

## Short Reports



Tree nursery in Bantaeng, South Sulawesi

## Tree nursery establishment

Up until April 2012, the AgFor Sulawesi project has successfully established three nurseries. This is encouraging news as the establishment was completed ahead of schedule.

Two nurseries in Taosu and Tinondo (Southeast Sulawesi) were built by farmers and the AgFor team, while another nursery was established in Bantaeng (South Sulawesi) and is managed by the AgFor team.

The nurseries serve as a regional training vehicle for farmers while at the same time producing seedlings to support farmers and project activities.

In total, the three nurseries have already produced 51 015 seedlings of various trees such as durian, flamboyant, gmelina and teak.

AgFor Sulawesi plans to establish 150 nurseries by the end of the project in 2016. • Enggar Paramita, World Agroforestry Centre

## Visit to Lawonua dan cacao research sub-station

The senior project leader of AgFor Sulawesi, James M. Roshetko, and the livelihoods team visited Lawonua village in Konawe, Southeast Sulawesi, in early June. Lawonua is the home of the Bersatu farmers' group, which is led by Mustakim. The group consists of 24 male farmers and five female farmers.



AgFor team talking with farmers at the cacao research sub-station, Southeast Sulawesi

During the meeting, Roshetko expressed his appreciation for the enthusiasm shown by the farmers who had enlisted in the Farmers' Agroforestry School. The discussion addressed the current conditions of the project and future plans.

Roshetko and the livelihoods team also paid a visit to the cacao research sub-station in Konda, near Kendari. The aim was to inspect the sub-station's demonstration plot, which is run by the Plantation and Horticulture Agency. The AgFor coordinator for Southeast Sulawesi, Jusupta Tarigan, said that AgFor will collaborate with the sub-station, and also the Horticulture Seedling House in Ranomeeto, to facilitate visits by farmers to the demonstration plot.

The excursion will provide an opportunity for farmers to gain knowledge and experience about the cacao agroforestry system and mixed fruit gardens. • Enggar Paramita, World Agroforestry Centre



Participants work together to complete an assignment during training

## AgFor's training on gender issues

"What is gender?"  
"And how does it differ from sex?"  
These initial questions marked the beginning of Gender Refreshing Training conducted under the AgFor Sulawesi project.

The AgFor Sulawesi project is designed and implemented to be inclusive of gender. The entire project has a target of 30–50% of participants in all activities being women. Thus, to make sure that gender equity is implemented successfully, a gender refreshing training course was offered.

Conducted in Makassar on 2–4 July, the training was attended by AgFor staff and also partners from both South and Southeast sites, such as the Operation Wallacea Trust, Lepmil (Institute for Coastal and Hinterland Community), LSM Balang, Women's Solidarity and the Women's Empowerment Agency.

Novaty Eny Dunga from Universitas Hasanuddin, South Sulawesi, acted as the facilitator and shared

interesting material on gender and on roles based on gender in relation to environmental management, as well as introducing the gender analysis method. In the discussion, each group presented its point of view and revealed the conditions faced in the field.

Lalang, a participant from Lepmil, a local NGO based in Kendari, Southeast Sulawesi, expressed a hope for similar training to be organized again, involving more participants from local partners and community members. • Enggar Paramita, World Agroforestry Centre

## Agenda

## October

- AgFor coordination meeting

## November

- Vulnerability assessment training (tentative)

## December

- Community development training for agroforestry and farmer specialists

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Agroforestry and Forestry in Sulawesi (AgFor Sulawesi) is a five-year project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. The World Agroforestry Centre is the lead organization of the project, which operates in the provinces of South Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi and Gorontalo.



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## Main Article



Farmers filling polybags with soil as part of AgFor's Farmers' Agroforestry School

## AgFor's farmers' agroforestry school: a concrete way to improve farmers' knowledge, skill and resources

It's a Saturday in the village of Borongrappoa in Bulukumba district, South Sulawesi. While it is only 9:30 in the morning, the sun is already burning in the sky. Behind a corn field, a group of male and female farmers are squatting, busily filling polybags with soil. Every once in a while, they stop to listen to brief information given by the agroforestry specialists. A middle-aged farmer with rubber boots covering his calves periodically walks around the group, scanning his attendance book and checking to ensure that everybody who is present has been signed in.

This snippet depicts a Farmers' Agroforestry School activity run by the AgFor Sulawesi project. The AgFor project works on three components: livelihoods, governance and environment. The Farmers' Agroforestry School is a vital part of the project that aims to empower farmers to improve their livelihoods by enhancing knowledge and skills and providing access to quality seedlings and other resources.





