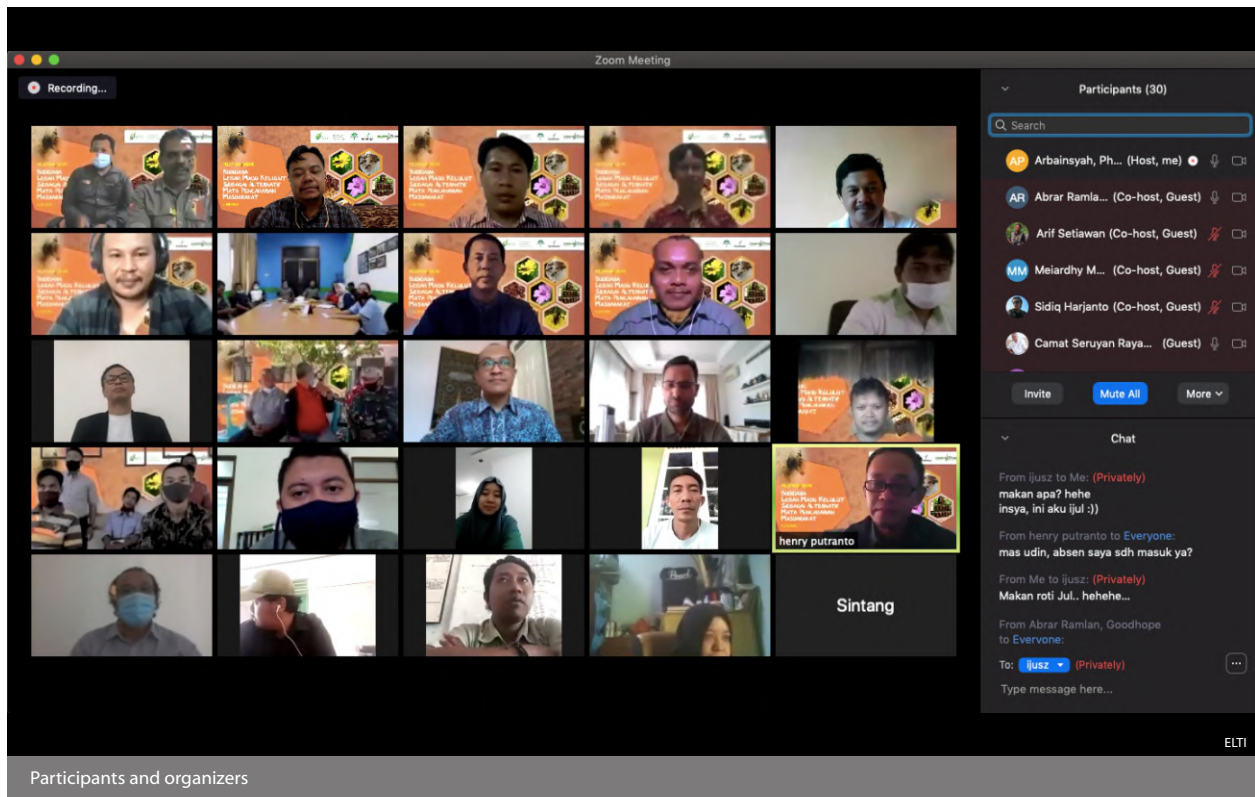


COURSE REPORT

INTRODUCING BEEKEEPING AS AN ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD

July 6-22, 2020
Samboja, East Kalimantan, Indonesia

An online course co-organized by:
Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI),
Tropenbos Indonesia Program (TBI),
PT. Goodhope Asia Holdings Ltd.
Swaraowa



Background : This online training program was designed to provide managers of oil palm plantations and members of adjacent communities from Central and East Kalimantan with the knowledge and skills needed to work together to promote the cultivation of stingless bees (meliponiculture) in high conservation value forest areas. Indonesia has about 40 species of stingless bees, most of which can be managed for honey production. Meliponiculture can help in the conservation of forest areas located in

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and around oil palm plantations by providing both ecological and economic benefits. Ecologically, stingless bees play an important role as a major pollinator of both native plants and economic crops. Economically, farmers can derive benefits from meliponiculture through the use and sale of honey, beebread, and propolis. One of the advantages of integrating meliponiculture into the mix of existing livelihoods is that it can be done at home, on a part-time basis, allowing forest-dependent people to gain additional direct economic value from remaining intact forest areas without significantly damaging them. Given the current Covid-19 pandemic, there is a particularly high level of interest in meliponiculture at this time since stingless bee honey is believed to significantly strengthen people's immune systems.

