



Planting Naturals is a vertically integrated company producing sustainable, organic palm oil sourced from smallholders and its own plantations.

TAF THEME	Smallholder development
FIRST INVESTMENT	2025
COUNTRY	Sierra Leone
SECTOR	Processing

INVESTEE

Planting Naturals (PN) is the largest organic palm oil producer in West Africa and the largest supplier of organic palm oil to Europe. Operating a 20 MT/hour processing facility in Daru, Sierra Leone, PN sources from approximately 10,000 smallholder farmers (SHF), including 7,834 organic certified and 4,725 Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certified. They are the largest such certified smallholder group globally, with full RSPO certification targeted by 2026. Beyond procurement, PN provides extension services, certification support, and community development initiatives, delivering meaningful livelihoods to thousands of farmers and their communities in one of Africa's poorest nations.

AGDEVCO'S ROLE


- AgDevCo has invested debt and has further supported PN through its Technical Assistance (TA) Facility. This TA support has spanned several key areas:
- Train-the-trainer programmes on good agricultural practices, certification, financial literacy, and gender inclusion to expand the extension team
 - Training and certification of SHFs, including first-time RSPO certification for 3,109 SHFs and Fair for Life certification for all 7,834 organically certified SHFs
 - 100 demonstration farms with field day trainings for SHFs
 - Integrated pest management trials using biological products
 - Market information transparency for SHFs and improved farmer support centres
 - Gender and social inclusion assessment with a costed action plan
 - Rollout of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) alongside financial literacy training
 - Fresh fruit bunch quality control to drive higher prices through improved quality and higher oil extraction rates
 - Digital field data collection to support traceability and ensure EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) compliance

TAF IMPACT

The TA project launched in May 2025 and runs through year-end 2026. By end-2025, RSPO and organic practices trainings reached 5,730 farmers (27% women), while 822 SHFs (45% women) attended field days at demonstration farms. In the male-dominated oil palm value chain, PN actively targets women for field days and VSLAs to boost gender outcomes. To date, 923 SHFs (45% women) have joined VSLAs and received financial literacy training. An additional 6,000 beneficiaries are targeted for 2026.

PN partnered with Koltiva to enhance SHF traceability for EUDR compliance. The new system is live, with 7,218 farmers (14% women) registered and PN staff trained. Field agents now collect verified data on profiles, plots, and practices, feeding into a central system for risk assessments, reporting, and audits, delivering full supply chain visibility and streamlined compliance.

TAF IMPACT IN 2025

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>5,700
(27% women)
SHF trained in RSPO practices
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45%
of SHF at field days were women
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923 SHF
Joined VSLAs & received financial literacy training



Koltiva app data collection

Quote from Jan Hein de Vroe,
CEO Planting Naturals

“AgDevCo’s Technical Assistance has enabled Planting Naturals to transform how we work with our smallholder farmers. Through support for our partnership with KOLTIVA, we have implemented digital traceability tools that map farms, capture sustainability data, and prepare us comprehensively for EUDR compliance. Beyond compliance, this has strengthened farmer relationships, improved data accuracy, and enhanced transparency across our supply chain. Most importantly, it empowers smallholders to participate in verified deforestation-free markets, securing their livelihoods while protecting forests.”



Women farmers actively participate in RSPO training at a PN demonstration farm.