

JENI

Barokah Sri Rezeki Group, Banyu Biru Village



Jeni is a leader of the Barokah Sri Rezeki Group which consists of 25 farmers. This group is located in the Banyu Biru Village, Air Sugihan District, Ogan Komering Ilir Regency, South Sumatra Province. The Banyu Biru Village is home to 658 families who are mostly Javanese, as well as a few Malays who work on rice and plantation crops (oil palm and rubber plantations). The farmers rely on the rainy season for the availability of water for their land. They utilize the land for only 6 to 7 months per year, from September to March. Land preparation, held from July to August, is done by burning the land; which triggered forest and land fires. Burning the land is a method communities use for land preparation, named Sonor. Water management is the main obstacle stopping people from using the land throughout the year, so for almost 5 to 6 months in the dry season, the farmers abandon the land and then burn it in preparation to plant rice. The months of July and August became the months of high risk for forest fires, as seen in 2015 when fires occurred in the Simpang Heran area, an area of PT. Bumi Andalas Permai, one of APP's suppliers, which borders the Banyu Biru Village.

Since early 2016, Banyu Biru Village has been an IFFS beneficiary. The farmers in the group are planting rice and corn on a 25 hectare area inside of 782 hectare livelihood plantation area managed by PT. Bumi Andalas Permai. Through the IFFS program, the farmers are required prepare the land without using traditional methods of burning. The IFFS program provides herbicide and tractors as alternatives for land preparation. The IFFS program in Banyu Biru Village will become the pilot program for intensive farming system in increasing land productivity.

To optimize this, the IFFS program also provides the necessary infrastructure, such as canals for water management that will make the land usable throughout the year, and will allow farmers to plant other horticultural plants after harvesting their rice fields.

After increasing the villagers' participation in the IFFS program, an institution was established to coordinate and implement effort for land and forest fire prevention, including socialization and early education for students. Together with Manggala Agni dan Fire Organization Management from PT. Bumi Andalas Permai, socialization on fire was conducted with various communities, students, youths, farmers, and others.

Since becoming a beneficiary of the IFFS program, there have been no land and forest fires in Banyu Biru Village. The change in land preparation methods is not the only measure necessary to prevent fires, but minimising the chances of fires happening in the future.