



Photo by: ICRAF / Enggar Paramita

One of the farmers who participated in the communication survey

Furthermore, the communication survey sought to recognize farmers' preferred methods and media for obtaining agricultural and agroforestry knowledge. The researchers wanted to better understand the role of 'farmer-to-farmer' communication as a method applied in extension work. The farmer-to-farmer method has been widely applied, including in several projects conducted by the World Agroforestry Centre in Indonesia. This method emphasizes interpersonal communication between farmers to transfer information, and is considered by many as a very efficient and effective way of sharing knowledge.

At the same time, data about media preferences has been collected and analysed. 'We interviewed farmers, both men and women, to gain information about their media ownership, usage and habits', said Enggar

Paramita, another researcher involved in the study. 'Our early findings note cellphones, televisions and radios in the top-three list of media ownership. Beyond that, audio-visual, practical sessions and face-to-face interactions were considered the favorite communication methods among the respondents', Paramita said.

Reports from the communication survey will be available later this year, complete with recommendation on alternatives for effective and sustainable ways of keeping the knowledge transfer process to farmers continually in motion.

## CIDA visit to Southeast Sulawesi

Representatives from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) visited AgFor's site in Southeast Sulawesi in November 2012. The field trip included the villages of Lawonua, Simbune, Andowengga, Danggia and Wonuahua to meet and discuss with farmers' groups. 'The visit enables us to evaluate progress made since the project began', said Jared Brading of CIDA.

In the discussion, which was also attended by AgFor's partners, CIFOR, Lepmil and Operation Wallacea Trust, farmers made positive responses, saying that the project had helped them improve their capacity. 'I've been a farmer for years, and getting new knowledge about farming techniques and crops is very useful to help me make the best of my farm', said Ibrahim from Wonuahua.

Photo by: ICRAF / AgFor Southeast Sulawesi team



Discussion during the visit to Danggia



Photo by: ICRAF / Enggar Paramita

CIDA and AgFor team visit farmers' demonstration plot in Lawonua

In addition, farmers mentioned that practising agroforestry by combining crops and trees on their farms helps to improve their income. The farmers also revealed challenges and problems faced in the field, such as pest and disease attacks on cocoa and pepper trees and how long droughts often destroyed seedlings.

The discussion with farmers not only gave a chance to hear of progress but simultaneously served as an opportunity to gain valuable feedback that can be used to improve the project.

During the visit, a meeting with Konawe District Planning and Development Agency was also conducted in order to strengthen the collaboration with the local government, ensuring that the AgFor project continues to synchronize effectively with local strategies.

## Agenda

### April

- Farmer demonstration trials meeting
- Farmer Agroforestry School on garden management

### May

- Marketing and entrepreneurship training
- Market vulnerability assessment for South Sulawesi

### June

- Project Advisory Committee meeting

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## In this issue:

New vulnerability assessment method applied in AgFor project

Training workshops: building the capacity of rural people

Communication survey in South and Southeast Sulawesi

CIDA visit to Southeast Sulawesi

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Agroforestry and Forestry in Sulawesi (AgFor Sulawesi) is a five-year project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. The World Agroforestry Centre is the lead organization of the project, which operates in the provinces of South Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi and Gorontalo.

Photo by: ICRAF / Thoha Zulkarnain



Casava focus group discussion in Kolaka district

## New vulnerability assessment method applied in AgFor project

One of the goals of the AgFor project through its environment component is improved, integrated management of landscapes and ecosystems by local stakeholders through enhanced capacity.

Local stakeholders, who include governments, NGOs and communities, need to be able to identify vulnerabilities in their natural, food and income resources. Distinguishing the vulnerabilities will allow stakeholders to adapt to fluctuations in weather and markets. AgFor researchers believe that conducting a vulnerability assessment is crucial in order to identify the exposure to risks and find ways to adapt.

The assessment method the researchers developed is known as Capacity Strengthening Approach to Vulnerability Assessment (Casava) that is specifically designed to understand the causal links between hazards, capacities and impacts. Casava will help to reveal vulnerabilities and subsequently help to reduce them by strengthening the capacity to adapt to shocks.





Photo by: ICRAF / Thoha Zulkarnain

Participatory village mapping by local villagers

‘Compared to other other vulnerability assessments, Casava is broader in terms of scope. It addresses multiscale issues, from landscape and community to plots and households’, said Sonya Dewi, the key scientist behind Casava. ‘In many cases vulnerability assessment only addresses hazards of climate change but in Casava we also cover fluctuations of markets’, she added.

Casava uses two approaches: scientific and local knowledge assessment. The scientific assessment is done through analyses of land-use and land-cover changes, modeling of water cycle dynamics with changing rainfall patterns and landscapes, assessing (agro)biodiversity in varying land-use and land-cover types and estimating carbon stock at plot and landscape level. A household survey is also conducted to assess household assets, livelihoods, and capacities to adapt to the fluctuations. Such a survey was carried out by environment facilitators supported by local enumerators, engaging with 360 households in South and Southeast Sulawesi.

‘In addition to that, we facilitated focus group discussions to understand local perceptions and knowledge of drivers of land-use and land-cover changes, biodiversity, water, markets and tree, and farming systems. At the same time, we tried to comprehend the exposure from, responses to, and impacts of fluctuations of rainfall and market at community level’, Sonya Dewi further explained.

The local knowledge assessment was completed between September 2012 and February 2013. Prior to that, the sampling designs, instruments and protocols were tested, reviewed and refined before being

applied to ten clusters in four districts across South and Southeast Sulawesi, where all of AgFor’s three components-livelihoods, governance, environment-are active. The assessment involved a team of multi-disciplinary scientists, environment facilitators, field staff and local facilitators. The team was also assisted by translators, particularly in South Sulawesi, where a lot of respondents only speak the local Bugis and Konjo languages.

