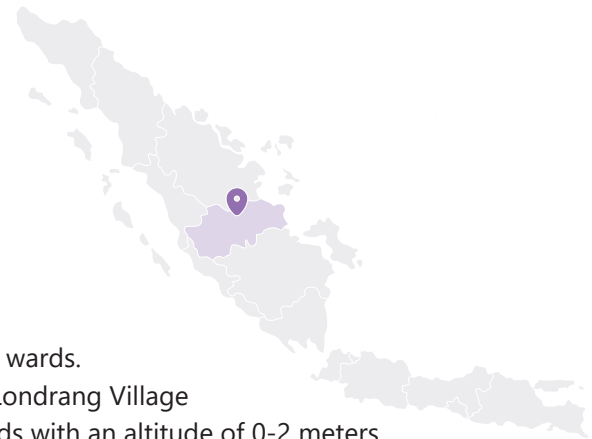




INSIGHTS

Socio-Economic and Gender Dynamics in Catur Rahayu Village



Catur Rahayu Village spans 10,503.40 hectares, divided into four hamlets (Dusun Blok, Dusun Tengah, Dusun Keman, and Dusun Keamang) and 30 wards. It is bordered by Sido Mukti Village to the north, Jati Mulyo to the east, Londrang Village to the south, and Teluk Dawan Village to the west. Situated in the lowlands with an altitude of 0-2 meters above sea level, the village is heavily irrigated by sea water and traversed by seven rivers, including the Sei Bade, Kemang, Keman, Dendang, Teliga, Penyingat, and Sakian Rivers. Historically characterized by agricultural land and secondary crops, Catur Rahayu shifted to oil palm plantations after 2005.

POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLDS

Total Population: **2,328**



Families
675



Age Distribution:
50% of the population is of productive age (13-50 years)

LIVELIHOODS



Farming:

The primary livelihood for the community, supported by organized farmer groups.



Beef Cattle Production:

Significant involvement of women in herding and feeding, with men primarily responsible for gathering grass.



Agricultural Activities:

1. Social Forestry:

- Area Covered: 681 hectares
- Collaboration: Farmer groups work with BRGM to prevent peatland fires by building and maintaining canals and drilling well blocks.
- Community Fire Care Group: Formed to prevent peat fires, ensuring readiness and response to potential threats.

2. Palm Oil Production: planted by 90% of farmers in the village

3. Betel Nut Production: with participation from 20% of villagers

4. Other Tree Crops: Jelutung, pineapple, and other hardwood trees

5. Vegetable Production: for commercial and private consumption

6. Beef Cattle Production: Cattle are used for breeding stock and distributed among farmer group members.



Environmental Challenges:

The environmental challenges in Catur Rahayu Village are multifaceted, involving significant land use changes and recurring forest fires:

1. Land Use Change:

- Transition from diverse agricultural land to monoculture oil palm plantations since 2005.
- This shift has led to a reliance on palm oil farming, which has its own set of environmental and economic vulnerabilities.

2. Forest Fires:

The village experienced significant forest fires in 2015 and 2019. The 2019 fire alone destroyed 17 hectares of land, severely affecting the local environment, economy, and health of the villagers.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Catur Rahayu Village has a robust network of social organizations that play a critical role in community development and resilience. Key organizations include:



Community Fire Care (Masyarakat Peduli Api - MPA)

- Membership: 30 members, including 8 women.
- Focus: Fire prevention and response, particularly aimed at preventing peatland fires through community engagement and readiness.



Family Welfare Movement/ PKK:

- Role: Focuses on family welfare, health, and community development through various programs aimed at improving the quality of life for village residents.



Farmer Groups:

- Activities: Engage in social forestry over 681 hectares and collaborate with BRGM on fire prevention initiatives, including building and maintaining canals and drilling well blocks.



Youth Organization/ Karang Taruna:

- Focus: Youth development and empowerment through various social, cultural, and economic activities, fostering leadership and community participation among the younger population.

GENDER DIVISION OF LABOUR IN LIVELIHOODS



Palm Oil Tree Production:

90% of male farmers are involved in all activities related to palm oil farming, including planting, maintenance, harvesting, and marketing.



Betel Nut Production:

- **Men:** Responsible for planting, cleaning/weeding, harvesting, and marketing.
- **Women:** Involved in separating the skin from the betel nut, drying, and packaging.