Photo by ICRAF / Enggar Paramita

The Farmers' Agroforestry School advances the farmers' training/extension concept first implemented in Aceh back in 2007–2009 under the Nurseries of Excellence project (also funded by the Canadian International Development Agency). The objective of the school is to build farmers' capacity by providing knowledge and skills in agroforestry that will increase land production and improve their livelihoods.

Before the schools' activities began, socialisation through the AgFor project was undertaken with farmers in Bantaeng and Bulukumba (South Sulawesi) and in Kolaka and Konawe (Southeast Sulawesi). The socialisation promoted the objective of the project and the advantages of being involved, along with the project's activities, including the Farmers' Agroforestry School.

Shortly after, village-level species' priority surveys were completed to identify the plant species that

contributed the most to farmers' livelihoods and were considered most important.

The research was conducted through focus group discussions with key farmers, followed by analysis by the AgFor team to ensure the selected species were a good fit with the biophysical and socioeconomic conditions. The results indicated cacao, pepper, coffee, coconut and cloves as the species with the highest priority and potential for farmers.

Later, farmers who were interested in the AgFor project, particularly the agroforestry school, agreed to form local groups. The AgFor team then held discussions with the groups to emphasize the advantages of adopting agroforestry systems by integrating trees into farms. By applying agroforestry systems, the farmers could expect to diversify and sustain production for increased social, economic and environmental benefits.



Photo by ICRAF / Enggar Paramita

Discussion also addressed each priority species selected by the groups.

The species' priority data were subsequently used to determine the resources and activities required by the Farmers' Agroforestry School associated with each group.

The syllabus for each school varies owing to differences in the species' priorities and group objectives. Thus, the syllabus for group A could be dominated by material on rubber trees, while group B might focus on durian trees. Furthermore, the knowledge level of each group is also used to determine the specific resources developed.

During agroforestry school sessions, the AgFor team provides basic background and theory on the topic to be covered. This short introduction is followed by a practical, hands-on session where farmers learn by doing and also visit relevant field

sites, which is the preferred method by most farmers. Games, metaplays (a technique for collecting ideas or information that typically uses cards), images and videos are also used as teaching methods.

School topics focus not only on developing knowledge on priority species but also cover agroforestry concepts, the production and use of organic fertilizers, how to construct nursery shading, tree nursery management and tree garden management. Subsequent sessions of the school go on to address post-harvest handling and marketing.

The Farmers' Agroforestry School helps each farmers' group establish demonstration plots. The plots enable farmers to implement the knowledge gained from recent school sessions. The schools also help to establish farmers' group nurseries that produce quality seedlings of the priority species



Photo by ICRAF / Enggar Paramita

Women are encouraged to participate in farmers' agroforestry schools

selected by the groups. Some of the nurseries can then evolve into commercial tree nursery enterprises producing seedlings to meet local demand.

Since it commenced in May, the Farmers' Agroforestry School has been greeted with enthusiasm. For example, the Bersatu farmers' group of Lawonua village, Konawe, Southeast Sulawesi, stated that, "We're interested to join the school so we can gain new knowledge to help us improve our yields. We want to learn to diversify so we don't have to put our hope only on one commodity tree".

Pratiknyo Pumomosidhi, the AgFor Coordinator for South Sulawesi, spoke of one of the challenges faced by the school: "Here, language is our main barrier. In most of the villages in Bantaeng and

Bulukumba, farmers are most comfortable speaking their local language, a mix of Bugis and Makassar languages. Not everyone is fluent in Bahasa Indonesia". As a result, Pumomosidhi and his team rely more on graphic illustrations and images as teaching tools and "... instead of giving too much theory, we prefer to do more practice in the plot".

In each community, the Farmers' Agroforestry School will run for two years and aims to produce skilled farmers who will use their knowledge not only to manage their land but also to advocate sustainable agricultural and natural resource management in their communities. • *Enggar Paramita, World Agroforestry Centre*



Photo by ICRAF / Enggar Paramita

Farmers' group in Barongjappa village participates in a Farmers' Agroforestry School



Photo by ICRAF / Enggar Paramita

Farmers' group and AgFor team in Konawe, Southeast Sulawesi



Photo by ICRAF / Enggar Paramita

Farmers of Bersatu group from Konawe, Southeast Sulawesi