



A Success Story from SASCI Project (now called GRASS)

Applying what I learned from GIZ, I saw that the ecological condition of the rubber land was maintained, and that dry latex yields reached 90-100 kilograms, (...) and I earn between 1-4 million rupiahs per month from this commodity alone. – Maskur



My Rubber Land and Productivity Are Now Much Improved

Maskur (41) is a natural rubber smallholder farmer in Kapuas Hulu. Prior to the SASCI project, I cultivated my rubber land using traditional methods, such as allowing rubber seedlings to grow randomly, resulting in densely packed and irregularly spaced planting. As a result, the latex production obtained was suboptimal. Additionally, I used coconut shells as containers for latex tapping, which lead to contamination of the latex with dry leaves and other solid objects, thus reducing its quality.

I realized that these practices were not beneficial. Then I started participating in GIZ-SASCI training in 2019, beginning with awareness raising sessions in the Riam Panjang Village, followed by the formation of groups and participation in workshops on sustainable rubber downstream activities. Before this training, I had never received guidance on how to care for rubber plantations, so I continued using traditional methods inherited from our parents. Furthermore, there is no rubber factory in Kapuas Hulu, making it difficult to obtain factory gate prices, and I only sell to local middlemen.

After receiving training on rubber plantation management, I began implementing the knowledge by adjusting the spacing between rubber trees and applying fertilizer according to ecological and environmentally friendly standards. Additionally, I replaced the coconut shell containers for latex tapping with bamboo. Furthermore, I gained technical skills and started air drying the latex according to factory standards, resulting in better quality and higher prices. These practices were not only adopted by me but also by most farmers who were members of the groups formed by SASCI.

With these practices, I saw the ecological condition of my rubber land improve and dry latex yields reach 90-100 kilograms per month, fetching better prices compared to selling it to local traders. I can now earn between 1-4 million rupiahs per month from this commodity alone. However, I also earn additional income from other commodities such as Arowana fish, bird nests, rice farming, and kratom gardening. The concept of additional income was also introduced by the SASCI project. This impact is not only experienced by me; other farmers in the group also experience similar benefits.

I realized that the results from monoculture rubber farming are not sufficient, especially when using local planting materials. Therefore, my hope is to have an intercropping garden where, in addition to rubber trees, there are various types of plants with economic value, thus increasing the overall income from the rubber plantation.