

Workshop - Wanita tani mengangkat tema
“ Membangun aringan wanita tani dalam pembangunan
pertanian di propinsi Aceh”

"Building a network of women farmers in agricultural
development in Aceh

Bireuen, July 5-6 2011

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Introduction

The Women in Agriculture Network Development workshop was held in Bireuen on July 5 and 6, 2011. The principal objective of the workshop was to begin the process of building a "network of women farmers in agriculture in Aceh", where existing institutions and NGOs can play an active role.

It was considered important to formulate a vision for a network that can increase the social, economic and health status for women farmers and their families.

- Create opportunities for communication among women who work in agriculture in Aceh.
- Increase collaboration among various stakeholders in the sectors of gender, agriculture, health and livelihoods.



Attendees at the workshop represented a range of institutions, NGOs, agricultural extension and farmers from across Aceh

This workshop proposed to:

- create a management committee, which will be responsible for implementing and promote networks of women farmers
- establish the basics of a strategic plan, including vision and mission, objectives and the network name
- establish a membership, including the contribution or role in the network for each member.

65 people attended the workshop, members of women's farming groups across Aceh and from the following government and non-government organisations:

1. Balai Syura Inong Aceh (Aceh Women's Council)
2. Badan Ketahanan Pangan dan Penyuluhan Aceh (BPKP) (Department for Food Security and Extension Aceh)
3. Badan Pelaksana Ketahanan Pangan dan Penyuluhan Bireuen (Department for Food Security and Extension, Bireuen)
4. Badan Pemberdayaan Wanita (BP3A) Aceh (Department for Women's Empowerment)
5. Beujroh Banda Aceh (NGO that works to increase women's participation in politics across Aceh)
6. Canadian Co-operatives Association (CCA)
7. Forum Bangun Aceh (NGO that delivers microfinance and microcredit programs)
8. Flower Aceh (NGO that delivers women's empowerment and livelihood projects)
9. Jari (Jaringan perempuan untuk keadilan) (Women's Network for Justice, works to support the rights of women and children)
10. Jembatan Masa Depan Banda Aceh (Bridges to the Future – NGO working on agricultural livelihood projects)
11. Keumang Foundation
12. Koalisi Perempuan Indonesia Banda Aceh (Indonesian Women's Coalition)
13. Liga Inong Aceh (LINA) (Aceh Women's League, NGO that delivers women's empowerment programs)
14. Lembaga Solidaritas Perempuan Bungong Jeumpa (Institute for Women's Solidarity)
15. LOGICA (AusAid project working to strengthen local government capacity in Aceh)
16. Masyarakat Pertanian Organik (MAPORINA) Aceh (Organic Farming Communities)
17. Pusat Study Gender (Centre for Gender Studies), Syiah Kuala University
18. Pusat study wanita IAIN (Centre for Women's Studies) Islamic University
19. Suloh (Farmer's Network)
20. Centre for Development of Women's Resources
21. Yayasan Permakultur Aceh (Aceh Permaculture Foundation)
22. Extension staff supporting KWT¹ from A. Barat, A. Besar, Pidie and Bireuen
23. Leaders of KWT from Aceh Barat, Aceh Besar, Pidie and Bireuen

Workshop summary

The workshop brought together a range of organisations with experience in farming and of networks. There are many opportunities for collaboration. The experience and skills sets that NGOs possess will be very important to the development of the network and support for women farmers in Aceh.

¹ KWT = Kelompok Wanita tani = women's farming groups

The following draft Vision and Mission statements were agreed:

<p>Vision Women Farmers of Aceh to be an independent, prosperous network with a strong bargaining position.</p> <p>Terwujudnya Wanita Tani Aceh yang mandiri, sejahtera dan memiliki posisi tawar yang kuat.</p> <p>Mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and strengthen the capacity of each KWT in districts and cities of Aceh. • Build networks and cooperate with other parties. • Improve knowledge and skills of members in the KWTs. • Build social and economic independence of KWTs. <p>Membentuk dan memperkuat kapasitas KWT disetiap kab/kota di Aceh Membangun jaringan dan bekerjasama dengan pihak lain Meningkatkan pengetahuan dan keterampilan anggota KWT dalam berusaha tani Membangun kemandirian sosial ekonomi KWT</p>

Nazariah from BPTP was elected by popular vote as the Chairperson for the network.

