

Story from the Field



Yanthi Temongmere: Active Producer of Nutmeg Soap from Mendokma Village, Fakfak

Yanthi Temongmere is a 26-year-old woman from Fakfak who is a graduate of economic management from a local university in Fakfak.

Yanthi and her friends were involved in nutmeg soap training which was initiated by GEG program in 2021. Since then she together with her four friends formed the Nan Henggi group which regularly produces nutmeg soap. Nan Henggi was chosen as the name of the group because it represents the soul of their group. In Fakfak local language Nan means woman and Henggi means Nutmeg which means that they are young women from Fakfak who are committed to develop nutmeg based products.

Since being established in mid-2021, this group has continued to produce nutmeg soap regularly.

"We received a fairly high demand from female university students in the city of Sorong, some of whom have written great testimonials about the quality of nutmeg Fakfak soap on our Facebook account. "Beside that as an effort to promote our products, we have also participated in several exhibitions both in and outside Fakfak," said Yanthi enthusiastically.

For now, this group sells their soap for IDR 15.000/bar and all the ingredients are easily bought from the Myristica cooperative in Fakfak Plantation Office. According to Tasfianti who is the head of the cooperative, Yanthi Temongmere and her group are one of the most active producers of nutmeg soap who consistently buy raw materials to produce soap from the cooperative.

Currently, Yanthi & her group are producing nutmeg soap at home but their group as well as other independent producers in Fakfak are now waiting for the joint production house built by the Plantation Service to be operational. For Yanti this joint production house will be very beneficial as it accommodates their need for a national food & drugs permit that will enable them to sell their products to a wider market.

The visit of Coffee Exporters to Jayawijaya and Lanny Jaya District



On 23-25 May 2022, coffee exporter, Detlef Piatscheck, based in Medan, North Sumatra made a visit to Jayawijaya Regency to see firsthand the coffee potential from this district. He has been in the business of exporting Gayo coffee from Aceh for a long time and now seek a new opportunity to also introduce Papuan coffee to America.

During his visit, Detlef visited several locations of coffee plantations in Jayawijaya and Lanny Jaya districts. He met coffee farmers from Walakma, Pyramid and Jagara villages in Jayawijaya and Libuga village in Lanny Jaya.

At each location Detlef discussing the potential and challenges of coffee in this region with the farmers.

According to him, coffee plantations in this region have enormous potential, especially considering the altitude of the coffee growing area is much higher than the coffee plantations in Aceh. The coffee plantation in Walakma village, Bpiri District, Jayawijaya Regency, for example, is located at an altitude of 2000 meters above sea level.

He was leaving this area with the samples of coffee beans from each location that will be sent to America. "I need 19-20 tons coffee beans to ship every month so if the coffee samples I brought from Jayawijaya and Lanny Jaya are liked by my partners in America then I will need a large amount of coffee in the future."



The Potentials and Challenges of Coffee Development in Jayawijaya District



Jayawijaya Regency in Papua Province holds extraordinary potential for coffee. Currently, the total area of coffee cultivation in this district is 1,830 hectares spread over 23 districts and 108 villages. Coffee in this region is grown at an altitude of 1600-2100 meters above sea level. Currently, there are 1121 active coffee farmers in the region and they managed to produce a total of 160.3 tons of coffee in 2021. Currently, the average farmer produces 363 kg of coffee/ha/year. This is far below the ideal standard of coffee harvest/hectare, which should range from 700 kg to 1 ton/ coffee/hectare/year.

Several issues emerged as challenges that prevented coffee farmers in Jayawijaya from reaching their maximum potential. Most of the coffee growing areas in Jayawijaya Regency are not well maintained and unproductive.

Currently, out of a total of 1,830 hectares of coffee growing area in this district, only 440 hectares of coffee farms are productive. Therefore the priority of Agriculture and Plantation Office in Jayawijaya district now is to maintain the existing plantation rather than expanding coffee plantations.

Labour in the villages is limited, both for managing the coffee plantation and harvesting. According to Yesaya Heselo, Head of the Empowerment Division of the Jayawijaya Village Empowerment Service, most of the workers who are responsible for planting and maintaining coffee farms are women, while men are only actively involved during land clearing.

The covid pandemic in the last two years has hampered the community traditions for harvesting coffee. Generally, coffee farmers in this area

used to carry on a tradition called “invite” where the coffee garden owner invites the church community to come to help the coffee harvesting process in their garden. But since there was social restrictions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the last two years, the tradition was also put on hold.

Pest attacks are also an issue. Some coffee plants are attacked by pests. However as farmers in Jayawijaya district are not allowed to use chemical pesticides and are not familiar with the production of plant based pesticides, they are not yet able to respond to this challenge.

The Jayawijaya District government hopes that more development partners can support their work upstream so that these issues that affect the coffee crop in this area can be responded to and solved together.

Integrating GEG Activities into Regional Development Plans 2023



Currently, the GEG program is in the process to coordinate with relevant government agencies to ensure that the GEG program is integrated into provincial and district government work plan for 2023. The Ministry of Village hopes that GEG can use its remaining funding to achieve this by assisting the local government in formulating the development plans, integrating GEG programs into them and ensuring they are all funded by provincial and district government's budgets in 2023. This was discussed at the recent GEG Management Steering Committee in Manokwari.





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