



INDONESIAN WOMEN FARMERS VISIT TO EUROPE

Cocoa - Coffee - Palm Oil - Rubber



Table Of Content

- 1 Agung Widiastuti - Cacao
- 2 Ayu Antariksa - Cacao
- 3 Febriani Sumbung - Cacao
- 4 Nenek Eti - Coffee
- 5 Istiqamah - Coffee
- 6 Nurhayati - Palm Oil
- 7 Cici Tiansari - Palm Oil
- 8 Umi Syamsiatun - Palm Oil
- 9 Kusniati - Rubber



01. ●●●



Agung Widiastuti - Cacao

I represent omen farmers at the Kerta Semaya Samaniya Cocoa Cooperative, or KSS, located in Jembrana, Bali. Our cooperative manages about 400 to 500 hectares of land, with 410 farmer members, around 25 percent of whom are women.

Bali's smallholder cocoa farms sustain families and empower women through premium, fully fermented cocoa that has reached global markets since 2015, earning international recognition such as the 2023 Cacao of Excellence Silver Award. Despite climate challenges and high certification costs, farmers remain committed to sustainability and traceability, ensuring quality beans for both domestic and international buyers.

However, the new EU regulation (EUDR) threatens to cut off smallholders from the European market, favoring large plantations and risking women's livelihoods, sustainable agroforestry, and long-standing trade ties. We call for real cooperation from governments and buyers to keep market access open and ensure fair, inclusive, and sustainable cocoa trade.





The Kerta Semaya Samaniya (KSS) Cocoa Cooperative in Jembrana, Bali produces 100 percent fermented cocoa and have entered the international market since 2015, exporting to France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Japan, California, Turkey, and Australia.



02. ...

Ayu Antariksa - Cacao



Chair of the Masagena Farmers' Cooperative in Luwu Utara, South Sulawesi, representing over 2,400 cocoa farmers cultivating 2,000 hectares.

As the first woman to lead a cooperative in my district, I see this role as proof of women's vital contribution to sustainable agriculture. Like many, our farmers face challenges: declining yields due to El Niño, land converted to palm oil, and high costs of certification. Yet with rising cocoa prices, we now see hope to rebuild sustainably, producing not only beans but also processed cocoa products that have reached international markets.



Our biggest concern today is the EU's new regulation (EUDR), which demands land legality, polygons, digital data, and costly audits. Most of our members own just one hectare and lack land certificates, making compliance nearly impossible. Farmers who have cared for their land for decades risk being excluded from global trade—not for harming forests, but because they cannot afford technology or certification. Indonesian cocoa farmers are ready for sustainability, but we cannot do it alone. What we need is fair cooperation, so that smallholders' cocoa continues to be recognized, valued, and able to provide a future for their families.





Masagena Farmers' Cooperative in North Luwu, South Sulawesi previously held certification under the RA-UTZ sustainable cocoa program, and have exported fermented cocoa to Europe and the United State.



03. ●●●



Febriani Sumbung – Cacao

Representing Ebier Suth Cokran, a community-based green and social enterprise in Ransiki, West Papua, we carry the mission of reviving the legacy of Ransiki cacao. Once flourishing in the 1980s–2000s, the Ransiki cacao estate collapsed in 2006, leaving the community without its main source of livelihood. In 2017, with local government support, farmers organized into a cooperative and later established PT Ebier Suth Cokran in 2022. Our goal is to restore land, empower communities, and build a sustainable future through regenerative agroforestry.



We now manage 2,000 hectares—1,200 for organic cacao and 800 for conservation—through a cooperative of 170 farmers, mostly indigenous Papuans, with strong participation of women and youth. Beyond rehabilitating farms, we process beans locally to ensure premium quality. Our work has earned global recognition, including a Cacao of Excellence Gold Award 2023, certification milestones, and exports to Europe, Asia, Australia, and the US.

The new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) poses a serious risk to our access to European markets. Compliance requires financing, legal documentation, geolocation data, and full traceability—difficult for smallholder farmers in Papua with limited resources and infrastructure. Our remote location further compounds issues of logistics, connectivity, and human-resource mobility. We urge the EU and buyers not only to impose standards but also to support community enterprises like ours, so that the renewed spirit of Papuan farmers, especially women and youth, is not extinguished.



Cacao from PT Ebier Suth Cokran received the Cacao of Excellence Gold Award 2023 at the Chocoa Fair in Amsterdam. Their products are sold to markets in Europe, the United States, Japan, and Australia.



