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Stingless Bees Keeping, Alternatives Livelihood and Improving Environment in Peatland Ecosystem

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Introduction

Limited livelihood options occurred in peatland area in Baru Village, Rambutan subdistrict, Banyuasin, due to biophysical condition of high soil acidity and unpredictable flooding. Stingless bees keeping is an alternative livelihood option that possible to do in home garden by women and encourage improving environmental condition through increasing trees were planted as sources of nectars.



Main activities

Peat-IMPACTS Project initiated business model of stingless bees keeping in the village through set up 20 nests of stingless bee in 2022. Planting various flowering species as source of nectars and delivery training materials from production process to marketing. Bees keeping managed by farmer group and marketing process handled by BUMDesa (village entrepreneur).



Bees keeping activities in Baru village. Beside selling the honey, bees' keepers also selling the bees nests



Transfer knowledge on bees keeping from farmers in Baru village to farmers in Sumber Makmur village



Adopters set up bee nest in the yard

Adoption process

A year after trainings, 126 nests of bees being managed by farmers in Baru village. Keeping stingless bees not only attract other farmers inside village, but also other farmers outside village. Sumber Makmur village in Muara Padang subdistrict, Banyuasin, is a village that interested to adopt stingless bees keeping and proposed to get training from Baru village. Beside deliver the training, farmers from Baru village also sell nests for farmer in Sumber Makmur village.

Half year after training, farmers in Sumber Makmur village start for harvesting the honey and planning to joint marketing with Baru village.

Asosiasi Perlebahan Indonesia (APIDA) is Indonesian Honeybees Association committed to support on capacity strengthening and help on marketing process when the quality of honey meet the standard.