The workshop was not successful in establishing a dedicated secretariat for the network. The NGOs represented at the workshop believe that they should not take a management role in the network at the moment, but rather act as support to groups of women farmers through the training and facilitation skills that they have.

The network requires some budget to allow for further development of the communication strategy and membership. The goal is for the network to become an independent entity, however at present the responsibility for further developing it remains with BPTP NAD.

Workshop Program - Day 1

Session	Facilitator Details and notes
Registration	
Opening addresses	
Introduction by participants	Nazariah
Overview of ACIAR project KWT program	Nazariah
Introduction to network concept	Anna Stempel
Discussion session 1 – 2 groups 1. KWT Group • The main challenges for women farmers? • Expectations for the future? • What expertise/resources are necessary to achieve expectations? 2. Group Institutions/NGOs • Any involvement with women farmers (program type)? • Experience with other networks?	Nazariah Anna Stempel The notes from this session form a record of skills and activities within other organisations that the network may be able to draw on in future.
Report back on the results of each group discussion.	

Workshop Program - Day 2

Focus on :

Develop vision, mission and shared goals for the network

Develop and build commitment to the network

The establishment of a Management Committee

Commence development of a communication strategy

Session	Facilitator Details and notes
Review of previous day's activities	Nazariah
Presentation Concept of mission statement and vision for the network	Anna Stempel What are visions and missions and why do we need them?
Discussion session 2 Small discussion groups Identify main themes that will be used to create a vision and mission	What hope for women in agriculture in the future? What expectations do you have for a network?
Developing a vision and mission Each group report on: The main theme of the vision and mission for a women's farmer network. Discussion and feedback	Nazariah Anna Stempel
The experience of other agencies and NGOs Establishing a committee Management of a network of women farmers.	Dr Kusmawati Hatta (Centre for Development of Women's Resources)
Network name Network leadership Developing a sustainable network for women farmers in Aceh	Nazariah Anna Stempel Siti Asmah
Close	

The program on Day 1 provided the opportunity for all the participants to talk about their activities and organisation.

ACIAR project

The extension staff and leaders of the KWT from the ACIAR project talked briefly about the motivation for their activities and their success to date. The presentations included:

Aceh Barat – PPL Supriyani

Activities commenced in 2009 in the village of Cot Buloh. They began with discussion about the opportunity to grow vegetables to improve nutrition and to generate income with sale to local traders. The main challenge was to motivate the first group to start growing vegetables. We used knowledge, skills and attitudes approach with regular training and discussion sessions.

11 groups have now been established in the sub-district of Arongan Lambalek. The program has received a lot of exposure locally and from outside visitors. Supriyani has now been transferred to Bubon where to date she has established two groups. Bubon is a sub-district of Aceh Barat with larger area of land available and the groups are growing crops like peanuts on plots up to four hectares in size.

The existing groups in Arongan Lambalek are independent but receive regular visits from Supriyani as part of a mentoring program for extension staff there.

Aceh Besar

Zainabon is the leader of one of the groups from Aceh Besar. She explained that her group Tunas Harapan follows the management plan of the KWT program. Their goals are:

- production of vegetables and livestock for consumption by family members,
- excess production is sold to raise capital for the group,
- to foster a sense of togetherness in the group, strengthening their development into the future.

The benefits for group members of this approach are:

- reduce the costs of family vegetable consumption,
- increase their knowledge of farming,
- improve the utilization of vacant land, and,
- strengthen the solidarity of the group and village.

By actively approaching businesses and authorities in the area, Tunas Harapan has been able to obtain donations of farming equipment and cash to enable the expansion of their growing area.

Institutions and NGOs

Presentations from the range of institutions and NGOs represented at the workshop outlined the goals of these groups which include:

Dr. Kusmawati Hatta, MPd - Women's Development Centre in Banda Aceh

The WDC aims to build the cognitive, affective and psychomotor capacity of women and provides facilitation, motivation and mediation services. There has been no

involvement to date with farmer groups but they have experience with other networks and recognise their value.

Raida Fuadi, SE, MM, AK (Unsyiah Gender Study Center)

Acts as a resource centre for women capacity building. To date they have no involvement with women farming groups. The importance of local food production is now recognised in Aceh, as it brings employment and opportunity to the Acehnese people.