Other Tree Crops (Jelutung, Pineapple, and Other Hardwoods):

- **Men:** Handle all tasks such as planting, fertilizing, and weeding.
- **Women:** Not involved in these activities.



Vegetable Production:

- **Women:** Lead in planting, fertilizing, watering, harvesting, and marketing. Women's farmer groups manage commercial vegetable farming on communal village land, and individual women plant vegetables for family consumption.
- **Men:** Prepare the land before planting by hoeing and loosening the soil.



Beef Cattle Production:

- Women clean stalls and feed the cattle.
- Men seek pasture, feed, bathe, and market the cattle.

LAND STATUS AND OWNERSHIP



In Catur Rahayu Village, land and livestock ownership is predominantly private, with titles generally held in the name of the male head of the family. This is despite women being primarily responsible for the labor involved in beef cattle production.

Types of Land Ownership:

1. Private Land:

- Purpose: Used for livestock and personal farming.
- Ownership: Certified in the name of the family head, typically male.

2. Communal Village Land:

- Purpose: Primarily used for vegetable farming.
- Management: Considered communal and managed collectively by village residents.

3. Social Forestry Land:

- Purpose: Allocated for planting pineapples, jackfruit, and other fruits.
- Management: Managed by male farmer groups under social forestry permits.

GENDER & INTERSECTIONALITY ISSUES



Gender Division of Labour: Women primarily handle vegetable farming and cattle raising, while men dominate palm oil, betel nut, and other tree crop production. This division is influenced by cultural stereotypes and economic value considerations, with higher-income crops like palm oil managed by men.



Land Management: Women have access to communal village land for vegetable farming but are excluded from managing social forestry land, which is controlled by male farmer groups. The licenses for social forestry land were only obtained by men's groups due to the perceived large-scale responsibility and existing burdens on women.



Private Land Control: Land titles are mostly held by men, limiting women's control over private land and access to credit.



Women's Agency and Empowerment:

- **Social Organizations:** Women and youth are active in organizations such as the Women Farmers' Group, PKK (Family Welfare Movement), and Karang Taruna (Youth Group). However, their roles in mainstream farmer groups and MPA (Community Fire Care) are limited, often confined to support roles like preparing food.
- **Youth Participation:** Karang Taruna engages in social activities and fund-raising for community benefits, indicating active youth involvement.



Economic Decline: The destruction of palm oil farms led to economic hardship. Men, as the primary earners, left the village to find odd jobs for two years while the women managed household finances, saving money and reducing expenses to prevent children from dropping out of school.



Health Issues:

- **Smoke Haze Effects:** The haze from forest fires disrupted community activities, preventing children from attending school and causing health issues like eye irritation, decreased immunity, and acute respiratory infections (ISPA). Children and the elderly were particularly affected.
- **Post-Fire Health Concerns:** The most common health issues treated at the community health center include acute respiratory infections and diarrhea, with poor water quality contributing to the latter. The weather transition from hot to rainy seasons exacerbates these conditions.



Violence Against Women:

- **Verbal Violence:** Economic decline due to forest fires led to increased verbal abuse within families, as men faced psychological pressure from their inability to fulfill their provider roles.
- **Mental Health Stress:** Women experienced heightened stress as they handled all family responsibilities alone when men left the village to work.



Disability Services: There is a lack of information and services for children with disabilities, both in health and education. One girl with a disability attends and resides at a specialized school for persons with disabilities. Additionally, an orphaned young girl manages to study with the support of her extended family.



Age-Related Vulnerabilities: Health issues related to smoke inhalation affect children and the elderly more severely, highlighting age-based vulnerabilities.

About FINCAPES

The Flood Impacts, Carbon Pricing, and Ecosystem Sustainability (FINCAPES) project is a collaborative, gender-responsive initiative funded by Global Affairs Canada. Over a 5.5-year period, jointly undertaken by the University of Waterloo's Faculty of Mathematics and Faculty of Environment, the project supports Indonesia in adapting to climate change, mitigating its impacts, and conserving biodiversity in a socially and economically sustainable manner. Aligned with Indonesia's priorities, FINCAPES enhances the nation's capacity in key areas: forecasting and mitigating financial impacts of climate-change-induced floods, promoting Nature-based Solutions for peatland and mangrove restoration, and strengthening climate finance policy frameworks with a focus on carbon financing mechanisms.

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