Gender, Species Priorities and Domestication in South and Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia

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Background
Tree domestication includes any activity that brings trees into wider cultivation to provide food, building material, medicine or other products or income from the sale of tree products. It may also positively influence the conservation of endangered species, as well as provide environmental services. Research on tree domestication is not merely focused on integrating trees on farms or community land, but also must consider socio-cultural-economic factors and institutional aspects that influence the domestication process. Gender, age, and other socio-economic factors play a role in determining which species are prioritized and managed, and how they are managed. Thus, determining the priority species and the domestication of economically important species in South and Southeast Sulawesi is an important issue.

South Sulawesi
Important commodities include cocoa, coconut, clove, coffee and pepper and are mostly managed by smallholders. South Sulawesi consists of 57% forested area, 96% wet paddysystem and 10% agriculture. Majority ethnic groups are Bugis and Makassar.

Southeast Sulawesi
The agriculture sector contributes 38% of the economy with cocoa as the prime commodity. Production was 137,833 tonnes in 2010. Metrosideros arguta is a traditionally important staple food. Majority ethnic are Tolaki, Bugis and Java.

Top five priority species - ranking by gender per province
With GRILUV as the method (Mulyotami et al 2013), we identified the top five priority species, along with domestication preferences and division labour by gender. Focus group discussions were held with 300 community members (45% women) from 19 villages in 4 districts in South and Southeast Sulawesi province Indonesia. Men and women were disaggregated into different focus group discussions.

Gender preferences on domestication

Gender | Species types (mean) | Important species (mean) |
---|---|---|
| Vegetable | Fruit | Timmer | Tuber | Caran | Coffee | Clove | Pepper | Sago |
| Men | 14.46 | 36.68 | 50.4 | 41.67 | 6.9 | 87.27 | 69.36 | 73.6 | 74.63 | 68.12 |
| Women | 36.85 | 36.42 | 21.85 | 49.06 | 18.77 | 80.56 | 68.52 | 82.3 | 77.56 | 77.58 |

Note: * indicating statistically significant difference between men and women (T test)

Gender-based division of labour in different species of agroforestry

Women and men are divided in seed selection and propagation is crucial for agroforestry development and biodiversity conservation. Their knowledge and skills, developed through the tasks they perform, are important aspects for agroforestry management.

Conclusions
- Women are keen to domesticate vegetables and other annual crops that contribute directly to household food security and nutrition. Women focus their domestication activities on land near the home.
- Men and women give priority to tree species with high economic value; the management of those species is a priority for men but shared by women.
- Identifying gender roles and knowledge related to tree domestication is important to facilitate effective and successful planning related to tree-based livelihood enhancement and sustainable environmental management.

References