

GRASS

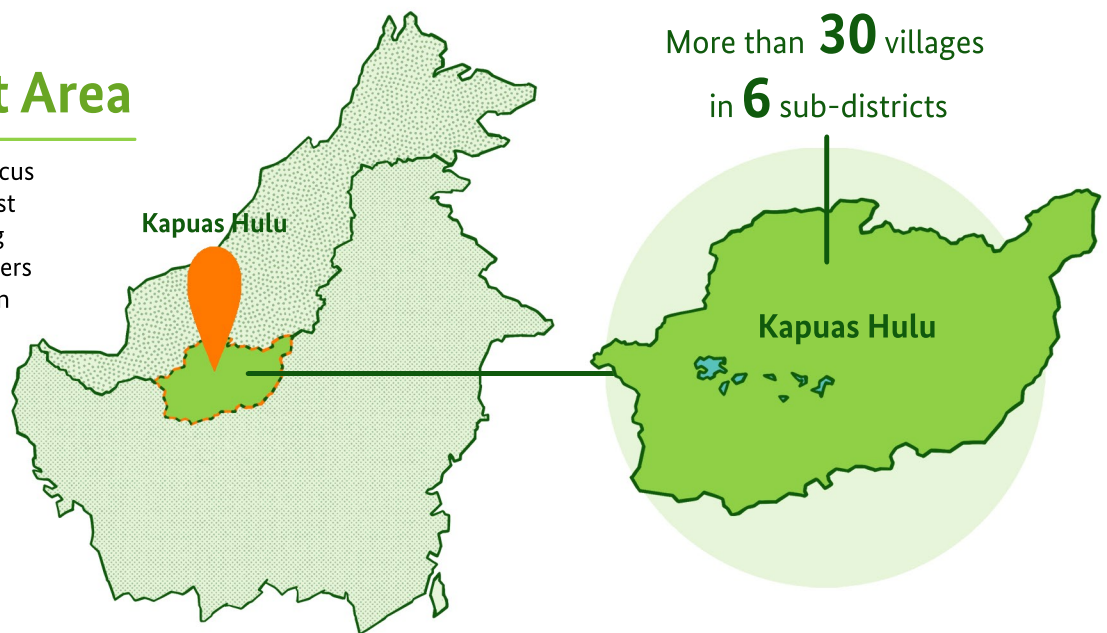
GREENING AGRICULTURAL SMALLHOLDER SUPPLY CHAINS

About GRASS

The GRASS (Greening Agricultural Smallholder Supply Chains) project is a follow-on project to the previous Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains in Indonesia (SASCI) and builds on the positive results, lessons learned, and experience gained. The project is funded by The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with aims to improve the livelihoods and resilience of smallholder farmers who produce plantation commodities of palm oil, rubber, cacao, and coffee at the basis of global supply chains. The project is implemented together with the Directorate General of Estate Crops of the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture from 2023 to 2025 (3 years).

Project Target Area

The project will continue to focus on Kapuas Hulu District in West Kalimantan Province, targeting independent smallholder farmers (women and men) in more than 30 villages in six sub-districts. This region is considered as a sustainable landscape, and in 2018 was listed as a UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserve.



Root Problem & Mitigation

Independent smallholder farmers in Kapuas Hulu who cultivate estate crops in monoculture on their entire farm plot (typically 2 hectares or less) are extremely vulnerable to fluctuations in commodity world market prices, pests and diseases, and impacts of climate change. In recent years, the fluctuations have caused increasingly negative impacts. As a result, the smallholder farmer's livelihoods are no longer economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable. If the smallholder farmer's livelihoods are not sustainable, then the entire global supply chain cannot be considered sustainable either.

To mitigate the smallholder farmer vulnerability, it is necessary to diversify smallholder farm production to create more stable and robust production systems that are better adapted to the changing climate, that enhance the farm biodiversity, that increase the range of products, and that are more resilient.





The Project Approach

To increase the resilience of independent smallholder farmers to negative external shocks (global market price fluctuations, increased incidents of pests and diseases, and climate change impacts), the project will:

- 1 Advise and provide technical support to strengthen the capacity of the smallholder farmers (women and men) & agricultural extension staff in agro-ecological approaches, including agroforestry, permaculture, regenerative farming, and climate-smart agricultural practices.
- 2 Improve smallholder farmers' market access to local and global markets and supply chains.
- 3 Sensitize government agencies at provincial & local levels on the requirements of resilient and deforestation-free supply chains.
- 4 Promote successful, field-tested concepts and approaches, supporting smallholder farmer resilience, at the provincial and national levels.




What The Project Aims to Achieve

By the end of the GRASS project, the economic and environmental resilience of smallholder farmers at the base of global supply chains has improved in selected regions of Indonesia.

Key Entry Point for GRASS


- 1




EMPOWERMENT
Strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers (women and men) for a diverse and productive farming (adopting agroecological farming practices), and support their access to local and global markets, including traceability and commodity certification.

- 2

MARKET ACCESS
Foster and support the emergence and function of smallholder producer groups and marketing communities and facilitate inclusive business models between off-taker companies and smallholders.




- 3



LIVELIHOODS
Provide assistance to smallholder farmers to increase agricultural productivity, product quality, food security, and nutrition for improved livelihoods and living standards.

- 4

DIGITALISATION
Support local government and smallholder farmer groups in the adaptation and use of digital tools and e-learning/blended learning to improve the sustainability, resilience, and livelihoods of targeted smallholder farmers.





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