

HIGHLIGHTS OF OPERATIONS/ PERFORMANCE OF BINA DESA (2019-2020)

I. Developing and strengthening rural peoples' organizations (RPOs)

Bina Desa has been working with 54 RPOs in 30 districts, covering at least 141 focused villages and spreading to more than 445 villages. The intervention has been able to reach 178.192 rural families with 674.251 peoples as beneficiaries (53% men, 47% women). The goal is to encourage the leading and critical position of rural communities in advocating the needs of rural marginalized peoples and transform rural communities into an inclusive and independent communities, or defined as KSP (self-reliant rural community) in Bina Desa.

The development of inclusive rural cadre-facilitators (RCFs) started with the establishment of self-reliant rural school (SEPEDA) that seeks to consolidate the practices of people-led development mobilizing capable and omitted development cadres, facilitators to undertake community mobilization and development work anchored on the principle of musyawarah. The community organizing training, one of the modules developed by SEPEDA, is currently being rolled-out at national and provincial levels developing 499 inclusive working cadres and facilitators with 215 females and 284 males. These RCFs widened and deepened the reach of service of BD to its RPOs.

The initiatives of RPOs' constructive engagement in RD policies and program

Bina Desa has been able to strengthen the support in enabling rural communities to advocate their interests in rural development policies and program. The process has been more structured after 29 rural leaders (11 F, 18 M) from 9 focused regions were involved in a training on constructive engagement and policy advocacy. The result have been shown during 2019-2020 in leading position of rural communities on rural development process. The most significant achievements are: rural women dialogue and rural people dialogue, good practice of survivors-led post-disaster rehabilitation in Central Sulawesi, and rural communities' initiative in leading the Covid19 response program in the most affected areas.

Started in 2017, **rural people dialogue and rural women dialogue** has been transformed into a main forum for rural leaders to ensure that the voices of marginalized communities are considered as the basis for development rural development policies and program. These forums as national-level KLMPE activities that supported by the ReCoERDO-Asia project are showcasing good practices of rural people and rural women initiatives on participation in rural development and mainstreaming people-led development.

Rural women dialogue have been able to showcase rural women's organizations initiatives in strengthening their involvement in rural development and led to the formation of national rural women's network (JPP Nusantara) as a medium for learning exchange on women's empowerment and policy advocacy forums. While rural people dialogue position paper has been able to formulate the position paper as the basis for advocacy for rural communities in

2019 and presented in Bantaeng district. The forum are growing into an advocacy forum for rural communities which covers the topic of village democratization, portraits of small-farmers and artisanal fishers in Indonesia, globalization, and climate change.

As a response of earthquake-liquefaction affected 3 districts in Central Sulawesi on September 28th, 2018, Bina Desa has supported the initiative of KSP Sangurara --a district-based RPO in



Sigi and member of Central Sulawesi KSP network-- in **building a volunteer post to help survivors** in surrounding villages. The initiative of KSP Sangurara has focused on empowering survivors groups to build better their life and livelihood. The first intervention was by collectively built the temporary houses using the design of Kaili Tribe's typical house "Soe-soe". All materials come from local sources and the process is carried out collaboratively by survivors, women and men. It also supported in rebuilding the livelihood by

introducing natural farming as collective way to strengthen the survivors' groups. The initiative has been able to supports 185 households from 8 affected villages and consist of 621 person (310 F 311 M) and it has greatly appreciated by head of Sigi district for the ability to work together quickly and decided to build a temporary house.

During the Covid19 pandemic, rural families has been affected significantly on food and agriculture sector caused by the increase in the price of agricultural inputs due to increase in transportation costs, the decrease in sales and lower selling volume or delay in selling contracts for agricultural products due to decreasing of purchasing power of urban consumers (especially for non-staple food products). As a response, Bina Desa has **supported 15 RPOs in the most affected regions** to adapt to changing conditions by undertaking initiatives in agriculture and marketing. These initiatives include the development of processed products from their main crops for value creation and improving product quality, development of digital marketing model to deal with the lower demand from local markets, diversification of production and processing of other agricultural products as a form of empowering vulnerable groups and increasing family income, and strengthening the role of RPOs' networks by developing joint initiative on products' promotion and product exchange (barter).

The campaign on natural farming as agriculture revitalization and mitigation-adaptation strategies to climate crisis

The natural farming has been spread rapidly in various agro-ecosystem in Indonesia after the introduction in 2005 by Dr. Cho Han Kyu from Janong Institute. Currently more than 2,569 farming families have practiced natural farming on more than 486.23 hectares of land which is managed independently by farming families and peasant organizations. Natural farming has been practiced in several districts across 3 big islands, which are Sumatra Island, Jawa Island, and Sulawesi Island. Natural farming has been practiced in the highlands, lowlands and coastal areas and it covers a wide range of agricultural, plantation, livestock and fishery products.

