the issues highlighted by Amnesty and others. GAR would welcome multi-stakeholder collaboration on this issue."

Further information regarding GAR's efforts on labour can be found in pages 50-54 of our latest sustainability report, [SR2015](#). Agus Purnomo presented on the challenges in securing a sustainable plantation workforce at the recent RSPO RT14, highlights of which are reported [here](#).

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About Golden Agri-Resources Ltd (GAR)

GAR is one of the leading palm oil plantation companies with a total planted area of 483,075 hectares (including smallholders) as at 30 June 2016, located in Indonesia. It has integrated operations focused on the production of palm-based edible oil and fat.

Founded in 1996 GAR was listed on the Singapore Exchange in 1999 with a market capitalisation of US\$3.3 billion as at 30 June 2016. Flambo International Limited, an investment company, is currently



GAR's largest shareholder, with a 50.35 percent stake. GAR has several subsidiaries, including PT SMART Tbk which was listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 1992.

GAR is focused on sustainable palm oil production. In Indonesia, its primary activities include cultivating and harvesting of oil palm trees; processing of fresh fruit bunch into crude palm oil (CPO) and palm kernel; refining CPO into value-added products such as cooking oil, margarine and shortening; as well as merchandising palm products throughout the world. It also has operations in China and India including a deep-sea port, oilseeds crushing plants, production capabilities for refined edible oil products as well as other food products such as noodles.

Media Contact:

Archana Shah

archana.shah@cohnwolfe.com

(+65) 9182 4004