

# **Globalization and Domestic Policy Change: Discourse Analysis on the New Mandatory Palm Oil Policy in Indonesia**

*Astari, A.J.; Lovett, J.C.*

*Annisa Joviani Astari, University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands*

*Jon C. Lovett, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom*

## **ABSTRACT**

Sustainability is now a global agenda, influencing multilevel actors and institutions in different countries to (re-)formulate sustainability policies, leading to a policy convergence. This study analyses the influence of the global sustainability agenda on the process of domestic policy change; and asks if this has led to the initiation of new policy paths. The Indonesian palm oil sector, specifically the publication of the mandatory certification on Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) policy, is used as a case study. Although the ISPO was initiated and published by the Ministry of Agriculture, a range of stakeholders from both public and private organizations were directly and indirectly involved in the policy making process. We used Q-methodology to analyse discourses on whether globalization influenced initiation of the ISPO and explore the sustainability agenda in this sector. We interviewed 36 stakeholders to gather the qualitative data used for the Q concourse, and engaging 27 stakeholders in the Q sorting process. Five distinct discourses were revealed in the results. Two discourses cover issues ranging from state sovereignty and need to strengthen the local sector as triggering factors for ISPO initiation. The other three discourses included scepticism on ISPO, financial aspects and conservation value debates, and challenges and suggestions for ISPO implementation. The study verified that globalization acted as a catalyst for initiation of ISPO.

Keywords: Globalization; Domestic Policy Change; Indonesia; Palm Oil; Q methodology; Discourses