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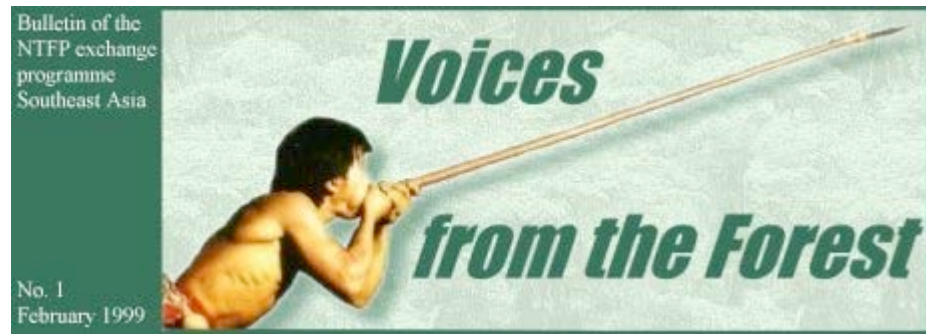
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Voices from the Forest

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February 1999



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February 1999

Voices from the Forest

Voices from the Forest

Editorial

This first edition of "Voices from the Forest", bulletin of the NTFP exchange programme in Southeast Asia, marks the strongly increased interest in the sustainable management and exploitation of Non-Timber Forest Products. Yet, despite the many NTFP initiatives that have evolved over the past years, a deep concern is felt among the partners involved in the NTFP exchange programme that the knowledge, ideas, practices and experiences of forest communities and their representing organisations insufficiently enter the (international) debate. Although often involved as 'partner' or 'stake-holder', the interests of the forest communities are often blurred in the broader discussion of forest preservation and management.

The exchange programme, and this bulletin in particular, aims to provide a platform for sharing forest community-based ideas and concerns. Through practical information and cases, we hope to contribute to sustainable management and exploitation of NTFPs that will directly benefit forest communities. This automatically implies that the exchange programme and bulletin can only be sustained through the efforts of the true stake-holders, which is why we invite forest-based communities and representing organisations to provide the necessary input.

This first issue of the bulletin contains a range of interesting topics, dealing with product-related issues such as the quality of honey (Natripal, Palawan) and the trade in rattan (SHK-Kalimantan) as well as with the more general concerns of forest protection (the Kalahan case) and marketing (the Upland Marketing Program).

The next issue of "Voices from the Forest" will be released in September 1999. Among the subjects of the September issue will be: NTFPs in village forest rehabilitation (Sarawak) and the link between sound forest management and land rights (the CADT-experience in the Philippines).

Meanwhile, reactions on articles in this issue, as well as new contributions from the grassroots, are most welcome.

Bert-Jan Ottens
Managing consultant of ProFound

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Why an NTFP Exchange Programme?

In 1989, the Netherlands Committee for IUCN (hereafter NC-IUCN) conducted one of the first comprehensive field level surveys on the role of non-timber forest products (NTFPs). This inventory showed the great economic potential of NTFPs in South East Asia, their immediate importance for local families and for forest conservation. The inventory also surfaced the urgent need for more recognition of the key role of NTFPs. Moreover, it called attention to the many constraints local people face in maintaining or obtaining access to NTFPs, as well as with regard to sustainable exploitation, marketing and so forth.

Pressures on local communities and their forest environments are increasing. Deforestation and marginalisation of local people call for forms of collaboration which enable local communities to counter outside pressure and to consolidate or adapt their own management and subsistence strategies, taking into account the potential and vulnerability of their natural environment.

In South East Asia various promising local initiatives are being developed towards sustainable exploitation, processing and, eventually, marketing of NTFPs. However, local communities and the NGOs supporting them, often work in isolation and lack strategic information and have little or no access to financial and technical support.

