

# Reflecting on Buol

## *Lessons Learnt from the Smart Tree-Invest implementation progress*

**Climate-smart, tree-based, co-investment in adaptation and mitigation in Asia (Smart Tree-Invest)** aims to improve the livelihoods and resilience of smallholding farmers and reduce their vulnerability to climate-change by promoting the climate-smart, tree-based agriculture, also known as agroforestry.

In Indonesia's Buol district, **Smart Tree Invest** contributes to the district's rural transformation strategy by developing a co-investment scheme to enhance ecosystem services (ES) and simultaneously improve farmers' resilience to climatic and economic shocks. These are several lessons learnt gathered during the project implementation

### *Co-investment in ecosystem services*

'Co-investment' means the involvement by all people with an interest in a particular landscape in schemes that will improve smallholders' resilience and the condition of the environment.

In the ES-rich landscape of Buol, no local ES buyer exists. Thus co-investment in Buol will involve co-beneficiaries from public sectors to maintain and improve the services provided by the landscape.

Smart Tree-Invest team is preparing two potential co-investment schemes in Buol, namely tree-planting in critical areas and utilizing national village fund for activities that combine livelihood with conservation.

### *Vulnerability assessment through multidisciplinary approach*

Landscape diagnostic with a multidisciplinary approach is crucial to clarify the vulnerability issues from various actors' perspectives and develop an appropriate action plan.

Smart Tree-invest applies the **Capacity-Strengthening Approach to Vulnerability Assessment (CaSAVA)** framework to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the smallholders' vulnerability.

CaSAVA not only assesses vulnerability and resilience but also strengthens capacity in the process through encouraging smallholders to reflect on local conditions and explore collaborative solutions.



### Participatory impact assessment

Smart Tree-Invest uses a participatory visual approach to assess impact as well as for communication purposes, deploying PhotoVoice and videography to explore conditions at the project's sites from local perspectives. These are forms of participatory action research in which farmers are able to express their perspectives through creative media that can also be used for a wide range of purposes, from contributing data to the project's baseline survey through to providing evidence to decision makers.



### Collaboration with actors at different scale

Smart Tree-Invest works in parallel with different actors at different scale time for an effective implementation. This includes building the capacity and facilitating cross-sectoral coordination at local government level, and addressing the issues and needs at smallholder' level.



The project has facilitated the establishment of the watershed working groups in buol, consisting of the local government representatives to improve the cross-sectoral development coordination and train them on concept and practices of co-investment schemes. The working group is expected to take the role as the intermediary for the co-investment, in order to maintain the sustainability of the scheme in the long-term.



### Strengthen local context and capacity to develop ES co-investment and transform rural livelihood

In Buol District, the Smart Tree-Invest carries out additional research on local issues identified during the diagnostic phase, such as through studies of food security, nutrition, and mangrove rehabilitation feasibility. Adjusting into local context and strengthening local actors capacity to undertake follow-up action is necessary to identify the potential and strength that can be used to develop co-investment in ecosystem services and stimulate rural livelihood transformation.



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