

## **Sarekat Hijau Indonesia and the "green village development" program: how to combine environmental protection and social improvements.**

*Paper presented by Mr. Yulian Junaidi, Universitas Sriwijaya, and Andréa Blanchin, volunteer for Sarekat Hijau Indonesia.*

In the province of Sumatra Selatan (SUMSEL), and more specifically in Ogan Ilir district, Sarekat Hijau Indonesia, a social, citizen and green movement is involved in setting up and monitoring a program called "green village development".

This program consists of revitalizing the villages around several themes: by putting in place actions to preserve local and environmental resources, economic development based on these local resources, enabling the inhabitants to improve their living standards, the living conditions of the inhabitants by access to education, the organization of communities, especially with regard to women.

Sarekat Hijau Indonesia proposes concrete actions in relation to these themes. In partnership with the United Network Development Program (UNPD), and following the 2015 fires, the SHI program implements measures to protect land and water resources. As far as agriculture is concerned, SHI is trying to encourage the diversification of production, such as fruit and vegetable production. SHI is also trying to limit the extension of the palm and rubber monoculture because it damage the environment and the farmers become dependent on the big companies for prices. SHI participates in the organization of cooperatives, including women's cooperatives for purun handicraft production. Helping women organize to work purun and commercialize them also allows them to have a better social status. By improving the social status of women, SHI helps to incite little girls to go to school and to have education instead of working on fields.

The purpose of this article is to discuss the objectives of the SHI green village development program, the actions implemented and the effects of the program. The article will also show how the green village development program can be applied in other contexts, to participate in people empowerment.

**Keywords:** environment, sustainable development, education, economic organization, empowerment, Sarekat Hijau Indonesia