At various occasions (such as the March 1996 meeting in Palawan, hosted by NATRIPAL) local organisations expressed their interest in better collaboration - both at the national and regional level - in order to strengthen local capacity and to achieve policy reforms. Ideally, the co-ordination of such support work and networking activities is to be undertaken by local organisations themselves. It appeared, however, that most local groups are as yet much absorbed in developing local activities, and at this stage only have limited capacity to undertake broader NTFP support activities.

In order not to lose momentum and time, ProFound, NC-IUCN and Both Ends agreed to initiate a pilot programme to assist local communities and NGOs to gain strength through mutual co-operation and information exchange.

The main objective of the programme is to build capacity among local stakeholders to deal with the various aspects of NTFP development, including resource management, food security, subsistence use and marketing, and national and regional networking.

Meanwhile, the programme has initiated collaboration among organisations in the following countries: Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos and India. Although the programme is initiated by NC-IUCN, Both Ends and ProFound, it is envisaged that coordination will increasingly be taken over by the participating organisations in Southeast Asia.

Paul Wolvekamp
Both Ends

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The NTFP Exchange Programme for Southeast Asia: Aims and Activities

Introduction

Forest communities all over Southeast Asia are getting involved in the development of alternatives for the destructive exploitation of the regions' forests. These initiatives promote sustainable forest use, based as much as possible - on existing traditions and practices.

Although the communities do meet the same challenges everywhere specific experiences differ from area to area. The NTFP Exchange Program hopes to play a role in strengthening local initiative in Southeast Asia.

In close collaboration with its partners, the Exchange Program aims at facilitating activities in the domain of community-based NTFP development at three levels:

1. regional exchange of local experiences and expertise;
2. information provision; and
3. presentation of needs and approaches by grassroots organisations towards donors, research institutes and government agencies.

Scope / participants

The program started with participants in the following three countries: The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia (Kalimantan). Local activities will in principle be co-ordinated by one organisation in each country: the Borneo Resource Centre (BRIMAS) in Malaysia, UNAC/PBSP Upland Marketing Program in the Philippines and PLASMA in Indonesia. Although the project for a start - is focusing on three countries, linkages will be established with organisations in other Asian countries. These are organisations such as the Bee Research Institute in Hanoi, Vietnam; the NTFP Information Centre (NIC) in Vientiane, Laos; and Prakhruiti and Keystone in India.

Issues

On the basis of discussions with partners, the following larger issues have been identified as of common interest:

ProFound - Advisers In Development has expertise in programmes in developing countries dealing with the sustainable management, processing and marketing of NTFPs, with emphasis on community-based forest management and local capacity building.

Both ENDS is a non-profit service organisation supporting local environment and development organisations in the South, with emphasis on sharing information about successful initiatives for sustainability, making connections and local capacity building

The Netherlands Committee for IUCN functions as a platform for Dutch members of IUCN; since 1994 it funds small-scale NGO projects geared towards the conservation and good management of tropical rainforests.



Ceremonial planting of Illipe tree at start of village reforestation project (Uma Bawang, Sarawak)
Photo: Jenne de Beer



- Tenurial aspects of the use and management of NTFP resources;
- Resource management: exchange of expertise regarding sustainable harvesting of various products and efforts to implement community forest rehabilitation; and
- Food security and income generation: information/expertise relating to preservation, grading and marketing of various products.

Regional meetings

During the pilot-phase of the Exchange Program, three regional meetings will be organised. The first of these meetings took place recently.

- **Early September 1998**, UNAC/PBSP Upland Marketing Program, in co-operation with ATI-Philippines, organised a national NTFP conference for grass-root organisations in Manila. The conference was a follow-up of an earlier series of national rattan conferences. In order to secure a permanent process, a task force was established at the end of the conference. It will act as a platform, which enhances exchanges between Filipino organisations active in NTFP production. In addition to this national conference, the first two-day regional meeting of the NTFP Support Project took place. The meeting was attended by 20 representatives of Filipino NGOs and village organisations plus representatives from Sarawak and Kalimantan. During these two days, the outline of the NTFP Exchange Program Support Project was discussed.
- The next regional meeting is planned for **April 1999** in Sarawak. The event will take place in connection to a state-wide meeting of village and support organisations in Sarawak. Partners in the support program are invited to participate. One of the main issues of the meeting will be: 'NTFPs in community forest rehabilitation initiatives'.
- The final workshop of the pilot phase is planned for **December 1999**. The location is still to be decided by project partners (option: Palawan). During this workshop the projects' achievements so far will be evaluated. Furthermore, a discussion will take place with respect to the agenda for the next two years and transfer of co-ordination responsibilities to counterpart organisations.

