Program KWT Aceh

Poster collection
Women in agriculture forum
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PPL - extension staff supporting KWT in Aceh

Local extension staff (PPL) are a very important part of the KWT (women’s farming group) project. Their job is to motivate and support the groups, providing technical advice and capacity building on the ground and helping to link the KWTs to a broader knowledge network. PPL are the primary point of contact for most KWTs, and their continued involvement is critical to the project’s success.

Supriyani with organic pesticides (left) and her BPP office in Arongan Lambalek District of West Aceh District (right). Supriyani was the first PPL involved in ACIAR activities, her work has inspired many farmers in West Aceh.

Radhiah. KWT Semangat Baru desa Lipah Rayeuk, Jeumpa, Bireuen

How long have you been working with this KWT? One year
What are your main tasks? Support and help women’s farming groups (KWT)
Are there any challenges? There are many challenges, access to land, irrigation during the dry season and maintaining production in the wet season.
What are your hopes for the future? We want to expand group and build more capital. We also want more training and field trips, and we want to have our own wells.

Radhiah (PPL Semangat Baru, left) with Sumarni and Nurlatifah, PPL Bireuen.
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Zakiati, Sp. - KWT Mekar Jaya, desa Tanjong Ni, Bireuen

How long have you been working with this KWT? One year
What are your main tasks?
Fostering and motivating farmers, especially the women in the KWT, to increase the yield of vegetables.
What do you like most about working with the KWT?
KWT members in the village of Tanjong Nie are unified and willing to cooperate in vegetable growing activities.
Are there any challenges? Vegetable production declines during the rainy season.
What are your hopes for the future?
Continue motivating farmers to continue to increase the planting of vegetables and expand the KWT’s land, so we can increase farmers’ income and promote the Mekar Jaya KWT.

Rafika, Sp. - KWT Kembang Panjoe, desa Blang Panjoe, Bireuen

How long have you been working with this KWT? One year
What are your main tasks?
To guide and nurture the women’s farming group.
What do you like most about working with the KWT?
Cohesion and cooperation in the KWT.
Are there any challenges? Not enough capital; not enough affordable training; low farm-gate prices.
What are your hopes for the future? For the KWT to become more advanced / developed; for farmers to be more prosperous through the presence of the KWT.
Harapan Maju  *Hope for the future*

Desa Lhok Awe-Awe, Kuala, Bireuen

Established in 2008 with the help of Haryati, our group is now independent, based on the successful production of vegetables. We grow snake bean, kang kong, mustard and peanuts for the local traditional markets.

Haryati (PPL) and Nazariah (BPTP NAD) above.
Kembang Panjoe  *Panjoe Blossom*

Desa Blang Panjoe, Kuta Blang, Bireuen

We grow red onions, eggplant, beans, spinach, kale, mustard greens, cucumber and honey papaya.

Rafika is our local extension worker (PPL).

Hopes for the future:

We want to expand our activities, to build more capital and consolidate our membership.
Mekar Jaya  *Great Blooming*

Desa Tanjong Ni, Peusangan, Bireuen
We grow red onions, kang kong, beans, spinach, kale, mustard greens and cucumber.
PPL - Zakiati SP
Hopes for the future:
We want this group to continue to bloom through a strong relationship with PPL and BPTP. The three sub-groups of Mekar Jaya grow various crops such as mustard, to be sold in local markets and buyers who come directly to the land.

The three sub-groups of Mekar Jaya grow various crops such as mustard, to be sold in local markets and to buyers. The group work together to maintain their plants and hope to continue to learn from the ACIAR project.
Semangat Baru  New Spirit

Desa Lipah Rayeuk, Jeumpa, Bireuen
We grow red onions, kang kong, beans, spinach, kale, mustard greens and cucumber.
PPL - Radhiah
Hopes for the future:
We would like to have more capital to expand the group. We hope for further training and farmer visits to broaden our knowledge and motivate KWT members in carrying out farming activities that increase production.
Tunas Mekar  *Blooming Bud*

Desa Cot Buloh,  
Arongan Lambalek, Aceh Barat

We grow sweet corn, cucumbers, long beans, eggplant, kale, mustard greens, peanuts, ginger, watermelon, chili and banana.

We are one of the first groups established in Arongan Lambalejk with Ibu Supriyani.

Members of (KWT) Tunas Mekar with Supriyani (top left) and chilli plants, cucumbers, eggplant and long bean crops.
Hope

Desa Simpang Peut
Arongan Lambalek, Aceh Barat
We grow sweet corn, cucumbers, long beans, eggplant, kale, mustard greens, peanuts and ginger.

