

Case Studies from South Asia, Southeast Asia and China



Linking Smallholder Producers to Modern Agri-Food Chains: Case Studies from South Asia, Southeast Asia and China

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Editors

Vijay Paul Sharma, Bill Vorley, Jikun Huang, Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Larry Digal and Thomas A. Reardon



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Linking Mango Farmers to Dynamic Markets in Indonesia

Ronnie S. Natawidjaja, Yosini Deliana, Wayan Rusastra, Tomy Perdana, Togar A. Napitupulu, Hanny Sulistyoningrum and Yovie M. Rahayu

Indonesia ranks fourth among mango producing countries, after India, China, and Thailand. One of the important production zones of mango in Indonesia is Pemalang, Central Java. In this area, mango can be harvested during off-season, May to August, while mango in other producing areas is generally harvested in the months of October to January. The specific harvesting period should be a considerable advantage to farmers in term 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 off-season mango.

In Pemalang, since farmers are generally bounded by a loan received from a trader, farmers let traders decide on selling the harvest. Therefore, farmers do not know the accurate volume of mango production. This kind of exchange system creates vulnerability to farmers' bargaining position, so that they obtain relatively lower price compared to the market price. This lop-sided exchange system has also resulted in farmers' lack of motivation to improve productivity as well as quality of mango.

Through rapid development of modern retail and more competitive market, within the last 10 years, some suppliers to supermarkets have attempted to involve farmers directly in the supply chain. However, these efforts failed because of farmers breaching on the contract agreement. Contract breaching generally happens because supplier cannot always offer the highest price to farmers. One of the systems which has been operated since 2003 and successfully brings farmers into direct negotiation with the main modern retailer (such as *Carrefour*) is the partnership between *Bimandiri* (specialized supplier to modern market) and mango farmer's group of KUBM (Kelompok Usaha Bersama Mandiri/Self-help Collective Business Group) in Pemalang, Central Java.

Dynamic Changes of Mango Market

In the period 1994–2004, Indonesia's mango production increased about 7 per cent per year (Table 8.1). However, since new harvested area of mango had rapidly increased by about 40 per cent during the last decade, national productivity of mango decreased sharply. Mango productivity in 2004 was only about 7.7 tons/hectare. The Directorate General of Horticulture set a target for mango productivity to be 10.6 tons per hectare through a programme focused on intensification and replanting of mango farms (Ministry of Agriculture, 2006).