

ACCELERATING INDONESIAN TROPICAL FRUITS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SEED PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia has great potential as a major producer of tropical fruits in the region. The strengths are in genetic resources, sufficient land and labor, different harvest season among regions, and good market potential. The high population number and increasing of public awareness to consume more fruit has enhanced the demand of tropical fruits with annual increases. Until now tropical fruit supply is not sufficient for both the domestic and export markets. The main problems are caused by scattered production areas among the islands and the limited number of large-scale professionally managed fruit orchards. To overcome this problem it is necessary to develop and establish large production areas of commercial scale fruit plantations. To achieve this purpose large number of fruits seedlings are needed as planting materials. In order to accelerate the development of tropical fruits, the Indonesian government has launched a seed production distribution program throughout Indonesia. Fruit seedlings are produced in collaboration with seed growers under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and seed certification institutions. The seedlings are distributed to prospective farmer groups and communities based on wide area development. Before planting the seedlings, the farmer groups were given advise and training on cultivation technology by the local government and private sector. Until 2019 about 1,000,000 seedlings consisting of mango, mangosteen, durian, papaya, banana, salacca, and breadfruit have been produced and distributed to suitable areas. The number of seedlings distributed is equivalent to 2,899 hectares of new areas. With the assumption that 50% of the seedlings will be successful, it is anticipated that in the next five years the production area will increase to about 1,450 ha and contribute to domestic and export markets.

Keywords: seedlings, production, distribution, tropical fruits, development