To consolidate the practice and managing the knowledge of natural farming practices, Bina Desa has facilitated the formation of natural farming facilitators' network. The support is part of a strategic action in developing **self-reliant natural farming institute (IPA)** to build the capacity of the natural farming practitioners as well as to disperse as many information

as possible on natural farming, to plan the natural farming concept, and to document the experiences of KSP's natural farmers. The development of IPA has been initiated by strengthening 3 aspects, which are facilitating roles of Bina Desa, leading roles of natural farming facilitators, and natural farming practices on various agro-ecosystem.

The development of natural farming as mitigation and adaptation strategy to climate crisis have been developed in the concept of IPA and in the formulation of module of ToT on natural farming. For this purpose, Bina Desa has collaborated with research institution, NF experts, and NF facilitator in providing scientific proof on the contribution of natural farming to address climate crisis. One of the pilot project is in Central Sulawesi, where the development of natural farming is promoted to the post-liquefaction areas to rebuild the quality of top-soil and to strengthen the community resilience.

The entrepreneurial and business capacities of RPOs

The building of business capacities of RPOs are also one of the strategic action of Bina Desa, which are the support to establish and strengthen farmers and fishers' enterprises and facilitating the development of value chains of farmers-fishers products. This support is expected to become the mainstream in fighting the market-driven value chain. The main intervention of this strategic action are the facilitating support for 4 FFP partners in developing product-based market and facilitating a shift of marketing strategy during Covid19 pandemic for 4 RPOs in the most affected areas (by facilitating the product development, introduction to digital marketing, and improvement of business management).

The FFP project has been able to support RPOs in 4 districts benefited 5,550 family farmers in 60 villages. The project has been able to support the improvement of production and post-harvest handling for rice, vegetables, cassava, and cacao products and facilitate the business development of 4 RPOs that can produce total sales of 2.66 billion rupiah in 2019. The project has also facilitate the development of 4 brands of natural farming products that are growing to become the significant market players in respective districts. The other significant achievements are also the initiative has been able to spread to other regions through peer learning mechanism. In KSPS, the community organizing practice led by KSPS leaders and cadres has been able to spread the practice of natural farming to 13 districts in South Sulawesi. And in the case of cacao development initiative by Ngudi Mulyo, the discussion on developing cacao farmers network that link farmers' communities in South Sulawesi, West Sulawesi, Yogyakarta, and Lampung was initiated among the FOs in these regions.



Apart from FFP project support, during the pandemic Bina Desa has also supported the development of business aspects of 4 RPOs in the most affected areas through the ReCoERDO project support. The support is focusing on the strengthening business & management capacity of RPOs to improve the linkage of products' supply to local market. The support has been able to improve the post-harvest handling of herbs, coffee, and essential oils products and develop the online marketing channels of 4 business units.

The formation and strengthening of RPO platforms

To advance the achievements of RPOs and ensure that the learning from rural communities initiatives can be disseminate to other similar initiatives, Bina Desa has facilitating the linkages

among RPOs based on the geographical areas or themes. From the intervention, currently there are **9 RPO networks (JKSP) based on geographical areas** that works as strategic partners of Bina Desa. The main task of the networks are to facilitate the learning among RPO members, with other RPO networks and other parties, to become the coordination platform to monitor the level of organizational practices and the continuation of community organizing process, and to become the advocacy platform for agriculture and rural development policies and program at local level.

One of the achievement during the period was the manifestation of rural women movement that has been initiated by several rural women organizations and supported by Bina Desa with the ReCoERDO-Asia project. The movement has been transformed into **rural women network, JPP Nusantara** (Archipelago Rural Women Network) that has its first congress on this December 2019. The milestone of the network has been also shared in the regional level by AsiaDHRRRA during ASEAN RDPE Forum in NayPyiTaw to encourage the support of grass-root movement in order to mainstreaming gender in the RDPE Framework.

Natural farming farmer's trainers' network is a medium for exchanging information and knowledge about natural farming practices which was introduced in early 2005 to several rural communities by Dr. Cho Han Kyu from the Janong Institute. Over time, natural farming has spread to various farming communities in Indonesia, mainly carried out by natural farming farmer's trainers. In an effort to consolidate natural farming, Bina Desa facilitated natural farming farmer's trainers' meeting in August 2018. In addition to the media for information and knowledge exchange, this network also has the faith to conduct local seed exchange practices to preserve biodiversity and re-arrange the natural farming modules to become a reference for the dissemination of natural agriculture in accordance with the conditions of agriculture in Indonesia. At present a network of farmer's trainers' network has been formed in South Sulawesi region. The fast progress in South Sulawesi is in line with the very massive process of disseminating natural farming in the region.

