FOREST HONEY & FOREST CONSERVATION

What is the Link?

Report Recording for National Workshop on Forest Honey, Jakarta 21-22 October 2008

IUCN · DOEN · Cordaid · JMHI · NTFP Exchange Programme for South & Southeast Asia · Sawit Watch · telapak · DIAN NIAGA jakarta

Not only success story, Ami Maling also mentioned that forest in Mondulkiri now is facing many threats. Those threats area: rubber forest, biofuel development, illegal wildlife export, and road development, mining exploration and population migration. Up to now, formal recognition toward community's area of management has not been given by the government to honey hunters in Mondulkiri.

Ami Maling thought that forest honey of course is limited. This limitation made us think and search for balance between market demand and honey supply that is produced by forest honeybee. This is between economic interest and conservation.

INDIA

Robert Leo from Keystone Foundation, India, introduced how the relationship situation between forest honey and conservation in India. Robert Leo has conducted forest honey management program together with 21 groups of honey hunters in Nilgiris area, India. They live about 4,200 km from the place of honey they harvest. 80% of Apis dorsata honey has been marketed.

Robert Leo, from Keystone India.

Nilgiris is mountainous region and is a biosphere reserve that has many high trees. It is a habitat of more than 300 bee colonies. Since 1995, honey hunters have well-documented about honey and its harvest technic.

Seven forest area, Nilambur, Mynaad, Silent Valley, Bandipur, Santhy Hills, Coonoor and Kotagiri, as well as Coimbatore have become center of production and marketing activities of honey. Communities distributed in hundreds of village are involved in quality control and monitoring process; that is from harvesting, packing until marketing.

During 2005-2006, 133 tonnes of honey have been produced in 7 forest areas. These areas also produced various NTFP commodities/products such as fruits, candle from bee house, leaves, roots and bark. Honey is one of high-valued NTFP that earns about Rp. 680 billion. The number will increase if it is calculated along with other products such as fruits, vegetables, flowers, livestock, and nuts.

Pollination is an important aspect in conservation. Insects and other animals conduct almost more than 90% of natural pollination. Almost 60% of plants depend on honeybee on their pollination process. From the study conducted by Keystone Foundation,

forest honeybee conduct better pollination and more dominant compared to other pollination factor, such as wind or other insects.

Conservation, according to Robert Leo, can be defined and implemented in various ways, depend on the orientation. Conservation can be conducted toward bees, forest and bees habitat such as cliff and caves, or toward market and community economic purposes. The orientation will determine in forest honey management practice. Practice of sustainable forest honey management should be implemented in all level and comprehensively in NTFP context. Comprehensive is due to the fact of correlation between one aspect to another in an ecosystem. For example when forest is being converted into palm oil plantation using pesticide and forest fire that cause disease on bee.

Honey harvesting in India
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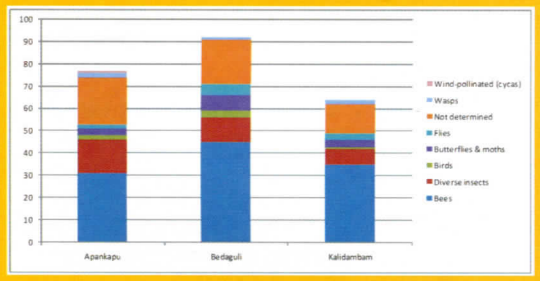

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Keystone Foundation

Robert Leo explained the played movie regarding forest honey management practice in Nilgiris area, India. The movie shows that filtering technic produce better honey quality compared to others that use hand squeeze technic that make honey contaminated.

In 7 minutes filtering process, honey is done and clean. Pictures show way of filtering to mitigate contaminant and direct contact with hand. Hence, hand gloves are always used. This is one of threats toward their habitat.

added value product from forest bee

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Robert Leo.

Johnny W. Utama

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MARKETING

Johnny W. Utama from Dian Niaga described market potency on forest honey that is developed by Dian Niaga and JMHI in cooperation with several parties. Dian Niaga is social enterprises that get its profit from its business units. During 20 years, Dian Niaga has supported NTFP product marketing produced by community. It was initiated

Johnny W. Utama explained that what Dian Niaga performs is nothing to monopoly the market. Consumers have rights and free to buy honey products from other member such as Telapak Café, or later on from Martha Tilaar.

Based on region, JMHI members are divided into 4 big islands; Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Sumatera and Sumbawa. From the JMHI meeting result in Riau, it is estimated that on Feb 2008, total of products produced by JMHI members would reach 56 tonnes. Meanwhile, Dian Niaga was given a mandate to sell 5 tonnes of honey in 2008, and 10 tonnes in 2009. More than that, products are marketed through Martha Tilaar, Telapak Café, and so on. Cooperation form of marketing process needs to be further developed.

DORSATA - organik forest honey