



ACTIVITY BRIEF

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TPSA | CANADA-INDONESIA TRADE AND PRIVATE SECTOR ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Aceh and South Sulawesi Coffee Farmers Trained in Sustainable Farming at the Indonesian Coffee and Cocoa Research Institute

Improving the knowledge and skills of coffee farmers in environmentally friendly production, waste management, and coffee processing is the main requirement for moving toward a sustainable coffee industry in Indonesia.

The Canada–Indonesia Trade and Private Sector Assistance (TPSA) project organized a study tour and training session for 20 coffee farmers at the Indonesian Coffee and Cocoa Research Institute (ICCRI) in Jember, East Java. The farmers represent TPSA-assisted SMEs and cooperatives from the Gayo region (Central Aceh and Bener Meriah districts) and South Sulawesi (Toraja, North Toraja, Enrekang, and Majene districts).

Objectives

The study tour and training aimed to increase farmers' hands-on knowledge and skills in environmentally friendly coffee production, processing, and waste management, including issues related to climate-change impacts and adaptation. This directly supports the Indonesian government's objective to increase sustainable coffee production, exports, and farmers' income. It is also aligned with the Canadian government's foreign aid poverty reduction objective. Good environmental practices are important both for coffee quality and for farmers' sustainable livelihoods. They are also key to the sustainability of Indonesia's coffee industry.

The 20 participants consisted of four women and 16 men representing six coffee cooperatives, three small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and



In-class training at ICCRI research facilities.

one representative of non-governmental organization MPKG (Gayo Coffee Community Activists or *Masyarakat Penggiat Kopi Gayo*). These cooperatives and SMEs represent more than 4,000 coffee smallholders. For example, one of the cooperatives, KOKOWAGAYO, is an all-women cooperative with 500 members.

The training was facilitated by ICCRI coffee experts. Founded in 1911, ICCRI is the largest and oldest coffee and cocoa research organization in Indonesia. As a public institution, ICCRI's mandate is to conduct research and development on coffee and cocoa, as well as to provide data, information, and other services to smallholders, governments, the private sector, industry associations, and other stakeholders.

Canada

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Field training on coffee cultivation practices.

Combining Theory and Practice

The training, which emphasized learning by doing, combined in-class theory and field practice at ICCRI's coffee plantation and state-of-the-art processing facilities.

Over the four days, participants received in-class training on organic coffee-farming techniques, management of coffee-husk waste, identification and control of pests and diseases, and post-harvest processing, including coffee by-products. Potential impacts of climate change on coffee were also addressed, as well as adaptation strategies (such as using drought-resistant coffee varieties).

Participants had the opportunity to practice their newly acquired knowledge at ICCRI's coffee plantation and processing facilities. The field practice covered the following topics: organic farming techniques and soil management, new techniques in compost-making, pest and disease identification and organic control, plantation management, and downstream coffee processing (roasting techniques and coffee product diversification). Participants also learned about more efficient water usage in post-harvest coffee handling, as well as biogas production using coffee-husk waste.

On the third day of the study tour, the participants visited an Arabica organic coffee plantation owned by ICCRI-supported farmers in Bondowoso district, East Java. This allowed participants to observe first-hand how properly managed organic farming can be productive and produce high-quality



Participants receive a briefing on how to make good-quality compost.

yields. The average annual coffee production at the Bondowoso plantation is two tonnes per hectare, which is much higher than the national average of 700 to 800 kilograms per hectare. The visit also provided opportunity for farmer-to-farmer discussion, information exchange, and mutual learning about post-harvest organic coffee processing.

Results

The combined in-class training, field practice, and organic plantation visit covered the entire spectrum of environmentally friendly coffee production and processing. With additional materials on climate-change impacts and adaptation strategies provided, the training was comprehensive in scope.



Participants visit the ICCRI laboratory, where they learn to recognize and identify coffee-plant pests as well as how to organically control them.



Participants greatly valued the opportunity to discuss and ask coffee-specific questions of ICCRI coffee experts. The farmers were of the opinion that the trainers have vast and relevant knowledge and experience. Participants also valued the opportunity to meet, interact with, and exchange information and experience with farmers from other areas.

