

SURYONO



A GLOBAL MODEL OF HORTICULTURE

Suryono is a farmer and member of IFFS social economy program in Pinang Sebatang Barat Village, Siak Regency, Riau Province. The village is located inside one of APP's suppliers' concession areas, PT. Arara Abadi. This 4,248 hectare village is home to 1,567 families, of which the majority comes from the Malay Tribe. People rely on plantations, with palm as the main crop, to cultivate horticultural crops.

Suryono used to cultivate oil palm, however due to a lack of knowledge on growing palm, results were not optimal. In 2013, after meeting and having several discussions with PT. Arara Abadi, who offered assistance on community development programs, he then planted his 2 hectare of plantation with horticultural crops.

Suryono used to earn an income between IDR 2-3 million per month. Today, he earns up to IDR 15 million every month from harvesting a 4 hectare plot of vegetables and tending to livestock. Suryono also able to employ his fellow villagers to work in his fields.

His transformation from oil palm grower to horticultural farmer has brought him abroad to Marrakech, Morocco, where he spoke at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 22), held from November 7 - 18, 2016. In addition, Suryono was invited to speak at a session themed "Putting People at the Centre :Climate Friendly Forest-Based Livelihoods" in the Indonesian Pavilion at Bab Ighli in Marrakech.

"It is a dream to speak here and inspire other farmers. I want to stress that land management through proper cultivation is more profitable than what I did before," Suryono said.