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NISCOPS 2 to enhance CPO smallholders' livelihoods

KUALA LUMPUR: The Ministry of Plantation and Commodities (KPK) has launched the National Initiative for Sustainable and Climate-smart Oil Palm Smallholders 2 (NISCOPS 2), a strategic programme designed to enhance smallholder farmers' livelihoods while addressing climate change challenges.

The document exchange ceremony was witnessed by KPK Deputy Minister Chan Foong Hin representing Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani on Tuesday, and involved the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Malaysia, and the British High Commission in Malaysia.

NISCOPS is a government-to-government initiative that focuses on improving smallholder farmers' livelihoods and tackling climate change by adapting to the new climate,

protecting forests and reducing carbon emissions.

The programme also supports Malaysia's commitments under the Paris Agreement,

the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by operationalising climate smart agriculture

in Sabah, Sarawak, and Peninsular Malaysia.

The NISCOPS 2 Tripartite Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed on September 24, 2024, involving

the MPOB, the Netherlands Embassy, and the British High Commission.

This collaboration seeks to enhance strategic partnerships between the three nations while promoting sustainable palm oil production and consumption.

The key objectives of NISCOPS 2 include boosting productivity and sustainability by improving the livelihoods of smallholders in 15 sites, distributed equally across Sabah, Sarawak, and Peninsular Malaysia.

It added that the programme aims to pilot a deforestation monitoring system in three sites, one in each region.

Additionally, the ministry highlighted the goal of enhancing smallholders' resilience to climate change across all 15 sites.

Lastly, it outlined plans to revise the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) standard for

smallholders and develop a traceability initiative to assist them in meeting international market requirements.

Implementation will be spearheaded by Solidaridad Network, Stichting IDH, and MPOB, in collaboration with various governmental and research bodies, including KPK, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia, and MSPO.

The programme is slated to run until December 31, 2028.

NISCOPS 1 was successfully implemented from Nov 2019 to Dec 2023 and marked significant progress towards a unified nationally accepted definition for deforestation-free oil palm smallholdings, as well as training 15,322 smallholder farmers in climate resilient and sustainable production in Johor, Perak, Sabah, and Sarawak.



Chan (middle) witnesses the NISCOPS 2 Tripartite LOI during the document exchange ceremony.