II. Engaging public programs/sector and private program/sector

The most achievement during the period are divided into 2 areas, which are policy advocacy works and engagement to public program, following are the details of these achievements.

Policy advocacy works

Advocacy platform for post-disaster rehabilitation program in Central Sulawesi (Pasigala Centre)



Pasigala Centre was formed on the basis of the need for an advocacy forum to oversee the post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation process in Central Sulawesi. Bina Desa and representatives of civil society organizations in Central Sulawesi initiated several meetings held at Pombewe village survivors' center and at the meeting we agreed on the formation of Pasigala Centre in January 2019. Pasigala Centre establishes its main role to criticize and provide input on the preparation of

Central Sulawesi disaster management master plan and the implementation of reconstruction and rehabilitation agenda which ensures that survivors are actively involved in the process and fulfillment of victims' rights become a priority. This role makes Pasigala Centre a reference to the recovery process that is being carried out by the government and international development agencies working in Central Sulawesi.

During this period, 2 policy recommendation documents have been discussed and submitted to policy makers at the provincial and district levels (Palu, Sigi, Donggala) consisting of: a. Recommendation of Pasigala People Tribunal Meeting, and b. Policy recommendations towards gender-based post-disaster recovery

Sustainable Rural Development Study

The available studies on rural areas usually focused only on policy aspect and fail to observe community initiatives in the rural development process. Bina Desa develops rural development study to see rural development and transformation through rural communities by observing the participation of rural communities based on gender relation and power relation in rural areas. This study aims to measure the level of implementation of musyawarah principle in rural development, the level of involvement of rural marginalized groups, and the extent to which agrarian resources are considered in designing and implementing programs. This study also intends to analyze the development of KSP as a factor of social change in rural areas both in terms of politics, socio-culture and economy and its consequences for the position of women. The study results were confirmed in a peer review forum involving representatives of rural communities, researchers, village government associations, village ministries, and NGOs working on rural issues.

Stop golden rice network

Bina Desa is part of global advocacy platform against golden rice (Stop Golden Rice Network – SGRN). In Indonesia, Bina Desa and GRAIN were facilitated the initiation of SGRN Indonesia. Several discussion are co-organized by Bina Desa to raise the awareness and debates on the use of Golden Rice as strategy for food fortification. Every year the network using August 8 for the commemoration of the day of the fight against Golden Rice where farmers in Bicol (Philippines) did mass mobilization to uproot the rice plants in the trial farm of golden rice on 2013. The issue in the legalization of golden rice is the lack of transparency from the government in the certifying this GMO seed and a lack of channels for the researchers and NGOs-CSOs that against the legalization of golden rice to this process.

Advocacy against the ratification of law on cultivation system of sustainable agriculture (UU SBPB)

Law 22/2019 on cultivation system of sustainable agriculture (UU SBPB) is a substitute for Law 12/1992 on Plant Cultivation System, which in 2010 canceled its 2 articles to give exceptions for smallholders on seed licensing and uncertified seed distribution. The ratification of UU SBPB restores the essence of law 12/1992 Law which has been canceled by the Constitutional Court. In 2019, a farmer and village chief who conducted seeds conservation in Aceh was convicted of distributing seeds by village-owned enterprise. This incident led to increased protest against UU SBPB. Currently Bina Desa is networking in 2 platforms that focus on advocacy for UU SBPB, namely the Coalition for seed and food sovereignty and consortium for agricultural reform. The series discussion with RPOs has also been facilitated by Bina Desa to ensure the smallholders have develop their position against the law.

Judicial review of law on job creation and law on the prevention and eradication of deforestation

One of the policy advocacy process that have been conducted in order to assess the correlation of current laws with 1945 constitution. In submitting the judicial review of certain law, Bina

Desa has networking with other affected organizations. During the period, 2 laws have been submitted to be reviewed by the constitutional court which are:

- JR on the law 18/2013 on the prevention and eradication of deforestation (UU P3H). The leading NGOs-CSOs that is part of the coalition are Bina Desa, KPA, API, IHCS, and WALHI.
- JR on the law 11/2020 on the job creation (UU Ciptaker). The committee for constitutional right (Kepal) that consist of 14 NGOs-CSOs has submitted the judicial review on the law for two aspects, the formation of the law and the content.

