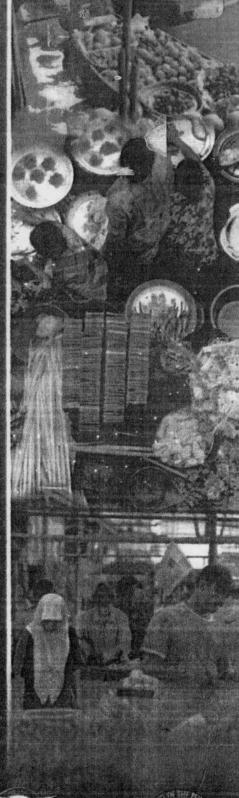
Changing Agrifood Markets in Southeast Asia: Impacts on Small-Scale Producers

> Edited by: Larry Digal Felicity Proctor Bill Vorley









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Larry Digal, Felicity Proctor, and Bill Vorley







The Southeast Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) is the Asian center of excellence in agriculture of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), an intergovernmental body founded in 1965 to promote regional cooperation in education, science, and culture. SEARCA's mandate is to strengthen institutional capacities in agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia through graduate education, short-term training, research, and knowledge management.

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Linking Mango Farmers to Dynamic Market Through Transparent Margin Partnership Model

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Introduction

Indonesia ranks fourth among the mango-producing countries, after India, China, and Thailand. One of the important mango production zones in Indonesia is Pemalang, Central Java. In this area, mango can be harvested during the offseason, from May to August, while mango in other producing areas is generally harvested from October to January. The specific harvesting period should be a considerable advantage to farmers in terms of bargaining position with traders in determining mango's selling price. However, apparently local collectors (tengkulak) and wholesalers (bandar) are still those who benefit the most from the off-season mango.

Since farmers are generally bound by a loan received from a trader in Pemalang, farmers let their mango farm to a trader to decide on selling the harvest. Therefore, farmers do not know the accurate volume of their mango production. This kind of exchange system makes the farmers' bargaining position vulnerable, so that they obtain relatively lower prices compared to the real market price. This is due to unbalanced information, traders' monopolistic power, and farmers' weak financial condition. This exchange system also dampens farmers' motivation to improve productivity, as well as quality, of mango farming.

Through rapid development of modern retail and more competitive market, in the last 10 years, some supermarket suppliers have attempted to cut down marketing