

Revealing the True Values of Jungle Rubber



When RUPES first started working with jungle rubber farmers in Bungo of Jambi Province, Indonesia, many said they would convert their jungle rubber to monoculture plantations if they had enough money. But now, after analyzing with RUPES facilitators the economics of their situation, they have concluded that substituting to monoculture plantations would not yield all the anticipated gains. They would get more rubber, but without their jungle rubber plots they would have to buy fruit, wood, fiber and medicines they now harvest from their plots. Also, they would eliminate the potential to sell environmental services to international buyers. The farmers have gained pride and delight from finding that their jungle rubber produces something of value to the world. RUPES also helped the farmers realizing more value of jungle rubber after installing microhydro power plants to bring electrical supply to the villages. The farmers appreciate that jungle rubber helps provide the necessary clean water supply to generate electricity.

IFAD-ICRAF Project:
Rewards for, Use of and Shared Investment in Pro-poor Environmental Services (RUPES-II)