Objectives:

- To introduce the basic knowledge and skills needed to engage in meliponiculture;
- To provide insights into the connection between meliponiculture and biodiversity conservation; and,
- To promote meliponiculture as a sustainable livelihood to combat poverty and build resilient local economies.

Course Format:

The delivery and management of the course was facilitated by Dr. Arbainsyah (ELTI Indonesia Program Coordinator), Mr. Sulton Afifudin (ELTI Research Assistant), and Mr. Abrar Ramlan and Mr. Henry Putranto from Goodhope Asia Holdings Ltd. The course was divided into four thematic modules, each of which was covered during one of the four weeks of the course.



Module 1:

- Opening
- Introducing to the basics of meliponiculture
- Discussion

Module 2:

- Beekeeping cultivation techniques
- Discussion



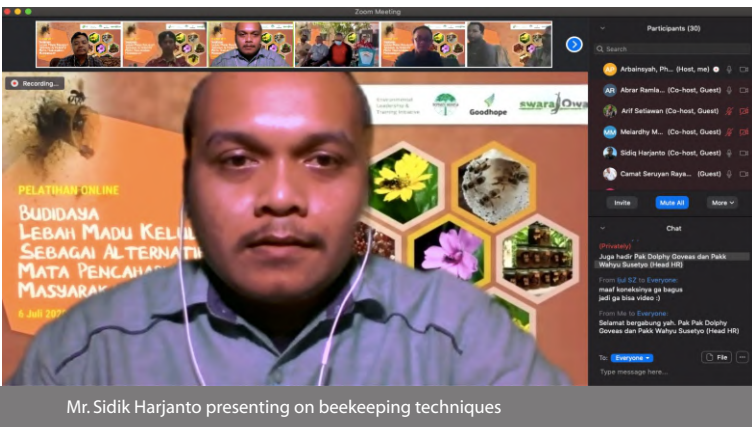
Module 3:

- The use of bee products and services
- Discussion

Module 4:

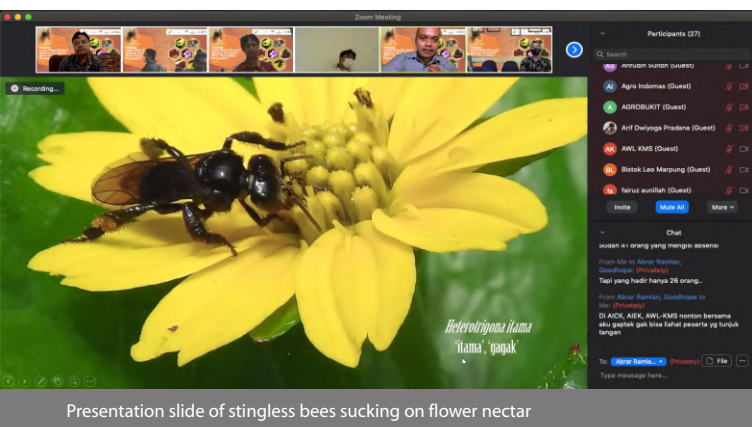
- Simulation of stingless bee farming
- Closing

The online course materials included interactive presentations and videos that were made available via a WhatsApp group platform. Live sessions with resources people, Mr. Sidik Harjanto and Mr. Meiardhy Mujiyanto (both from Swaraowa), were held on Zoom. A reference booklet, entitled “Beekeeping of Stingless Bees to Strengthen Community Livelihoods,” was also produced and made available to participants. Participants, many of whom participated in the training as part of a group, then started practicing meliponiculture techniques at their respective home locations.



Course Participants:

A total of 55 participants from Central and East Kalimantan attended the online training. Participants included representatives from palm oil companies (i.e., Agro Bukit Central Kalimantan, Agro Indomas Central Kalimantan, Agro Indomas East Kalimantan, Agro Wana Lestari Central





Kalimantan, and First Lamandau Timber International), government (Seruyan Raya Subdistrict), community groups (Danau Sembuluh, Desa Teweihara, Desa Lanpasa, Desa Terawan, Nabire Baru, Pemaluan, and Sintang) and the media (i.e., a reporter from Palangka Post).

Follow-up:

A WhatsApp group was established during the training and participants have been actively following up with each other, as well as with the organizers and resource people. Some of the training participants have also requested assistance from ELTI's Leadership Program to conduct a site visit to Desa Lanpasa, a village in Central Kalimantan that has been very successful in adopting stingless bee cultivation techniques.