A series of training activities and workshops on vulnerability assessment are planned, leading to strategy development to reduce vulnerability as part of a conservation-and-livelihoods program. The first training activity was conducted in Bogor in December 2012, attended by representatives from the Forestry Research and Development Agency, Hasanuddin University, Forestry Research Centres in Samboja and Kupang, Operation Wallacea Trust, amongst others. The training focused on analysing the lessons learnt from Casava development while at the same time formulating the indicators of vulnerability. This year, AgFor will conduct similar capacity-strengthening workshops and training activities that target local government and community stakeholders.

Photo by: ICRAF / Thoha Zulkarnain



Casava workshop in Bogor

## Training workshops: building the capacity of rural people

In the second year of the AgFor project, the governance component accomplished notable progress, which can be seen in the series of training workshops that helped to develop new governance models.



Photo by: CIFOR / Hasantoha

Group discussion on governance issues in Tawanga

The first training workshop on participatory governance was conducted in June 2012 in Makassar. It was aimed at building the capacity of partners in facilitation methods related to governance, participatory decision making and social learning. It also helped build mutual understanding with partners involved in implementation. The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), as the partner who handles the governance component of AgFor, organized the activity, which involved two local NGOs: Lembaga Pengembangan Masyarakat Pesisir dan Pedalaman (Lepmil/The Institution for Coastal and Hinterland Community Development) and Balang, as well as the World Agroforestry Centre and Hasanuddin University. Principles of good governance that linked to the governance aspect of AgFor were discussed, followed by interactive sessions on participatory action research, facilitation and tools to plan sustainable management of natural resources. An active learning approach using games and simulations was incorporated into the materials in order to make the message easier to understand. And the workshop did succeed in improving participants’ understanding about good governance because they were able to confidently develop a draft work plan at the end of the event.

A series of training workshops was also conducted from July until October 2012 across the AgFor project’s sites, including Kayu Loe, Labbo, Borongrappoa, Tana Toa, Tanah Lemo and Bonto Tappalang, all in South Sulawesi, and Tahura Nipa-nipa, Tawanga-Sanggona, Ladongi, Simbune, Asaki and Wonuahua, in Southeast Sulawesi. Facilitated by Lepmil in Southeast and Balang in South Sulawesi, community members and key government officials participated in the workshops .

Using participatory rural appraisal techniques, the discussions in the workshops centred on key natural resources in their villages and the related issues, for instance, land-use; tenure; the property rights system; women’s and men’s access, roles, interests and control of natural resources management; and collaborative management through various schemes. Results from the workshops helped to define primary issues faced by each site, while simultaneously identifying capacity-building activities and support needed.

In addition to that, results generated from the studies will also serve as the basis for participants developing new governance models for each site.

Photo by: CIFOR / Hasantoha



Training workshops for farmers' forest conservation group in Tahura Nipa-nipa

‘The ideal governance model requires participation, transparency and accountability between government and community members in sustainable management of forest or natural resources’, stated Hasantoha of CIFOR. ‘Participation means equality of parties in playing their roles, particularly in making decisions that will have an impact on the environment and local people’s livelihoods and rights or access to natural resources. Transparency is reflected through openness between parties, while accountability suggests how roles and actions of each party should be accountable’, he said.

Further, the CIFOR team explained that although government regulations on collaborative management exist, implementation in the field strongly depends on interpretation by the local management unit and other local stakeholders. Different interpretation can lead to tension. Lack of technical knowledge could also be challenging. For example, local stakeholders in general

do not know what tree species are recommended to be planted on steep slopes for protecting soil and hydrological functions but which are also economically feasible and socially accepted.

‘This is why, through AgFor, we want to help facilitate these parties to develop mutual understanding, relations and consensus to manage land and natural resources collaboratively,’ Hasantoha stated.

Each site has different characteristics, therefore, the governance models will be developed and agreed by the key stakeholders, for example, local people: including men and women, leaders and ordinary community members, elders and youth, and key government officials. The new models will then be implemented and further refined through interactive processes, engaging active collaboration from community members, government agencies and stakeholders.

## Communication survey in South and Southeast Sulawesi

Access to information in many cases plays an important role in improving people’s lives. This applies as much to the agriculture and agroforestry sectors as anywhere else, because farmers need information to help them develop innovations and solutions that contribute to the improvement of their livelihoods and the security of food supply.

In the Agroforestry and Forestry in Sulawesi: Linking Knowledge with Action project, finding out how information spreads is seen as crucial to helping accomplish the project’s mission to enhance farmers’ livelihood by improving access to knowledge. As a result, a communications survey was conducted in 2012 in twelve villages in project areas in South and Southeast Sulawesi.

‘We would like to see how knowledge spreads among farmers and identify the change agents, particularly at village level’, said Endri Martini, one of the researchers behind the study. ‘By understanding this, we can design agricultural extension approaches that are complementary to the existing knowledge transfer systems in the society’, she stated.

The existence of ‘change agents’ in a village is important to keep information flowing. One of these change agents is opinion leaders, who are characterized as vocal individuals who typically receive information before other community members. They are also the ones whom people turn to for advice.

‘Generally, these people are highly influential and predominantly serve as role model in the community, making them responsible for accelerating the dispersal of knowledge. However, this may not be the case for Sulawesi’s conditions. We needed to find out’, Martini explained.



Photo by: ICRAF / Enggar Paramita

Interview process during communication survey