Other activities

- In the **second half of 1999**, PANLIPI-Palawan is planning to assist in organising a workshop in Miri for Sarawak lawyers, paralegal workers and NGO staff. The main issue will be the developments that have led to the implementation of the CADT system (Certificate for Ancestral Domain Title) in the Philippines.
- A visit from Palawan and Sarawak to PLASMA/Bentian Besar in Kalimantan is planned for **May 1999**, focus: exchange on rattan cultivation and trade.
- In collaboration with other NGOs, PLASMA will organise a large conference in Samarinda, East Kalimantan, in **September 1999**. During this conference the results of PLASMA's current project 'Enhancement of Indigenous initiatives for community-based Resource Management' will be shared with government agencies, academics and provincial institutes. Government and NGO guest speakers and resource persons are invited from the Philippines, Malaysia and India.

*Jenne de Beer,
The Netherlands*

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Forest fruits for forest protection

The Ikalahan people, one of the many tribes of Indigenous People in the Caraballo Mountains of Northern Luzon finally convinced the Phillipine Government in 1974 to recognise their Ancestral land Claims through a special Memorandum of Agreement, the first such Agreement in Asia. In exchange for tenurial rights the people agreed to protect the watersheds, something they wanted to do anyway. Their legal personality is known as the **Kalahan Educational Foundation (KEF)**.

Their lands are high (1,000 metres asl) and steep (averaging 45 degrees) but fertile and productive if properly handled. Their challenge was to produce sufficient food and cash to support the total population while, at the same time, improving the watershed. Their solution was found in the sustainable economic development of several ecological niches within their Reserve.

Most of their food is produced in swidden farms. Most of their cash comes from the various developed niches, the most important of which is the processing of Wild Fruit.

The Ikalahan began processing wild guavas about ten years ago. By making three products: jelly, jam and butter, they increased the value added and reduced the waste. When these products proved successful, they began processing another wild fruit known locally as Dagwey (*Saurauia subglabna*) which also produces three products: preserves, jelly and jam. The little waste produced during processing is fed to the pigs for the manufacture of organic fertilisers.

When they inventoried the available Dagwey trees, the Ikalahan discovered only 2,000 trees remain of this former 'weed tree'. The people finally discovered how to propagate it and have increased the inventory by an additional 8,000 trees planted in the forests.

With the success of these products they continued to look at the other fruits and blossoms. Now they also process Ginger, Passion fruit, Santol, Dikay (a vine similar to grapes but more flavourful) and two types of Hibiscus blossoms. All of these can be harvested by whoever, among their own people, wants to enter the forests to harvest them.

To be sure that the harvesting of these wild fruits was not endangering the survival of any wild fauna, the KEF estimated the amount of each fruit being produced in the forests and compared it with the amount being harvested for processing. It was found that the Processing Centre is only using about 10 percent of the total available fruit. The Ikalahan feel certain that this level of utilisation will still leave plenty of fruit for all of the wild fauna of the area.

The harvesting of the fruits provides a significant cash income to more than 100 interested families, processing provides employment for another 8 families, and the net profits will eventually subsidise the high school, health centre, and other programs of the KEF.

Although the population is increasing slowly, the marketing of the products is increasing at a much higher rate and the development of the forests and forest fruits is progressing at a still higher rate. The Ikalahan feel that their sustainability is ensured.