Next Steps

The training participants agreed that upon returning to their respective institution or home base, they would share their newly acquired knowledge and skills with their peers. In addition, the participants have established a WhatsApp smartphone discussion group. This ongoing forum allows the participants to exchange information, knowledge, and experiences on a variety of coffee-related issues. Some participants recently posted photos to WhatsApp showing their efforts at putting their newly acquired compost-making and pest-control knowledge into practice.

As a follow-up, the TPSA project will collaborate with ICCRI to monitor and evaluate the results of the study visit in each participant's location, in order to learn whether the study tour and training result in improved farming practices and environmental performance. During the training, ICCRI experts and farmer participants, with guidance from TPSA's environmental team, identified monitoring indicators such as best practices in farming techniques (especially pruning and organic pest control) and environmentally friendly composting. The monitoring will be conducted between March and July 2018, with due consideration of harvest seasons in Toraja/Enrekang and Gayo.



Participants are briefed on coffee-plant cutting and grafting.

Participant Feedback

Feedback from the participants indicated that the training was successful and overall levels of satisfaction were high.

"In the village, trainers usually talk from a purely theoretical perspective. The theory suggests that only 50 per cent of problems can be solved. But this opportunity for hands-on learning, in the field, suggested that about 90 per cent of problems can be solved. We discussed both the advantages and disadvantages of different methods and could understand thoroughly what steps to take."

—PATOLA

Head of the Benteng Ala Cooperative, which consists of 2,797 coffee farmers in Enrekang

All 18 participants who answered this question reported that their knowledge and skills related to the training subject were increased: 72 per cent said "significantly" and 28 per cent said "to some extent." The participants also noted that their new level of confidence in applying the knowledge gained from the training ranged from "good" to "excellent." Participants intend to use the learnings; 78 per cent said "very frequently" and the remainder said "frequently."

The feedback indicated the relevance of the content based on participant roles and how they will apply the knowledge going forward.

Several participants mentioned the high quality of the training they received. Muhammad Salim, head of Redelong Organik Cooperative in Bener Meriah District, Aceh, noted that hundreds of farmers in his cooperative have been dealing with brown-root fungus disease in the last few years. The training addressed this problem and provided solutions, which he is excited to share with the farmers in his district when he returns.

Patola, from Enrekang District, South Sulawesi, was very interested in the plant grafting method shown at the ICCRI facility. He also learned how to make



Participants in the study tour and training at the Indonesian Coffee and Cocoa Research Institute.

compost fertilizer from coffee waste because, in his village, there are a lot of farmers who keep goats and cows, and the animal waste makes composting faster. He also praised the presenters from ICCRI who really understood the problems not only in theory but in practice.

Maryani, a coffee farmer from the Gayo Women Coffee Cooperative, said that the training material that she appreciated the most involved plant propagation through grafting, which was a new technique to her. The cooperative consists of more than 500 female farmers in Bener Meriah district, Aceh. Maryani was also interested in pest-control techniques because the cooperative's coffee has been attacked by pests, causing major problems and stress for the farmers. She learned that pests can be managed and dealt with to achieve maximum coffee production.

About the TPSA Project

TPSA is a five-year C\$12-million project funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada. The project is executed by The Conference Board of Canada, and the primary implementa-

tion partner is the Directorate General for National Export Development, Ministry of Trade.

TPSA is designed to provide training, research, and technical assistance to Indonesian government agencies, the private sector—particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)—academics, and civil society organizations on trade-related information, trade policy analysis, regulatory reforms, and trade and investment promotion by Canadian, Indonesian, and other experts from public and private organizations.

The overall objective of TPSA is to support higher sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty in Indonesia through increased trade and trade-enabling investment between Indonesia and Canada. TPSA is intended to increase sustainable and gender-responsive trade and investment opportunities, particularly for Indonesian SMEs, and to increase the use of trade and investment analysis by Indonesian stakeholders for expanded trade and investment partnerships between Indonesia and Canada.



The expected immediate outcomes of TPSA are:

- improved trade and investment information flows between Indonesia and Canada, particularly for the private sector, SMEs, and women entrepreneurs, including trade-related environmental risks and opportunities;
- enhanced private sector business links between Indonesia and Canada, particularly for SMEs;
- strengthened analytical skills and knowledge of Indonesian stakeholders on how to increase trade and investment between Indonesia and Canada;
- improved understanding of regulatory rules and best practices for trade and investment.

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