



Empowering Lintong Coffee Farmers

Many Sumatran farmers believe that producing coffee will not earn them enough income to survive and consider it a crop of “last resort.” Most do not wish for their children to follow in their footsteps, laboring to produce coffee for a market that is often unfair to individual farmers.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR), in partnership with the Orangutan Information Center, is working with smallholder coffee farmers in Lintong, North Sumatra, Indonesia to improve the profitability and sustainability of their livelihoods so that coffee is no longer their last resort. Through engagement with the private sector, this project is designed to improve the farmers’ coffee quality, market access and price negotiation skills.

Results to Date

- Formed 13 farmers groups from project participants to better organize collective farming and marketing efforts.
- Engaged stakeholders in the local coffee industry (farmers, cooperatives, local government officials) in discussions on climate change adaptation to build excitement and motivation around program.
- Trained 334 farmers through 143 field school sessions on topics, including:
 - agro-ecosystem analysis
 - farm waste management
 - coffee tree management
 - pest and disease control
 - coffee tree rehabilitation
 - post-harvesting techniques
- Established 7 nurseries to improve farmers’ access to shading tree and coffee tree seedlings. Project farmers are able to sell these seedlings to farmers outside of the project for additional income.
- Produced and distributed 2,500 Information, Education, Communication (IEC) materials, e.g. posters depicting how to produce organic fertilizer, around villages for farmers to reference.
- Further trainings are planned between April – September 2016 on:
 - farmer group management
 - negotiation skills
 - coffee quality, assurance, and grading
 - coffee certification process and standards

Field school methodology consists of lectures and direct practice in demonstration plots. 3 organic fertilizer facilities were built for the field schools.



Keeping Coffee in the Family

Dugar Lumbagaol, the Lintong coffee farmer pictured above, participated in one of LWR’s coffee field schools and has noticed that his newly acquired pruning skills have improved the productivity of his coffee trees. He says he is now more confident in his livelihood choice to become a coffee farmer.

Dugar only laments, “I wish I were younger, so I could practice what I’ve learned longer and earn more money since I am able to produce more.”

Farmers like Dugar are now empowered to negotiate higher prices for themselves because of their connections with more buyers and improving their coffee quality and quantity. Dugar hopes, “With better prices for my coffee ... I can ask my son to come home to become a coffee farmer.”

LWR began working in Indonesia following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Since 2011, LWR has supported Indonesian coffee cooperatives and their members as they seek to improve both the quality and quantity of their crop and increase their access to global markets.

LOCAL PARTNER: Yayasan Orangutan Sumatera Lestari (YOSL)

PROJECT PERIOD: February 2015 – September 2016

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