The improvement of the forests has also benefited the vegetable producers whose crops are less subject to pests because of the large number of natural predators living in the surrounding forests. The expansion of their income base has also released the pressure on forests to provide agricultural lands. The people now feel comfortable in setting aside 4,000 hectares of their Ancestral Domain to serve as permanent Sanctuaries for wildlife, both flora and fauna. At least 40 endangered species are found within the Sanctuaries.

By working with the environment, in stead of forcing it, the Ikalahan are benefiting both the present and future generations of their own people while providing a stable and abundant supply of water to the millions of people downstream.

Delbert Rice
Kalahan Educational Foundation, Philippines

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The quality of forest honey in Palawan

History

NATRIPAL started its honey program in 1994 with a project on the sustainable harvest and trade of non-timber forest products (NTFPs). For the first two years, honey was not given much priority by the project and activities concerned merely repackaging and re-selling products. In 1996, a honey and bee expert from Vietnam, Dr. Chinh, visited Palawan. Dr. Chinh made recommendations on sustainable honey harvesting and proper timing of harvest, in order to reduce the moisture content of the product. At this time, wax was also identified as a product that could be traded by local indigenous communities. In 1996, NATRIPAL produced a how-to type picture book to promote the lessons learned on sustainable honey harvesting for indigenous honey hunters. Included in this book were instructions on proper wax preparation. (The instructions were obtained from wax buyers).

For these initial years, NATRIPAL marketed a volume of 200-300 gallons a year of honey mostly to the local tourist market and to traders in Manila. In 1997, however, NATRIPAL received deliveries of honey totalling 6 tons. This volume exceeded the existing market that NATRIPAL maintained. NATRIPAL tried to sell the honey to industrial buyers, but this proved unsuccessful since quality standards were not met as honey was fermenting due to its high moisture content.

In April 1998, NATRIPAL organised a workshop in Palawan. A number of 36 indigenous participants from 18 honey producing communities attended the meeting, which had the following objectives:

1. To analyse and address problems of gatherers and NATRIPAL concerning wild honey;
2. To determine whether wild honey is harvested sustainably and to explore other ways that bees could be conserved; and
3. Given these inputs, what should NATRIPAL do in the future with its honey program.

Introduction of resource persons

Joel Magsaysay and Boleng Magsaysay

Joel and Boleng have been assisting NATRIPAL since 1995. Joel and Boleng run a honeybee farm in Silang, Cavite. In 1996, Joel started purchasing wax from NATRIPAL. He also assisted NATRIPAL in the preparation of a brochure on wax processing. He has readily given NATRIPAL advice on honey and bees and provided training to NATRIPAL staff on bees and bee keeping. In 1997, he purchased much of NATRIPAL's honey in preparation of honey wine. His inputs on marketing and future needs of NATRIPAL were most valuable.

Mathew John

Mathew comes as a representative from Keystone - a group for Eco-Development Initiatives based in the Nilgris, India. Like NATRIPAL, Keystone works with Indigenous Peoples that harvest and trade honey specifically from wild dorsata hives and from cerana hives. He was invited especially to show NATRIPAL their technology on processing, value addition and honey testing.

Dr. RWK Punchihewa

Dr. Punchihewa is connected with the Sri Lanka Department of Agriculture. He wrote the book entitled 'Beekeeping for Honey Production in Sri Lanka - Management of Asiatic Hive Honeybee *Apis cerana* in its Natural Tropical Monsoonal Environment'. In his work of over two decades, he has also studied the recurring problem of moisture content in tropical honey. He has since developed a solar honey drier to address this problem.



A bowl of tasty wild honey

Photo: Ida Theilade

Indigenous bee/honey knowledge sharing

Two indigenous representatives, one Tagbanua and one Pala'wan shared their knowledge on honey hunting and ecology in general. They spoke of spiritual as well as a black resin that is used to disorient bees leaving the hive unguarded and ready for harvest. Honey is also believed to be a good medicine for colds and hepatitis.

