

## Maintaining and restoring sustainable food systems on indigenous people's lands through social forestry in Indonesia

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### Introduction

- Community-based Forestry (CBF) has been identified as a way to strengthen the rights of local communities to participate and gain multiple social & environmental co-benefits.
- In the Global South, as an example Indonesia, this CBF regime mainly known as Social Forestry scheme (SF).
- In Aceh, local communities which mostly consist of indigenous people, using SF scheme as a promising access to maintain and restoring the sustainable food system in their customary lands. Particularly through the local practices in agriculture and forest resources management.



© Hafiz Awlia. Local farmers in their rice field near forest area.



© Boyhaqie. Women bring non-timber forest products from protected forest area in Pidie, Aceh.

### Methods

- Indonesian nasional SF target ➔ 12,7 mil. ha
- Aceh SF target ➔ 430.841 ha
- 99 Decree granted since 2012 with total SF area 171.000 ha involving 21.026 households
- Mix quantitative and qualitative study in 2 districts, 7 villages, with total 120 in depth interviews targeted, field observation (participatory rural appraisal and ethnographic study), and FGD involving 200 farmers in site project.
- Preliminary research May to July 2024.

### Preliminary results

- The main livelihood of 200 farmers from those 2 district are as rice and coffee farmers.
- There are 2 strong customary institutions in Aceh that maintaining the local knowledge of agriculture and forest management, namely *Keujruen Blang* and *Pawang Uteun*.
- Keujruen Blang* coordinating the rice field management from irrigation system to solving conflicts between farmers in traditional way (with social sanction that focus on peace).
- Pawang Uteun* is responsible to control the management of forest resources both timber and non-timber forest products. To make sure farmers doing the cultivation in sustainable manner.
- 162 of 200 farmers are already involved in food system scheme in traditional way. Most of them involving in the producing, processing and distribution, but only 6 farmers that also doing the marketing of their products in modern way (e.g good packaging, broader market, etc).
- 188 farmers gave a positive input regarding the SF scheme and it's impact on sustainable food systems.



**Figure 2:** Sustainable food systems in Aceh (Gayo) coffee small enterprises on indigenous Gayo community's land



**Figure 3:** The President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo handed over a decree of SF to the SF groups (mostly indigenous farmers). Set the target of 12,7 million ha SF area to support rural development for forest communities.

### Conclusions & Discussion

- Preliminary results show a positive trend regarding the relation of Social Forestry in supporting the sustainable food systems in indigenous land.
- There are more interesting issues need to elaborate, for example how indigenous community can open up with modern way of agriculture while maintaining their local knowledge. Also how their perception about the important of sustainable food system in supporting nutrition for local farmers.