

Family Farming in Indonesia

Hosting 60 percent of the world's population and 74 percent of its family farmers, the Asia-Pacific region is the global home of small-scale family farmers. Producing 80 percent of the region's food, family farmers ensure the future of Asia-Pacific and are at the heart of food security and sustainable food systems.

The United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNdff 2019- 2028) aims at unleashing the potential of family farmers as key agents of change to transform food systems world-wide. Within this framework, the Comdev Asia communication initiative implements a regional campaign to raise awareness on the UNdff and promote improved communication capacities and services for family farming in Asia & The Pacific.

KEY FIGURES

The Republic of Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago with more than 17 000 islands straddling the Indian and Pacific Oceans in Southeast Asia. The total population of Indonesia currently amounts to over 275 000 000 people, ranking number 4 in the list of the most populous nations in the world.

Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous nation with over 273 000 000 people. The nation's total land area for agricultural production is equivalent to 32 percent of the total land area. Agriculture is crucial for Indonesia's economy, accounting for 14 percent of GDP. 93 percent of Indonesia's farmers are from small family farms. Small family farming is carried out on modest plots averaging 0.6 hectares. The typical smallholder household has 5 to 6 household members, with the head having an average educational level of 6 years. Only 11 percent of the family farms are female-headed.

Given several agro-climatic zones, agriculture in Indonesia is diversified; however, rice is the primary staple food crop with a steady increase in annual production, making Indonesia the third largest rice producer globally. Family farmers grow the bulk of staples, including rice, corn and cassava. They are also the source of export cash crops such as palm oil and rubber.



UNdff in Action

As a concrete form of support from the Government of Indonesia for the implementation of the Family Farming Decade, the Government of Indonesia launched its National Action Plan in 2019. The Plan includes sustainability of family agriculture, gender equality, capacity building of farmer organizations, and improvement of the welfare of farmers' households. In particular, the National Strategic Plan on Family Farming shall contribute to the achievement of the National Development Mid-term Plan and the National Development Long-term Plan. The National Action Plan, known as RAN-PK (Rencana Aksi Nasional Pertanian Keluarga) is "to create a modern, independent, fair, competitive family farmers in prosperous and dignity". Meanwhile, the objectives are:

- Creating independent and dignified family farmers;
- Developing a modern and competitive agriculture approach that optimizes local resources in a diverse and sustainable manner; and
- Achieving a just and prosperous family farmers between rural and urban community

In order to reach the above mentioned objectives, two groups working for family farmers have been instituted:

- KNPk or NCFF (National Committee for Family Farming) which concentrates on advocacy for increased and secured farmers' rights and
- Government National Food Security Agency (NFSA) through seed money transfer to family farmer through farmers group (150 million IDR per group) and monitored by local agriculture office.



Contribution to sustainable food systems

The Government of Indonesia is strongly committed to support family farmers as clearly shown in the statement by the Minister of National Development Planning/ Head of BAPPENAS during the United Nations Food Systems Summit (23rd September, 2021). As Indonesia is moving towards accelerating the achievement of SDG targets, a focus on global food systems transformation is necessary. For this reason, Indonesia will aim at emphasizing three points: 1. strengthening agriculture sector is crucial for food system transformation; 2. more support and resources should be allocated to small-scale farmers; 3. more inclusive and stronger multistakeholder partnerships are needed.

Among the initial steps in implementing the National Strategic Plan is the creation of synergies with other national and subnational strategic plans and processes involving governments, parliamentarians, private sectors, civil society organizations and other stakeholders relevant to family farming.

A process is being promoted to contextualize the implementation of the National Action Plan and its strategic plan of family farming at the national and sub-national levels. National governments and its ministries are encouraged to identify and map existing efforts taken to strengthen family farming. This mapping process should incorporate existing relevant actions and a needs assessment of different actors to build integrated and well-tailored interventions.

It is recommended to undertake this process inclusively with family farmers and other relevant actors, including the existing National Committees of Family Farming, to ensure their complementary contributions according to specific roles and responsibilities. This multi-actor collaboration will mobilize key players to convert identified needs and actions into concrete action plans at the national level.

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Indonesia - a family farming story

Nissa Wargadipura (Female, 45, Garut, West Java)

Nissa was born from a farmer family in Garut, and was activists in a farmer organization when she was university student. She was founder of Pasundan Farmer Union and has been able to empower woman farmers in her organization to play greater role in the organization, including providing economic assistance to the family of the farmers. When she got married, with her husband, she established Islamic Boarding School (pesantren), that teaches ecology-based education in agricultural production. Agricultural products are also used to meet the needs of pesantren. She wants this pesantren to be a model of agricultural governance that cares about the environment. With her husband, her three children, and hundreds of her students she managed a 4 200 square metres land that divides into rice fields, gardens, stables, and ponds.

Candra Wiyana (Male, Banyuwangi, Banyuwangi, East Java)

Candra inherits sawah (paddy field) and backyard farms which was managed by his parents. The backyard farms initially planted dominated by snake fruit and not productive. With his determination, Candra and his family redesigned the backyard farms in permaculture approach and able to produce various commodities. He has been able to conserve the backyard farms and get more income. His wife a schoolteacher and children support him in his daily work in the farm.



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