Solar drier

That afternoon, Dr. Punchihewa spoke on maintaining good quality honey. He explained that honey with a moisture content higher than 18.5% will ferment faster. Since high moisture content was the natural problem in the tropics, Dr. Punchihewa invented a special solar drier to reduce the moisture content in honey. The solar drier removes up to 2% moisture during each run when the moisture content is still high and is reduced per run thereafter. The solar honey drier can process up to 50 litres of honey a day. Since the drier essentially raises the heat between the glass and the honey, the honey itself does not receive direct heat, thus not altering its composition of vitamins and minerals.

Honey hunting

On the second day, the participants split into two groups and demonstrated the indigenous technique for harvesting honey. Dr. Punchihewa commented on the finesse and grace of the honey hunter, Paking. Proof of this is the fact that the bees did not defend the ground but took to the sky when Paking smoked them out. Dr. Punci also commented that the harvest here could be more sustainable if the people would leave some of the brood for the next generation of bees and hives. His suggestion was to leave maybe one out of five hives.

He said that the system he observed was better than the one he had observed in Malaysia where hives are hunted in the evening. Since bees are attracted to the light, they fly toward the torch and as their wings get singed, many die. In the morning, you would find hundreds of dead bees on the ground. He described the scene as a massacre.

Alternative processing

Mathew John then demonstrated a method of straining the honey by dividing the hive down its middle rib into two pieces. The cut is made so as to open up the cells and let the honey flow more easily. The comb is placed on a cloth to strain the honey through. This is done instead of squeezing the comb so as to ensure cleanliness of the honey and to avoid mixing of wax, brood, hive, and bee parts with the honey and thus reducing the chances of fermentation.

Mathew John spoke about Apis Dorsata and Keystone's experiences as a development NGO in India. Most Apis Dorsata hives found in the Nilgris hang from cliffs as high as 2,000-4,000 feet above sea level. Like NATRIPAL, Keystone also buys and sells honey from indigenous peoples (IPs). Mathew explained their processing and quality control procedures for the honey that is brought to them. He suggested that honey is stored in stainless steel or food grade plastic containers to maintain the honey quality. The containers should be sealed tightly so as to prevent the inflow of oxygen inducing fermentation. Furthermore, batches of honey should

not be mixed together in one container. Mathew showed the straining process that is used by Keystone where a series of cloths cut in conical cylinder shapes are placed in 4 layers. The bottom layer falls neatly into a container.

Bees and bee keeping

On the third day, the group discussed the relationship between bees and nature as well as the importance of bees and bee products to the family. Dr. Punchihewa also spoke about the alternatives to honey hunting that are practised in Sri Lanka for *Apis cerana*; namely beehaving (bees naturally occupying pots or logs in trees) as an interim activity and eventually, bee keeping. Mathew John also spoke of the special basket hive made from vines being developed for *A. cerana* bees and being tested by Keystone in India.

Joel and Boleng then spoke about their farm called 'Ilog Maria Honeybee Farms (*Apis mellifera*)' which they built over twenty years. Today their products are known for their quality and consistency. The products that he sells are the following: honey, pollen, beeswax, propolis, royal jelly, package bees, bee venom, and contract pollination. Joel also demonstrated the pollen test with a microscope to test the purity of honey.

Plans

At the close of the workshop, the group planned together what succeeding activities NATRIPAL and the local participants would conduct together to disseminate the lessons learned and further improve the quality and returns of Palawan honey. The group agreed that re-echo sessions would be conducted with the participants as co-trainers. The participants stressed the importance of securing rights to resources so that honey could be conserved by the indigenous people and marketed exclusively by them. At the central NATRIPAL office, new testing facilities and processing equipment are to be established in the near future.