Members of KWT Harapan with Nazariah (left) and Supriyani (PPL Arongan Lambalek) at harvest time for cucumbers and beans.
Desa Naga Umbang, Lhoknga, Aceh Besar
This group was formed to cultivate various vegetables, such as long beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, sweet corn, and chili and to raise ducks.

Zainabon (KWT chairman Tunas Harapan) has a vision for the future; “all vacant and abandoned land can be utilized by the KWT to cultivate various types of suitable plants.” KWT Tunas Harapan has two plots for vegetable farming groups and their yards for family consumption, and are cooperating to improve their duck raising activities.

Members of KWT Tunas Harapan have developed two pots of land to plant vegetables, a duck raising cooperative and have planted many house gardens in the village.
Other new groups

Harapan Baru, Desa Layeuen, Aceh Besar

Tani Sejahtera, Desa Bak Buloh, Aceh Besar

We grow sweet corn, cucumbers, long beans, eggplant, kale, mustard greens, peanuts, green beans, watermelon, ginger and squash.

Bungong Kurma, Blang Tingkeum, Bireuen

Kenangan, Aceh Barat

Desa Simpang Peut Semantoh

We grow tomatoes, long beans, peanuts, cabbage, eggplant, kale and peppers.

Mawar, Aceh Barat

Desa Arongan

We grow tomatoes, long beans, peanuts, cabbage, eggplant, kale and peppers.

Other groups from A. Barat

Bungong Seulanga

Melati

Bungong Kamboja

Bungong Jeumpa

Karang Langsat

Mekar Bersemi
Economic impacts

Women’s farming groups (KWTs) facilitate financial empowerment

Income from selling KWT produce supplements household incomes and provides an independent source of finance for women. KWT members also save money in household budgets because they can bring home vegetables from the field instead of buying them.

Many KWTs use shared income to provide loans for members and set aside income to help members cover the cost of events such as Idul Fitri celebrations.

Looking to the future

The groups hope to not only rely on on-farm production of vegetables. The range of group activities is expected to include post-harvest processes increasing the economic value of their products.

A better understanding of financial management and microcredit may help groups to become independent and more prosperous.

There will be some challenges for BPTP NAD in managing the group training and activities.
Food security

Food security is a high priority issue in Indonesia and around the world. Authorities have recognised the importance of focusing on women to address the challenges faced.

Projects like the KWT program can make an important contribution to improving food security by improving access to fresh fruit and vegetables at the local level, helping farmers to grow a more diverse range of crops and building capacity and skills for increasing agricultural productivity.
Health

Improving nutrition

KWT members have ready access to fresh fruit and vegetables, and some members estimate that their household vegetable consumption has doubled since they joined the project. In Aceh, where malnutrition is a serious problem, increased vegetable consumption can have important nutritional outcomes for women and their families.

Looking to the future

While the KWT program is primarily focused on agricultural outcomes, there may be opportunities to further enhance nutritional benefits by collaborating with health-focused programs and experts in future.
Social impacts

Improved quality of life
KWTs give members an opportunity to spend time with other women, enjoying friendship and company whilst working productively. KWT members say working together to achieve shared goals makes them feel confident, strong and happy, and this has flow-on effects: in the words of a KWT member, when the women are happier the whole community is happier.

Empowering women
KWTs are managed and driven by their members, giving women an opportunity to develop skills in leadership, financial management, problem solving and group management. The project gives women a voice in the farming community and ensures that women can be decision makers as well as participants.

Ibu Zainabon from the Tunas Harapan group in Naga Umbang explains that women leave their troubles behind and become strong and confident when they work with the KWT, and this picture of strong, capable women is repeated throughout all of the KWTs.
Capacity building

The KWT project creates numerous opportunities for participants to learn new skills and share knowledge. This leads to capacity building not only in agricultural techniques, but also in areas including leadership, financial management and working in groups.

Capacity building happens through planned activities, such as those listed below, and also through informal peer-to-peer learning.

**Capacity building activities so far:**

- KWT forum in March 2010.
- KWT-to-KWT visits, which take KWT representatives from one region to visit KWTs and projects in other areas.
- Training in making biopesticides and organic fertilisers, run by Ibu Supryani (extension worker from Aceh Barat).
- Peer-to-peer learning through daily activities and via PPL.
- Women in Agriculture Forum March 2011

**Looking to the future**

The capacity building program for the near future includes:

- Training in organic methods.
- Training in post-harvest processing techniques and enterprise development with the Indonesian Legume and Tuber Crop Research Institute.
- Leadership training.