



Identification of Potency and Opportunity to Occupy Medicinal Plants in PT. Inhutani V Area

Viola Weismann

Abstract

Indonesian tropical rainforest has been recognized as the most biologically richest ecosystem in the world. According to forest land use by consensus, the so-called TGHK, the total forest area is estimated to be 120,353 million Ha, which about 65 % of the total land area of Indonesia. The forestland is classified into four major utilization classes, these are protection forest, production forest, conservation and recreational forest, and conversion forest for other purposes.

Biological resources potential from Indonesia's tropical forests, particularly non-timber forest products with medicinal value, has not been optimally used for broader public benefit. Medicinal plants in Indonesia have enormous unrealized economic potential. In some cases, economic returns to local communities from the extraction or cultivation of medicinal plants are projected to exceed returns from timber production per hectare of forest.

The traditional medicinal industry to date has ignored the issues of botanical and resource conservation. Existing source practices frequently lead to unplanned and uncontrolled exploitation of medicinal plants and pose the threat of species depletion in native habitats. This is increasingly the case for important plants with medicinal value, such as pulai, kemenyan, aro, medang, kemiri and keruing and another species.

A number of species with known or potential medicinal properties are being lost and endangered as a result of loss or destruction of their habitats due to intensive forest exploitation, clearing or conversion. Therefore, more environmentally-soon means of forest resources utilization need to be developed. Non timber forest products, particularly medicinal plants, present sound economic and ecological alternatives.

To date, few effort have been undertaken to cultivate medicinal plants that genuinely increase people's incomes and well being. This is particularly true for communities living within or adjacent to forested areas. Production of medicinal plants within agroforestry system presents promising opportunities for a number of these communities.

Medicinal plants from Indonesia's tropical forest and agroforestry present an excellent opportunity to develop environmentally and economically alternatives of tropical forest utilization. A well - coordinated project of research action is needed that can bring together the necessary expertise, man power and interrelated issues describe above.

Output of this study is (1) compilation of priority baseline data and review of issues related to Indonesian medicinal plants in PT. Inhutani V area, (2) to make available sources of genetic seedstock material of medicinal plants with high economic value in PT. Inhutani V area, (3) establishment of pilot project for medicinal plants cultivation within agroforestry systems in PT. Inhutani V area.



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