04. ●●●

Nenek Eti - Coffee



I am a coffee farmer from West Java and head of the WANOJA Women's Cooperative, which unites 108 members—three-quarters of them women—managing 118 hectares of smallholder coffee farms. I represent the voices of Indonesian female coffee farmers, sharing how the new EUDR regulation could shape our future.

Smallholder coffee farmers like us are facing increasingly difficult conditions. Harvests are declining due to aging trees, unpredictable weather, and persistent pest attacks, worsened by three consecutive years of El Niño. Our yields are down, quality has dropped, and incomes remain unstable. Yet they persevere—some cooperatives even export proudly to markets across Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States—proof that smallholder coffee can compete on a global stage.

However, the barriers to accessing the European market are immense. Certification costs run into hundreds of millions of rupiah, far beyond the reach of smallholders. Many farms stand on inherited or customary land without formal certificates, risking exclusion under EUDR. The demand for precise geolocation is also a challenge, as small farmers lack the technology to map their plots or track the long supply chains from farm to export. They do not reject regulations—they share Europe's goal of protecting forests—but without solutions, smallholders, especially women, will be pushed out of the market. Behind every cup of Indonesian coffee are the faces of women and families who depend on it. We ask that our coffee remain welcome in Europe, through fair and sustainable trade.





WANOJA's coffee has been exported to many countries, including Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, the United States, Germany, Qatar, Dubai, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, Taiwan, Japan, and Singapore



05. ●●●



Istiqamah – Coffee

I am Head of a Coffee Cooperative from Aceh. Our cooperative has 980 members who manage 1,200 hectares of coffee farms. We are here today representing the voices of millions of smallholder coffee farmers in Indonesia, most of whom are women.

The condition of our smallholder coffee farms is far from good. For three consecutive years, extreme weather from El Niño has reduced our harvests, pest attacks are increasingly difficult to control, coffee quality has declined, and our incomes remain unstable. Yet we do not give up. Through our cooperatives, we continue to maintain quality, and some have even succeeded in exporting independently to countries such as the Netherlands, the United States, Germany, Japan, Qatar, and beyond. This is our pride—that smallholder coffee from our villages can reach the tables of consumers around the world.

Indonesian smallholder coffee is grown in agroforestry systems that keep forests standing, soils fertile, and water flowing—practices of sustainability we have carried out for generations. But today, our livelihoods are under threat. Three years of El Niño have cut yields, worsened pest attacks, and left incomes unstable. Still, through cooperatives we persist, with some even reaching international markets. Now the EUDR poses a new challenge: its costly and complex requirements risk excluding smallholders, weakening cooperatives, and pushing villages into poverty, while giving more power to big players. If women farmers—who nurture the trees, harvest the fruit, and process the beans—are sidelined, true sustainability will never be achieved. That is why we urge industry and policymakers to see us not as obstacles, but as essential partners in building fair and sustainable coffee trade.



This coffee from Usaha Tani Gayo has already been exported to various countries such as the United States, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Japan.



06. ...

Nurhayati - Palm Oil



I am a smallholder oil palm farmer from Bandar Masilam, Sumatra, managing three hectares of land while leading the II Farmers' Group of 72 farmers, including 22 women. Palm oil is my family's livelihood—it pays for school, puts food on the table, and gives women dignity and independence. Since 2018, together with more than 1,300 farmers under the UD Lestari Cooperative, I have worked to meet RSPO standards on 1,200 hectares and is now pursuing ISPO certification. For me, sustainability is not a slogan but a way of life: ensuring land legality, protecting rivers and conservation areas, and applying best practices to keep their farms healthy for future generations.

We have worked hard to meet sustainability standards like RSPO and ISPO, protecting rivers, keeping our land legal, and practicing farming that safeguards the future. For us, sustainability is not a slogan—it is life itself.

That is why the EU's new deforestation regulation makes them anxious. It does not recognise RSPO or ISPO, and it demands documents and GPS data we smallholders cannot always provide. Does that mean the years of hard work we have done to protect our land, our forests, and our future are worth nothing?

We reject deforestation, we protect our environment, and we are already moving toward regenerative practices. But we ask that our efforts be seen, our voices heard, and our role recognized. Smallholder farmers—especially women—are not obstacles. We are essential partners in building fair, sustainable trade.



07. ●●●



Cici Tiansari - Palm Oil



Cici Tiansari, a 32-year-old mother of two and smallholder oil palm farmer from Sarolangun, Jambi, Indonesia. I manage two hectares of land and am part of the Agri Tani Lestari Cooperative. Since 2020, 457 farmers in our cooperative have been certified under ISPO and are now working toward RSPO. Together, we produce 250 tons of fresh fruit bunches monthly, while learning about land legality, STDB registration, good farming practices, and environmental responsibility. For us, sustainability is not a slogan—it is a way of life.