Crissy Guerrero

Former project manager of NATRIPAL (United Tribes of Palawan), The Philippines

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The Upland Marketing Program and its projects on Non-Timber Forest Products

1993 marked the beginning of the Upland Marketing Program's (UMP) involvement in developing NTFP-based community enterprises in the uplands. After initial research on the policies and domestic market dynamics of rattan, UMP pushed through with the first NTFP national conference. Participants to this conference and respondents for the research who were awarded rattan cutting contracts became UMP's first beneficiaries in its efforts to link upland economics with natural resource management. Policies affecting utilization of this resource were looked at and necessary recommendations were made. UMP also linked these communities with possible buyers including rattan furniture manufacturers and with technology holders.

At present, UMP has long since expanded its coverage and role. The shift came about with the growing recognition that not all its clientele have access to rattan, that the country's rattan resource base is dwindling rapidly, and that there exists other NTFPs that could provide income to the upland dwellers.



Preparing rattan for shipment
Photo: Frans Welman

UMP continues to create venues for information sharing and exchange among concerned government and private institutions, and individuals. During the most recent national conference held last September 1998, the NTFP Task Force was created. Composed of government and private institutions, and non-government organizations, the Task Force is tasked to help address the issues and concerns raised during the said conference which includes the areas of capability-building, networking and linkaging, policy advocacy, marketing, funding, technology transfer and research.

In addition, UMP is promoting and distributing processed foods and handicrafts, all of which are produced by upland communities. The processed food has wild fruits as the main ingredient. This includes calamansi concentrate from Oriental Mindoro and Mountain Fresh jams and jellies from Nueva Vizcaya. The Mountain Fresh label is being sold in more than 20 high-end supermarkets in Metro Manila. On the other hand, the distribution of handicrafts is done through UMP's annual Pasko Pack project, UMP's main vehicle in launching new products and promoting those that are already in the market.

Lastly, UMP is expanding its coverage further. With the interest the conference participants showed on bamboo, essential oils, abaca (Manila hemp), and honey, UMP is in the process of identifying the communities with existing community-based enterprises who are in need of assistance in marketing, and technology and fund accessing and the communities who are interested in developing enterprises focused on these four NTFPs.

Rene Guarin
Director of the UNAC/PBSP Upland Marketing Program, based in Intramuras,

MetroManila

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Improving the rattan trading system in Kalimantan

Rattan is a well known product in the world but it's rarely known that rattan is a cultivated product by any community or any tribe. For example, the generations of Dayak Luangan who live throughout Kutai District and Pasir District in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, have an old tradition of rattan cultivation in secondary forest. Rattan is very important in their life. It is not only used for economic purposes, more than that, rattan has become part of their culture.

The technology of rattan cultivation as part of the noble culture of indigenous people in East Kalimantan is threatened by several developments. The main problems experienced by rattan farmers are a lack of recognition for their technology by the state and the low price of rattan at the farm gate. The lack of recognition for the indigenous technology of rattan cultivation leads to some serious threats. The most immediate threats come from investors which develop massive scale plantations, logging, timber estates and finally mining. The lack of recognition is further proven by how the government classifies rattan as 'imitated forest product' (hasil hutan ikutan). Hasil hutan ikutan means that the product comes from the forest (forest means not cultivated) and that the amount is not much. The wrong common understanding about rattan garden is one of the causes of the blundering rattan policy in Indonesia. Many rattan gardens were also threatened by the forest fires in 1997 and 1998. The calculation from field data surveyed by SHK Kaltim is, that 39.8% of the total of rattan gardens got burned in the fires.

The other problem which is felt by rattan farmers is the rattan trade system. Long before the current reformation era, in 1986, the government of the Republic of Indonesia (RI) issued an export ban for raw rattan. Two years later, the export ban was extended to semi-finished rattan and export quota were issued for rattan lampit (=matting). The proclaimed aim of the policy was to have added value from export of rattan products and also to strengthen the domestic industry in Indonesia. The increase of added value of rattan was supposed to increase foreign exchange earnings from the non oil and gas sectors. However, the ambition to raise state foreign exchange had a negative impact on farmers prosperity. The farmers had to accept the descent of the raw rattan price from 800 Rupiah per kg in 1988 to 250 Rupiah since 1990. In fact, the stated purpose to strengthen the domestic industry was only an excuse to encourage a transfer of control to a group of well-connected investors organised in ASMINDO (The Indonesian Association for Meubel Industry), chaired by infamous tycoon Bob Hasan.