Engage to public program

MoU with ministry of village as focal point of SOM-RDPE in Indonesia

Bina Desa has signed MoU with Ministry of village as focal point of SOM-RDPE in Indonesia to strengthen rural people empowerment program and policies by showcasing best practices of rural development process and promoting gender mainstreaming process in rural development policies. The areas of cooperation will focusing on the roles of Bina Desa in:

1. providing recommendations and input for the roles of the parties in ASEAN SOM-RDPE forum related to the policy advocacy agenda at the ASEAN regional level,
2. developing a mechanism for strengthening rural empowerment policies through research and documenting practices in villages, especially on the theme of musyawarah in rural development and the concept of independent village, as well as mainstreaming gender justice perspective in rural development, and
3. providing recommendations and input on capacity building activities for the village government, village extension service, and village cadres.

III. Strengthening your organizational capacities and services to your partners

Strengthening position on facilitating NGOs on people-led development (PLD platform toward food sovereignty in NTT)

Learning from participation of Bina Desa in Southeast Asia RLEP PLD, a platform initiated by PAN Asia Pacific and supported by Misereor consist of 13 organizations in 5 ASEAN countries that discussed the praxis of people-led development to realize food sovereignty in the respective countries, Bina Desa has facilitated 6 NGOs in Indonesia, most of which have work areas in Nusa Tenggara Timur, to build a PLD learning platform with several activities to increase the capacity of each institution's staff and also community leaders who had carried out the PLD process in their respective work areas and communities.

Review of Bina Desa strategic plan

Bina Desa strategic planning meeting forum attended by various Bina Desa stakeholders consisting of local RPOs partners, AsiaDHRRA, national NGO-CSOs, academics, and Bina Desa boards and staffs. The purpose of this forum is to review the 2016-2020 Bina Desa strategic plan document and strengthen it with the novelty of strategy and approach in response to the rapidly changing current conditions influenced by globalization and national politics dynamic.

In order to carry out this empowerment role, Bina Desa has had to strengthen itself especially to become both strong institution and movement in facilitating the social transformation of rural communities in Indonesia. At the end of the session, participants agreed to consolidate Bina Desa strategic actions in 5 main programs, namely 1) developing producer economic institutions to strengthen producer consolidation and marketing practices, 2) strengthening Bina Desa institution to strengthen services for the establishment of active, inclusive, and democratic KSP organizations, 3) the development of division of swabina research and documentation that enables rural communities to research facts in rural areas as a basis for

policy advocacy and reference for stakeholders, 4) development of natural farming institute as a platform for mainstreaming natural farming as a sustainable agriculture strategy, and 5) the development rural school to ensure the sustainability of the people-led development process at rural community level.

In addition to the development of 5 main programs, the forum also agreed on a novelty in strategy, namely the development of the disaster and climate change desk as a division that aligns the strategy for organizing and developing agriculture in Bina Desa with the perspective of community resilience. This was decided in response to the increasing frequency of disasters in Indonesia and the enormous impact of climate change on rural communities.

The development of operational procedures of Bina Desa

There are 2 SOP that have been formulated as a preventive action for the growing concerns, which are:

- Guideline for the prevention and handling of Covid19 case in Bina Desa
- Guideline for the prevention and handling of gender-based violence (KBG) and gender-based online violence (KBGO) for Bina Desa staff and partners.

Strengthening business development center (Wanua Kerta Sentosa) as an intermediary for RPOs' products

As a business unit of Bina Desa, Wanua Kerta Sentosa (WKS) has developed into a feasible and working business to support income diversification. Currently WKS has been able to transform into a marketing intermediary for rural communities' products particularly to fulfill the demand of consumer groups in greater Jakarta areas. Currently, WKS is becoming the distribution channel for rice, brown sugar, forest honey, and herbs products from RPOs partners of Bina Desa.

IV. Other key significant achievements

Strengthening position on NGO-CSO platforms:

Asian People's Exchange for Food Sovereignty and Agroecology (APEX)

The Asian People's Exchange for Food Sovereignty and Agroecology or APEX is an exchange platform which aims to strengthen the capacities of people's movements in Asia to help achieve food sovereignty through agroecology, people-led development strategies and approaches, and advocacy for policy reforms and building people's movements. Bina Desa is represented Indonesia as leading NGO on practicing people-led development and agro ecological practice (through natural farming).

National Committee on Agrarian Reform (KNPA)

As one of co-founder of the KNPA, Bina Desa has been involved in policies advocacy within the network for 2 topics:

- Submission of academic document as basis for the discussion of land bill. The bill has been rejected in September 2019 because of huge protest against the resurrection of right to state to manage agrarian resource and land bank that will become the basis of government to ensure the support for investor,
- Revise the presidential decree on agrarian reform (Perpres 86/2018) to address the low performance of agrarian reform by state agencies.