

A Celebration of Preserving Traditions for Future Sustainability



From this column, we will take you on a journey to the banks of a crystal clear river, where the sun dances on its shimmering waters. Here in Sungai Rotan Village, villagers hold dear the ancient wisdom of 'Lubuk Larangan' (protected river area, no fishing to pollute the river) which imbues them with a sacred responsibility

to protect the environment and ensure the sustainability of the river. It is a celebration of tradition and community, a reminder of the values that bind us to the land and nature.

On a Sunday morning, 22 October 2023, villagers and local government gathered to reopen 'Lubuk Larangan', a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation. A short ceremony filled with joy and gratitude marked the start of the day's festivities. Villagers take to the river with enthusiasm, catching endemic fish - lampam, and other species that thrive in these pristine waters.

However, 'Lubuk Larangan' is more than just a celebration of fishing. It is a commitment to preserving the natural balance of the region, preventing pollution and littering that can damage the river's fragile ecosystem. The villagers, along with a group of

RSPO-certified oil palm smallholders, **Forum Petani Swadaya Merlung Renah Mendaluh** (FPS-MRM), work tirelessly to maintain the integrity of this region, ensuring that generations to come can enjoy the beauty of this magical river. As a sustainable smallholder group, FPS-MRM has a way to preserve 'Lubuk Larangan', "FPS-MRM shows protection for this river, a river that is needed by residents in around 20 villages. We instruct not to pollute the river, member lands area should not be planted on the banks of the river, efforts so as not to pollute the river and also the water in the river is guaranteed, maintained, no contamination from pesticides, poisons. We don't want to just take the yield from the oil palm plantation but not care about the environment," said FPS-MRM Group Manager, **Mohammad Suhaili**.

As the sun reaches its peak, the freshly caught fish are transformed into mouthwatering delicacies. From tempoyak, a dish cooked with fermented durian, to grilled fish, the flavors of 'Lubuk Larangan' are as diverse and rich as the people who celebrate it. The celebration is a reminder of the importance of environmental awareness and community values. The wisdom of 'Lubuk Larangan' resonates throughout time, inspiring us all to take responsibility for the world around us and honor the traditions that bind us to our land and each other. Read the full article here: [Lubuk Larangan](#)

FORTASBI's RSPO Credit Transactions Reaching USD 2.2 Million



FORTASBI marked a milestone on October 31, 2023, by holding a **Member Consolidation Meeting**. At this event, 13 independent smallholder organizations were presented with membership certificates,

highlighting the organization's goal of strengthening its network and collective efforts to achieve a sustainable future. One of the noteworthy achievements announced at the meeting was the impressive RSPO credit transactions among FORTASBI members, which had reached a total of **USD 2.2 million** as of October 2023. This figure reflects the strong commitment of smallholders and buyers to share the responsibility of promoting sustainable oil palm practices.

Currently, FORTASBI has four programs underway across nine districts, with 35 facilitators involved. Of these facilitators, 25 are independent smallholders, representing approximately 74%. This statistic shows FORTASBI's emphasis on empowering smallholders in the sustainable oil palm industry, as well as showing that smallholders are capable of becoming reliable facilitators by utilizing their skills, knowledge, and experience.

In addition to the Member Consolidation Meeting, the event also included an **EUDR Workshop** that focused on the challenges and opportunities faced by independent smallholders in Indonesia. The workshop was conducted to provide further understanding to members regarding the regulation that will be implemented next year.

Supporting Member Traceability, FORTASBI Launches Green Point Apps

FORTASBI is dedicated to promoting sustainable oil palm practices, including FFB traceability systems from independent oil palm smallholders. We developed the **Green Point** application to assist smallholders in organizing and storing important data related to their land and member activities that enable them to provide proof of FFB traceability in the application system. The results of data processing can also be used as evidence that FORTASBI members are not involved in forest abuse.

In addition, this application can also be used as data for external audits and for buyers to see the profile of the groups they support. As a step in taking on the technology industry, the app also aims to increase members' capacity in technology, strengthen digital data assets, and digitize members' land tracing.

Currently, 55 FORTASBI member groups have registered with the Green Point app, with 12,184 out of 14,417 smallholders' data verified and entered into the Green Point database.

The app has a cloud-based data storage system that allows smallholders to store important information related to their land activities. This innovative approach allows them to track and verify FFB sources, ensuring accountability and transparency. In the future, the app will also develop barcodes equipped with important information about each institution and land ownership data.

We encourage you to scan barcodes on the side and discover the model we are developing →

