PEACEBUILDING THROUGH THE BIOTRADE OF NUTMEG COMMODITIES

UNDP/UNCTAD PILOT PROJECT
ACEH SELATAN

Ms. Siti Ruhanawati, UNDP and UNCTAD consultant
Tapaktuan, Sumatra, Indonesia
June 18, 2012

Context 1: Aceh Selatan

• Conflict impact on socio-economic development in Aceh, Indonesia; with a particularly adverse impact on rural areas
• The level of inter-personal violence was high during conflict and many still remain suspicious of each other after Helsinki peace agreement
• Fewer foreign donors operating in post conflict areas and non post tsunami affected
• Women benefited less from economic opportunities generated during peacetime
• 65% of Aceh Selatan is protected area (primary forest)

Context 2: Nutmeg

- Historically, an economic, social, cultural, ecological commodity of importance in Aceh Selatan, Nutmeg is a conservation tree with many benefits
- Nutmeg production highly affected by conflict: 60-80% of nutmeg tree were destroyed by pest and diseases
- Aceh nutmeg is renowned for its high mirisylcyn oil content. Total global nutmeg production is about 10,000 tons, of which 75% is produced in Indonesia
- Mostly, Aceh nutmeg is still marketed in Medan, where traders have dominated access to the international market

The Project (I)- objective

- Joint initiative (UNDP-UNCTAD) aimed to develop environmentally and socially sound economic alternatives in post-conflict settings
- Aimed to help revive economic activity by working with the value chains of selected BioTrade products (nutmeg)
- It targets the sustainable management of nutmeg through rehabilitation, good agricultural practices, as well as nutmeg product diversification (value added)

The Project (II)- approach

- Promotion, production and trade of native species (BioTrade) through linkages with market, nutmeg cultivation, harvesting and processing, targeting conflict-affected communities
- Promotion of conflict sensitive and gender equitable behavior
- Coordinated and multi-dimensional approach through a community-based approach
• Important value chain that provides livelihoods to communities and support from government
• Women are key to economic development in Aceh, especially in nutmeg product processing

Programme Accomplishments (1)

• Profiling Beneficiaries (Social, Economical and Environmental aspects)
• Training on nutmeg product diversifications
• Training on nutmeg cultivation / GAP
• Study comprehensive on nutmeg community linking with conflict and gender aspect
• Seminar and business meeting on nutmeg commodity
• Cultural Event “Nutmeg for Peace”
• The establishment of Nutmeg Forum and Nutmeg Cooperative Research on Nutmeg pest and disease
• Development of nutmeg trial plot on handling pest and disease
• Liaising with market, national and international
Programme Accomplishments (2)

- Nutmeg Forum and Cooperative bring multiple parties together - dialogue
- Partnership with government, NGOs, Companies, Associations, Universities to strengthen the sustainable linkages
- On-going activities: USAID/IFACS, liaising with buyers, improving capacities and nutmeg products, BTIAS...

Lesson learned

- BioTrade has proven essential for improving and maintaining social cohesion as a critical livelihoods resource for local communities
- Combining expertise and resources from multiple actors increase impact and sustainability
- Given the long duration of the conflict in Aceh, there were multi-dimensional impacts, especially for vulnerable women, so the interventions made in post-conflict program needs to be implemented for longer periods
- Conservation/sustainable use of biodiversity as an essential and potential solution on poverty alleviation and peace sustainability

"Terimakasih.... .....Thank you"