

Honey and Rattan Production

Pangkalan Bulian 19. – 20.01.2016

Background

BIOCLIME emphasizes the development of community-based timber and forest product enterprises by using tools like community livelihood appraisals and product scanning, as well as market analyses. In the village of Pangkalan Bulian, rattan and honey were identified as beneficial non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

The surrounding forest is rich in rattan palms, as shown in the picture below, and conditions are suitable for honey bees due to the proliferation of flowering plants.¹



(Source: BIOCLIME)

The development of honey and rattan enterprises in Pangkalan Bulian

During a community group discussion on 20 January 2016, BIOCLIME discussed the market potential of rattan and honey as well as the ongoing processes involved in developing these enterprises. The villagers told BIOCLIME that they had presented their products at a district-level honey exhibition a couple of weeks earlier.

Indonesia is highly appropriate for beekeeping enterprises because of its rich variety of flowering plants. One honeybee colony can produce 30-40 kg of honey per year.² The harvest season for honey is between April and August. For 1 kg of honey the community can earn IDR 20,000 to 30,000.

In several areas in Indonesia honey is a major commodity that contributes to improving communities' economies.³

Rattan is the name for the roughly six hundred species of palms in the tribe Calameae, native to tropical regions of Africa, Asia and Australasia. Most rattans are distinct from other palms in having slender stems 2-5 cm diameter with long internodes between the leaves; their consequent growth habit also differs, not being trees but vine-like, scrambling through and over other vegetation.⁴

1

<https://marketpublishers.com/lists/7748/news.html>

2

<http://bilingualinformation.blogspot.co.id/2013/04/honey-bee-farms-indonesia.html>

3

<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/newsroom/highlights/sustainable-forest-honey>

⁴ <http://www.rattanfurnitureindonesia.com/>

The raw material of rattan can be used in manufacturing furniture, baskets or mats. The picture below shows rattan products made by the local community in Pangkalan Bulian.



(Source: BIOCLIME)

Rattan grows much more quickly than most tropical wood. Harvesting is relatively uncomplicated, requiring only simple tools, and its transportation is manageable. Its economic value can, therefore, help to protect forests by providing an alternative source of income for those who might normally log timber.⁵

Conclusion and future outlook

Community members already have some of the skills essential for producing honey and manufacturing rattan products, but these skills need to be enhanced. Capacity building is still necessary, particularly when it comes to marketing products, as the villagers have very little experience of and are quite unfamiliar with the complexities of supply chain activities. BIOCLIME is planning to hold a Group Organization Training in February and one Rattan Production training in March 2016 to support the community in regard to institutional strengthening and NTFP production.

⁵ ibid

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