Ir. H. Yusri Joseph (Keumang Foundation Pidie)

Keumang Foundation has built partnerships with donors and programs. There is a group of "business women" in Pidie, Aceh Utara and East Aceh developing. Keumang has built networks with other organizations but not with Women Farmer Groups.

Rakhman, SP. MP (Organic Agriculture Nasyarakat Indonesia - MAPORINA)

MAPORINA manages programs, dissemination, implementation, training and evaluation for organic agriculture. MAPORINA is networking with other organizations in the marketing of organic agricultural products. Networking is very meaningful, especially in solving problems, improving farm technology, economics and other matters facing the farmer groups.

The establishment of good relationships with Provincial and District Government is important to influence policies and create more interest.

Ismed Ramadan (Permaculture Foundation Aceh)

The foundation began in 2008. Aims to foster a community more directed to Organic Agriculture. YPA runs programs including creating an Acehnese Home Garden and School Gardens. YPA is networking with Aceh Livelihood Networking (ALN), Aceh Forestry Organic Community and Quality Assurance.

Nurjubah (Women's Network for Justice)

Women's Network For Justice (JARI) serves to support the rights of women and children. JARI has not been directly involved with women farmer groups or similar programs because there is no specific guidance on agriculture. Existing networks include the Aceh Gender Transformation Group, NGO Coalition on Human Rights and Aceh NGO Forum Hall of Shura.

Marlina, SE (Forum Bangun Aceh / LOGICA)

The forum is established in 12 villages of each district and supports some farmer groups.

Marlena (Canadian Co-operative Association)

CCA acts as the chair of the cooperative marketing of agricultural communities in Aceh (Kopemas). The efforts of these cooperatives is to plant rice, fish business freshwater, saltwater fish and produce chips.

Harisna (National Food Security and Guidance of Aceh)

Fostering 10 groups of women farmers in Aceh. Training is for the group and for planting in backyards.

Norma Susanti (Central Shura Ureung Inong Aceh)

Hall of Shura is a place of gathering for Acehnese women, forming a women's conference to identify solutions to problems that women face in Aceh.

Rizky Affiat (League Inong Aceh)

Researching women's issues and politics, managing employment-related programs LINA such as organizing discussions, training and so on

Siti Asmah (Indonesian Women's Coalition)

Indonesian Women's Coalition (KPI) is a mass organization that consists of several groups interests, one of the groups interests are women farmers.

Main discussion points from Session 1 - Day 1

1. Dra. Kusmawati Hatta, MPd (Women's Development Centre Banda Aceh)

Is there a role for men in helping members KWT with activities such as tillage?

Supriyani, SP (PPL Aceh Barat)

Processing of land with a tractor borrowed from Hall Agricultural Extension (BPP) local. Tractor operator generally husband of a member of KWT. Oil and oil-cost self-help on

Radhiah (PPL Jeumpa Bireuen)

Cooperation is strong in our groups with assistance of husbands for certain activities.

2. Raida Fuadi, SE, MM, AK (Unsyiah Gender Study Centre)

What post-harvest issues (in terms of marketing) are there for the KWT in maintaining or improving profit?

Radhiah (PPL Jeumpa Bireuen)

There are no problems in terms of marketing, because garden production can be purchased by the village traders. Some groups have agreement that the traders themselves will help to harvest when the group is unable to. Some groups market their crops directly to the morning Bireuen market.

Zainabon (Tunas Harapan KWT, Naga Uumbang, Aceh Besar)

So far there is no problem in marketing, because the commodity selected are suitable with market demand, such as corn and cucumbers.

Nazariah (KWT coordinator BPTP NAD - ACIAR)

Based on existing reports and our observations, so far there are no problems in terms of marketing. PPL have assisted in identifying potential markets in the area, for example the opportunity for groups near to tourist areas to market products like roast corn directly to the public. Corn is a popular crop because it can always be sold.

Whilst traders offer a lower price than the market they will take continuous production from the groups.

The concept of a network for women in agriculture

Following a Communication Forum for Women Farmer in Bireuen held in March 2011, the network concept was presented.

These questions were asked of the participants:

Do we need a network?

Women farmers all answered Yes: because the groups are more easily seen, easily assisted / encouraged and easier to achieve the desired goal, the group is a place of learning together for women farmers.

