

# Growing Medicinal Plants as a Cultural Heritage in Kampung Naga, Jawa Barat - Indonesia

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**Abstract**—Many researchers do research food plants in the world but it is very limited researchers do research on medicinal plants, especial medicinal plants which is related to cultural heritage as a different point of view. This current research was inspired by Nebel and Heinrich (2009), Garcia and Price (2011), and Licata et al. (2016) who did their research on wild food in Thailand and Italy. Besides the issue of medicinal plants, this paper also raises the issue of cultural heritage. In Kampung Naga growing medicinal plants is the part of cultural heritage since they believe that it can help the balance of the nature, as the place they live.

**Keywords**— Medicinal Plant, Cultural Heritage, Kampung Naga.

## I. INTRODUCTION

**M**ANY researchers do research food plants in the world. It is very limited researchers do research on medicinal plants related to cultural heritage as a different point of view. Since Nebel and Heinrich (1) did their research on wild food, Garcia and Price (2) did their research on wild food plants used by rice farmers in Kalasin province Northeast Thailand, and Licata et al. (3) did a survey of wild plant species for food use in Sicily (Italy), the research on which this paper is related to medicinal plants as a cultural heritage in Kampung Naga. Kampung Naga is unique, as Heryana (4) mentioned “*Keberadaan Kampung Adat, khususnya di Jawa Barat, yang memiliki kekhasan dan kemandirian sikap sangat menarik untuk dikaji*” in English is “The existence of Kampung Adat (traditional village) especially in Jawa Barat which has something interesting to be analysed”.

The research concerns on cultural heritage, this argumentation was supported by Varodi et al. (5) they defined that “*The concern for cultural heritage does not mean that we just glorify the past, but we want to have these treasures in present and for future generation too.*” According to Pia et al. (6) “*Cultural heritage preservation is an important issue in Material Science field.*”

In line with the both argumentations, the current research was conducted in Kampung Naga in Neglasari Village, Salawu district, Tasikmalaya regency, Jawa Barat province, Indonesia. The village can be categorized into one of the Sundanese cultural heritages. The people who are living in Kampung Naga are the community who has a very strong tradition of holding the remainder ancestors. They live in in the framework of an atmosphere in a traditional simplicity and environmental

wisdom. Area of land in Kampung Naga is about one of half hectare, mostly used for housing, yards, ponds, and the rest is used for agriculture rice harvested twice in a year.

People eat *food* from both animals and plants so do people in Kampung Naga. Animals, such as chickens produce eggs and cows give milk then people eat them. *Plants* produce *food* too, such as *edible* fruits or the plants themselves as *lalapan*. Kampung Naga people as the part of Sundanese tribal, sometimes, eat fresh plant food as *lalapan* or raw vegetables as their daily food. They do the living in traditional simplicity; they live without electricity support, since they believe that the electricity can change the environmental wisdom.

The plants grows in Kampung Naga as food are categorized into two types: the first, the food plants can be eaten directly without being processed as *lalapan* and the second the food plants should be processed before being eaten. Relating to the types of the food plants, this paper categorizes the food plants that can be eaten directly without being processed and the food plants should be processed before being eaten. The two types above included the medicinal plants. The medicinal plants growing in Kampung Naga are the type of plants that can be eaten directly without being processed and the food plants should be processed before being eaten.

### A. The Research Site

Kampung Naga is a hamlet. It is located on the area of Neglasari Village, Salawu district, Tasikmalaya regency, province of Jawa Barat, Indonesia. The name Kampung Naga has own meanings. The word Kampung means a hamlet or a small village. The word Naga in Bahasa Indonesia is a dragon but in this context the word Naga does not mean a dragon. It is a word structured by a blending process (one of morphological processes). The word Naga is structured from two Sundanese words (Sundanese is the local language used in Jawa Barat). The word Naga is structured from the word *dina* (means at) *gawir* (steeply sloping riverbank or mountain side) and it becomes *naga* derived from *dina gawir*. In other words, Kampung Naga is a hamlet located on steeply sloping riverbank as seen in the picture 1 and picture 2.