Small scale rattan furniture industry in the Phillipines
Photo: Eric Wakker

The evidence of that argument is the issuing of export quota for Lampit Rotan, which killed many small scale industries in South Kalimantan.

The ban of rattan export and quota export for lampit lowered demand for raw rattan. Hence, the descent of raw rattan demand caused the descent of raw rattan price. The descent of raw rattan price was made worse by the inefficient rattan marketing track.

It can be seen in the bureaucracy involved in obtaining rattan marketing licences.

Period of Economic Crisis

The Indonesian economic crisis has led to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) coming to Indonesia for the first time since 1966, ready to give loans with many pre-requirements. In 50 points of pre-requirements of IMF, there were 2 points which related to the liberation of rattan export. Influenced by IMF, The government of RI issued the liberation of raw rattan export in 1998. But, there are many conditions for raw and semi finished rattan export which make it impossible for the farmers and traders to comply. This is especially true for cultivated rattan. The exporters also have to pay Forest Resource Provision (PSDH) and export tax. The export tax for rattan is very high and doesn't account for real conditions in the international market, especially in export destination countries like Malaysia. Export rules and regulations, PSDH and high export tax gave many rattan exporters no other choice but to export illegally.

The government of reformation order has not solved all of the problems in rattan yet. Due to the current task of the government in Jakarta to solve many political problems. The farm-gate rattan price was raised for a while between August to November 1998, but the increase has not meant anything because the increase of other daily need were even higher. The problem in bureaucracy, illegal tax levied and the difficulty of rattan export is not solved yet.

The workshop

All of those problems have promoted many stake holders such as provincial level government, NGOs, investors, communities and universities to hold a seminar to discuss all aspects of the problem. The workshop was held on 15-16th December 1998 in Samarinda and more than 70 persons participated. In the 2 days workshop, every party talked closely with others to arrange the recommendation to many problems concerning rattan.

The workshop was split to 3 groups: rattan resources, rattan production and the rattan trading system. Results of this workshop, of 15-16 December 1998 include a joint working agenda and joint recommendations with the following highlights:

1. Local legislative body (DPR), State Secretary (Sekneg) and National Agrarian Bureau (BPN) will endeavour to revise the Basic Agrarian Law (UUPA), so as to include an article/clause that firmly recognises land rights of individuals or groups that are already recognised by local customary law;
2. The Provincial Planning Agency (Bappeda), the National Land Agency and the Field office of the Department of Forestry (Kanwil Dephutbun) will immediately review policies to allocate forest land which will accommodate traditional community management models like rattan gardens, in the determination of provincial land-use plans (RTRWP), or in district or sub-district land-use plans;
3. The need for legal security over rattan lands to ensure investment security; an established village economic group; an association of rattan farmers and traders with bottom up, voluntary participation solely for the interest of members and without bureaucratic intervention;
4. Local government and Village Legislative Councils need to immediately write a Decree to regulate trade and administration of rattan from farms or gardens and those harvested from the wild; and to review the need for local taxation and trade registration schemes related to marketing of each type.

Closing remarks

Other than producing joint working agenda and recommendations, the other purpose of the workshop was to make every stake holder such as government, community, NGO and university equal to sit and discuss together on the same level. The difference between the stake holders is only the portion of their rights and responsibilities. This kind of atmosphere can help to create a democratic climate in Indonesia. All of the results of the workshop will be followed up with presentations to government institutions to encourage them to solve the problems in rattan.

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Ade Cahyat
**Coordinator East Kalimantan Consortium for Promoting and Strengthening
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