If you have formed a network what are the main objectives you want to achieve?

Can further develop the KWT to be more advanced, more than has been achieved now, can increase revenue for families, expand the land area available to KWT,

Who should be involved in the network KWT?

Any agencies that support the activities of KWT, government and NGOs.

What are the benefits of networking for members?

For farmers:

Share knowledge and experience together, Learning about managing groups, Become a stronger leader, Establish relationship with the institution and may be beneficial, •

For government agencies and NGOs

Achieve strategic goals (such as health, food security), improve relationships with rural communities, relations with leaders in rural areas, collaboration with other agencies and programs, opportunities to conduct research, to learn about the model KWT.

Discussion

1. Rizki Affiat (League Inong Aceh)

What is the political role of the women in agriculture network in Australia?

Anna Stempel (AYAD Australia) and Gavin Tinning (ACIAR Australia)

The network was established about 20 years ago to provide a social form and an opportunity to improve business knowledge in farming. The networks have developed to provide a strong political voice.

2. Norma Susanti (Central Shura ureung Inong Aceh)

Have the leaders of the KWT been able to increase their involvement in local political decision making? What mall steps can women take in politics and improve the welfare of their children? Are women involved in village meetings, irrigation development, etc.?

Zainabon (KWT Tunas Harapan)

As a family we try to achieve an understanding with the husband about the role and

usefulness of the groups. The results are perhaps not available now but we will appreciate the results in the months ahead. Among fellow members of the KWT we also help each other and understand each other and cooperate in managing our KWT. We have been given opportunities to use vacant land within the community. Initially the community was less supportive of our activities, there were doubts. Now the level of support is greater. There are many opportunities in villages for activities and also a lot of vacant land available for KWT activities.

Ir. M. Ferizal. (ACIAR Manager BPTP NAD)

At first the KWT activity by BPTP ACIAR focuses only on immediate food needs for her family alone. Over time, this group continues to grow to produce food for sale and establish group revolving funds. It is important to set up foundations to strengthen farmers' groups and form a network.

3. Raida Fuadi, SE, MM, AK (Unsyiah Gender Study Center)

We need to discuss whether the network concept such as used by farmers in Australia is well suited to Aceh?. What about communication information for farmers, whether we need to create a newspaper, or incoming radio broadcasts to inform? Or send CD to get information about women farmers? Do we need to build a network? Then this is where we discuss it.

Day 2

Concept of a vision and mission for the network - discussion

Vision

Participants comments:

Develop and clarify what the network strives to achieve

A shared objective to realize the wishes/dreams of the members (A. Rakhman)

Define the participants and direction of the network

Consider the regulations of the network

When there is a common goal we can shape the vision.

We need to hear from many members of KWT to be able to shape the vision and mission, so that the desire could be heard and represented and in the end we will forming a single voice that can express our entire aspiration / desire.

We need to reflect on the needs of women and their own circumstance in their district.

Keywords for the formulation of the concept of vision

- The ideal or ultimate goal to be achieved
- Limitation / direction of the organization / scope
- Objectives are achieved within a certain time limit
- A shared ideal
- Dreams

The concept of a vision for Women Farmers Group in each district

KWT West Aceh

Want to advance, improve knowledge, more activities and improve prosperity.

KWT Pidie

In 2014 could be more prosperous and partnering with other groups

KWT Aceh Besar

Being an independent KWT and improve the welfare of members and community.

KWT Bireuen

The realization of self-reliance in order to increase revenue KWT and improve family welfare.

Summary

Want to move forward

Independent

Prosperous

Sustainable

Activism (productive)

Partnering

Bargaining

Discussion of the vision statement of the institutions and NGOs

KWT Aceh become an independent group, advanced, prosperous, knowledgeable, have ongoing activity and partnering parallel to the other groups.

KWT Aceh independence of women through skills and manage its network in an equitable and sustainable agriculture.

KWT Aceh into a group of knowledgeable, prosperous, independent, has partnered ongoing activity and parallel to other groups.

KWT Aceh is advanced, independent and connected with other groups toward a prosperous KWT family.

The realization that KWT Aceh became one of the determinants of public policy. Increase the bargaining position of women farmers.

