

# BANANA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN INDONESIAN TROPICAL FRUIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY WELFARE

**Agus Sutanto\*, Sukartini, Edison HS, and Ellina Mansyah**

Indonesian Agency of Agricultural Research and Development-Indonesian Tropical Fruit Research Institute, Jl. Raya Solok-Aripan Km.8, PO. Box 5, Solok-West Sumatra, Indonesia, 27301

\**bagusutanto.03@gmail.com, sukartini.kasmidjan@gmail.com, edihs\_balitbu@yahoo.com, ellina\_mansyah@yahoo.co.id*

## ABSTRACT

Indonesia is a country with a very high diversity of bananas (*Musa* spp.). The diversity of bananas can be found in Indonesia ranging from wild to commercial ones. Banana research activities at Indonesian Tropical Fruit Research Institute (ITFRI) started with the *Musa* germplasm collection, comprising local cultivars from several regions in Indonesia in 1987. In 1995, ITFRI introduced several accessions of bananas and plantains from International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP), and at about the same time *Musa* exploration activities intensively took place to collect both local cultivars and wild species in several main islands of Indonesia. In line with the collection of *Musa* genetic materials, cultivar development activities were also carried out, including the selection and evaluation of superior characters of local and introduced cultivars, and breeding programs to produce superior quality and disease-tolerant bananas. Some of the superior cultivars resulting from selection and hybridization that have been released were, Ketan-01, Kepok Tanjung, Raja Kinalun, INA-03, and Sang Mulyo. With the outbreak of the current COVID-19 pandemic, public awareness of fruit consumption, including bananas, has also increased. The availability of superior disease-tolerant and high-yielding cultivars such as Kepok Tanjung and Sang Mulyo will greatly assist the availability of domestic bananas.

Keywords: Banana, *Musa* spp., germplasm, selection, breeding