

SUCCESS STORY

WAMENA: PAPUA COFFEE DEVELOPMENT

AMARTA-PADA grantee, Baliem Arabica Cooperative recently passed inspection by the CERES organization and received Organic Certification status



Photo: AMARTA Staf

Pangansari Manager Bernard Liem sign the contract to buy coffee from Wamena in the presence of Papua coordinator Kornel Gartner

“The farmers are very happy with the AMARTA-PADA program and now begin to maintain their farms according to modern coffee cultivation practices introduced by the project. They have started on their own initiative to expand their coffee farms without government assistance. The coffee cherry borer pest was reduced and quality improved, and 689 farmers are now organically certified coffee by himself which was expensive”

Mr. Selion, Chairman of the Baliem Arabika Cooperative in Wamena

Recently, AMARTA-PADA grantee, Baliem Arabica Cooperative passed inspection by the CERES organization and received Organic Certification status. This means that the coffee farmers who are members of the Cooperative successfully demonstrated their comprehension and compliance in growing their coffee organically. In the next quarter the Cooperative members will be inspected by another independent organization, the Rainforest Alliance to ensure the coffee farmers comply with additional rules and regulations. These internationally recognized certifications provide a stamp of approval for the international community and result in a premium price for the Cooperative’s coffee.

The Cooperative also recently gained two new customers interested in purchasing Baliem Valley Arabica coffee. The Amungme Gold Coffee Company, which owns a roasting and packaging facility in Timika recently completed a deal to purchase one ton of green bean coffee, with the possibility to increase the volume in the future. The second customer is PT. Pangansari Utama, which is the catering company at PT. Freeport Indonesia who agreed to buy 12 tons of roasted coffee from the Cooperative per year, or one ton a month, at a price of Rp54,000 per kg. The profit from both deals will go straight to the farmers’ Cooperative to continue buying coffee at a fair price and provide technical and material assistance as needed to the coffee farmers throughout the Baliem Valley.

The PADA team and the Baliem Arabica Cooperative are nearly finished with establishing an internal control system, which includes a farmer registration process that will allow the Cooperative to regularly check on farmers who are members and ensure compliance with the organic and rain forest standards. As the coffee blooming season arrived in April, the Cooperative was back in full force buying coffee throughout the Baliem Valley and processing at the Jagara facility. The focus now is to prepare the shipment of the second container as requested by Starbucks Corporation.