The mutually agreed Vision is:

Women Farmers of Aceh to be an independent, prosperous network with a strong bargaining position.

Mission

Participant comments:

Establish and strengthen KWT in each District

Establish networks with other parties (shared input)

Working together (shared input)

Improve knowledge and skills of members in the KWT

The mission comes from the vision so we need to focus on 'prosperous'. Improve the economy for women farmers.

Building Economic Independence for KWT.

The final mission statement

- Establish and strengthen the capacity of each KWT in districts and cities of Aceh.
- Build networks and cooperate with other parties.
- Improve knowledge and skills of members in the KWTs.
- Build social and economic independence of KWTs.

Establishing a committee for the network - discussion

Participant comments

Should we form the management structure within the network?

Who is involved in the committee?

The role of NGOs is to support KWT. To form a committee

KWT Aceh is a composite of the women farmers of Aceh. The Committee consists of

members of KWT. We try to develop managers. KWT Aceh is not a mix of institutions, but independent. We need to have institutions which provide support.

We already have KWT in each district / city, then we need combined / organization KWT Aceh in future will form a congress that they will facilitate on their own and no longer under BPTP, they can stand alone.

We should elect a chairperson who can contribute the time necessary to develop the network. An organisational structure should include:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Social Section
- Education Section and the cadre
- Economy
- Advocacy
- Advisory
- Regional Coordinator

The Chairperson must be able to:

- Understand the ins and outs of the farmer
- Have a job / authority / and understanding of its own organization
- Have the skills and experience.
- Possess honesty, courage
- Have time free to organise group members

Nazariah is elected Chairperson with other roles to be decided later.

Closing statements

1. NGO commitments

Institutions and NGOs who are present remain committed to helping KWT activities. Relations with the network are based on advocacy and assistance.

NGOs will act as advocates for KWTs.

The NGOs will assist the Chairperson with establishing the steering committee for this network.

2. Director of BPTP (Ir. T. Iskandar, MSI)

We hope that the agencies/NGOs will help the already formed KWT on an ongoing basis. Nazariah has been elected as Chairperson and we hope that all the agencies/NGOs here today can support her in this role.

Appendix 1. ACIAR project extension staff and group leaders attending the network development workshop

The following extension staff and group members from the ACIAR project KWT program attended the workshop.

No.	Kabupaten	Lokasi	Nama KWT	Peserta	Keterangan
2.	Aceh Besar	1. Naga Uimbang Lhoknga	Tunas Harapan	Zainabon	Ketua
		2. Bak Buloh Kuta Baro	Tani Sejahtera	Nurbayani, SP Saidah	PPL Ketua
3.	Pidie	14. Lameu Raya Sakti	Ingin Maju	Suryana Nurleli	PPL Ketua
		15. Meunasah Blang	Mekar Sari	Hardiana	Ketua
1.	Bireuen	3. Meunasah Asan SP. Mamplam	Mudah Raseuki	Suryadi Rukiah Abbas	PPL Ketua
		4. Kuta Trieng Peulimbang	Maju Bersama	Nurrajiati Faryati	PPL Ketua
		5. Pulo Lawang Peudada	Sarena	Yusnidar, SP Zahara	PPL Ketua
		6. Lipah Rayeuk Jeumpa	Semangat Baru	Sumarni, SP Radhiah Zuraida Wardiah Maryam	Koordinator PPL Anggota Anggota Anggota
		7. Mon Jambe Jeumpa	Udep Saree	Nazariah	Ketua
		8. Cot Geurundong Jeumpa	RahmatTeuka	Asnidar	Ketua
		9. Kuala	Harapan Maju	Nazariah	Anggota
		10. Blang Tingkeum Kota Juang	Bungong Kurma	Nurlatifah, SP Aisyah	PPL Ketua
		11. Tanjong NI Peusangan	Mekar Jaya	Zakiati, SP Khairina	PPL Ketua
		12. Blang Panjoe Kuta Blang	Kembang Panjoe	Rafika, SP Ti Basiah	PPL Ketua
4.	Aceh Barat	16. Arongan Lambalek	Seulanga Tunas Baru	Supriyani, SP Nyak Cut Khadijah	PPL Ketua Ketua
		17. Bubon	Meulu Cut Bungong Kupula	Rosmanidar Zubaidah	Ketua Ketua