Nevertheless, smallholders continue to face significant structural challenges. Many do not hold formal land certificates, as most land is inherited. Seed quality remains uncertain, harvests fluctuate, and prices are unstable, often dictated by middlemen with limited access to transparent information. The European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) presents an additional burden. Our products are categorized as “high risk” not because we engage in deforestation, but because we lack the complex documentation and geolocation data required—requirements that are far easier for large companies to fulfill than for smallholders.

If standards such as the EUDR are implemented without adjustment or support mechanisms, smallholders risk exclusion from global supply chains despite demonstrated progress toward sustainability. Honourable Members, I stand before you today, having traveled far from my home and family, to convey this message: smallholders require recognition, assistance, and fair treatment. Only with such support can we continue to contribute responsibly to sustainable palm oil production while ensuring the livelihoods of our families and communities.



The palm oil farmers of the Agri Tani Lestari Cooperative have been ISPO certified and are now in the process of obtaining RSPO certification, with a production of around 250 tons of fresh fruit bunches (FFB) per month



08. ●●●



Umi Syamsiatun - Palm Oil

Umi Syamsiatun, a smallholder oil palm farmer from Merangin, Jambi, and a representative of 165 farmers in the Harapan Makmur Village Enterprise. As a mother, a villager, and a farmer, I believe change is possible when there is both will and support. We have begun our journey toward ISPO and RSPO certification, inspired by fellow smallholders who have improved their livelihoods and gained dignity through sustainable practices. For us, certification is not just about documents — it is about recognition, responsibility, and the chance to farm in a way that sustains both our families and the environment.

Smallholders contribute nearly 40% of Indonesia's palm oil, yet remain the most at risk of being left behind. We support sustainability and want our palm oil to be accepted in global markets. But we cannot succeed alone. We ask for collaboration, support, and an inclusive system that empowers rather than excludes smallholders — so that sustainability uplifts everyone, from villages like ours to markets abroad.





165 farmers are members of BUMDes Harapan Makmur. We have just begun our journey toward ISPO and RSPO certification, with the spirit of learning from the experiences of other cooperatives.



09. ●●●

Kusniati – Rubber



My name is Kusniati, and I am a woman farmer from Tebo, Jambi. For more than 20 years, I have sustained my family through a small rubber farm. Each day, I begin before sunrise, carefully tapping the trees to collect latex that gives me only about 150–200 kilograms a month—my only source of livelihood. But today, rubber farming is no longer the same. Pests and diseases are killing my trees, and there are no clear solutions. The weather has also become unpredictable, bringing sudden off-seasons that cut down my production and income. For me, and for countless smallholders like me, the struggle to survive is becoming more and more uncertain.

I am just a smallholder, and while I support protecting forests and the environment, the EUDR risks shutting us out of markets, collapsing our incomes, and pushing our families deeper into poverty. For large companies with certifications and resources, compliance may not be difficult, but for independent farmers like me, the burden of proof is impossible to carry alone. Without support, buyers may stop purchasing our harvests, leaving us unable to pay for our children's education, household needs, or community welfare. This is not about rejecting the regulation, but about asking for fairness—give us guidance, opportunities, and time to adapt so that the smallest farmers are not the ones most affected.





Contact us

Agung Widiastuti

Cacao Farmer

Cacao Kerta Semaya Samaniya Cooperative

+62 812 3641 278 / agung3widi@gmail.com

Ayu Antariksa

Cacao Farmer

Tani Masagena Cooperative

+62 811 4254 021 / ayuantariksaayu@gmail.com

Febriani Sumbung

Cacao Farmer

Ebier Suth Cokran

+62 813 1044 4198 / info@cokran.com

Eti Sumiati

Coffee Farmer

Wanoja Women's Cooperative

+62 813 2122 0422 / etisumiati1954@gmail.com

Istiqamah

Coffee Farmer

Usaha Tani Gayo Cooperative

+62 823 6634 2076 / istiynr@gmail.com



Contact us

Nurhayati

Palm Oil Farmer

Koperasi Produsen Usaha Dagang Lestari

+62 812 6466 4347

Cici Tiansari

Palm Oil Farmer

Agro Tani Lestari Cooperative

+62 822 8196 8973 / cicitiansari@gmail.com

Umi Syamsiatun

Palm Oil Farmer

BUMDes Harapan Makmur

+62 852 6607 9341 / umi.cappa@gmail.com

Kusniati

Rubber Farmer

Setara Jambi Cooperative

+62 858 4152 0515

kusniati423@gmail.com