

Background

The Rehabilitation of Agricultural Systems in Aceh - Developing Nurseries of Excellence (NOEL) Program was implemented between April 2007 and February 2009 by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and Winrock International, with support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA, Minister of International Cooperation). The NOEL Program operated in Aceh Jaya, Aceh Barat, Pidie and Pidie Jaya.

Goal and Objectives

The Program aimed to support post-tsunami **rehabilitation of agricultural systems and livelihoods** by empowering smallholder farmers (both men and women) to gain access to **high quality planting materials** and provide them with the **skills to establish and operate agroforestry tree nurseries and tree gardens**.



Partners

Individuals, farm families, community groups, Islamic organizations, local NGOs, international and conservation organizations, and government agencies.



Farmer nursery field school (FNFS)

Capacity building and nursery operation is achieved through the FNFS where the NOEL Team meets with farmer partners bi-weekly to identify priorities, develop and implement work plans, conduct formal and informal training, evaluate achievement, and identify solutions to barriers. The FNFS includes networking with other partners, technical specialists, market agents, and government officials.



Approach

Work with partners who want to rehabilitate lands and improve livelihoods to enhance/develop tree-based systems and agroforestry enterprises through sustainable natural resource management. NOEL selected partners on a 'First ready, first served' approach.



Achievement

NOEL has enhanced farmers' livelihoods by strengthening their capacity and agroforestry assets (tree nurseries, gardens and networks). Achievements include:

- 56 nurseries (19 Pidie and Pidie Jaya, 18 Aceh Jaya, 19 Aceh Barat).
- 24 of the total are spontaneous nurseries established by local stakeholders after they observed the success and impact of NOEL activities.
- 74% of nurseries evaluated as able to operate independently without further assistance.
- 18% of nurseries operate well and will benefit from additional technical support.
- 1362 partners were trained in nursery establishment and management.
- 1096 partners trained in vegetative propagation techniques.
- Approximately 34% of participants in NOEL partner groups and activities have been women.
- 530,823 seedlings were produced in program nurseries.
- 17,597 seedlings were planted to establish budwood gardens and demonstration plots.
- 231,000 seedlings (sticks) of nilam were planted on farmers land.
- 5,842 seedlings sold by partners to local customers for a total of Rp 184.5 million (C\$ 20,129, at an exchange rate of C\$1 = Rp 9,166).
- Commercial value of the seedlings produced by partners is Rp 6.98 billion (C\$ 761,500).
- 5 nurseries in Aceh Jaya have formed a nursery association to sell seedling to government and private sector customers.
- Partners have produced and sold 650 kgs of charcoal and 5500 kgs of compost for a total value of Rp 4.9 million (C\$ 536). These products are made with organic waste from farms.
- Farmer partners have established 12 hectares of nilam, which when harvested (7 months after planting) will yield a net income of Rp 49.2 million (C\$ 5,359).
- 8 ha of demonstration trials and 2 ha of budwood garden established by partners.
- 2.422 ha can be rehabilitated with seedling produced by partners (395 ha already established).
- Remaining seedlings to be sold, distributed, and planted in next planting season.
- All partners all to rehabilitate degraded land and *not convert* forests to agriculture uses.
- 43% of the 21 NOEL Program (fulltime) staff were Acehnese.

