

## **REHABILITATION OF LIVELIHOODS ON SIMEULUE** OF SIMEULUE ISLAND, ACEH, INDONESIA



**Picture 1:** Harvesting of rice planted during Farmers Field School for Rice Cultivation

### **INTRODUCTION.**

Simeulue Island is a remote and rural environment. Fishery, tree crop production and subsistence farming, in home gardens, as well as rice paddies are the main sources of income for a majority of people on Simeulue. Apart from the damage to people's homes, public buildings and infrastructures, the tsunami, of 2004, and the earth quake of March 2005, directly resulted in the losses and damages of livelihoods. Between May 2006 and April 2007, WELTHUNGERHILFE initiated an ECHO funded emergency response livelihood rehabilitation project, in the sub-districts of Teupah Barat and Teupah Selatan. Some of these villages are also covered by a WELTHUNGERHILFE's shelter reconstruction project. Today, follow-up projects are being implemented in the Sub-Districts of Teupah Barat and Salang. The project in Teupah Barat has been co-funded by the Irish NGO Concern, where as the project in Salang is co-funded by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Economics (BMZ).

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVE.**

The aim of these projects is to help the local population towards rehabilitation, development and improvement of their livelihoods. Families' income is mainly generated in the agricultural sector, small businesses and home industries. Responding to urgent needs such as a result of material damages, rice-fields and tree crop plantations devastation, the initial WELTHUNGERHILFE project focused on material inputs i.e. providing seeds, fertilisers, hand tractors, hand tools and appropriate machines. However, WELTHUNGERHILFE realized that material inputs were not sufficient, in the long run, to ensure sustainability. Subsequently, the Livelihood recovery projects have decided to combine the initial approach with appropriate technical support such as capacity building, trainings and community strengthening activities. Establishing Farmers Field Schools is a major project activity, such as organic cacao cultivation.

### **BENEFICIARIES and LOCATION.**

The two current projects are reaching in the sub-district of: Teupah Barat, 1,801 families amongst 18 villages; Salang, 1,818 families amongst 16 villages.

### **FINANCED BY.**

Contribution of WELTHUNGERHILFE: 769.880 €  
 Contribution of ECHO/EU: 477.156 €  
 Contribution of CONCERN: 300,000 €  
 Contribution of BMZ (German Government): 729.331 €

### **PROJECT ACTIVITIES.**

- Technical Training based on Farmers Field Schools by "learning-by-doing" (tree crops, rice and vegetables plantation, organic fertilizer, poultry production);
- Business trainings for small businesses (e.g. business development, book keeping and marketing);
- Establishment of saving and loan groups to generate revolving funds;
- Ensuring that material support provided by WELTHUNGERHILFE will be used efficiently and reach more families;
- Initiation and support of community based self help activities, (e.g. live fences etc.).

### **STATUS.**

- More than 97.500 seedling, 9 different kind of vegetable seeds were distributed;
- Rehabilitation of agriculture feeder roads, small bridges and "living fences";
- 48 hand tractors, 34 threshing machines, 10 mobile rice mills, 10 cultivators and 2 clove oil distillations were distributed to farmer groups;
- 69 sago processing machines, 98 sewing machines and 20 fully equipped mobile food stalls were handed over to women groups;
- Several trainings were held for small businesses, saving groups, farmers and women groups (e.g. food processing, business management, financial risk management etc);
- Farmers Field Schools conducted for cacao cultivation, vegetable production, rice cultivation, clove oil distillation and internal control system for organic cultivation.

### **CHALLENGES.**

The project aims to find a balance between material support, self-help initiative, training and capacity building. Ensuring the sustainability of the project activities at a remote location like Simeulue Island.



**Picture 2:** Opening of farmers training.



**Picture 3:** Transplanting of rice seedlings.



**Picture 4:** Farmer with harvested water melon.

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