Malaysia



Organization: Yayasan Kajian dan Pembangunan Masyarakat
Location: Pekan District, Pahang State, Malaysia
Solution: Establishing community-led agroforestry and organic agriculture enterprises for indigenous Orang Asli villages
Factsheet Period: First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (16 months); Second round of UNDP AFCIA funding (12 months)



Community members engaged in agroforestry and organic agriculture in Orang Asli village @YKPM

Malaysia's Indigenous groups, Orang Asli, are critical to the country's climate resilience by protecting forested areas and carbon sinks. Dependent on forest resources and subsistence agriculture, many live below the poverty line and face threats towards their livelihood such as illegal logging, encroachment on their ancestral lands, and shifting rainfall patterns. This solution advances a green economy model in Orang Asli communities by establishing a community-led agroforestry and organic agriculture enterprise, allowing them to become small farm owners, partners in the supply chain, and to share in profits. It provides diverse livelihood options, elevates living standards, and empowers Orang Asli communities with sustainable resources to adapt to ongoing climate risks.

Key achievements

- Targeted 226 direct beneficiaries across six villages for adaptive agroforestry, introducing three new livelihood options, including stingless bee honey production
- Achieved 11.39% growth in average household incomes through syntropic farming and regenerative agriculture
- Supplied markets with an average of 1,245 kg of produce per month as part of the efforts for scaling agroforestry enterprise
- Expanded Adaptive Agroforestry Farms by 4.6 acres (from a 5-acre baseline), enhancing food security and supply chain resilience against the climate crisis; the 4.6 acre addition also represents rehabilitated degraded land, protecting critical watershed areas
- Conducted 28 green economy model training sessions for 160 participants

Social impact

- Empowers communities as supply chain partners, sharing profits and investing in green economy
- Supports decent incomes while minimizing environmental impact
- Establishes communal farming, demonstrating collaborative spirit
- Supports 41 Indigenous partners through adaptive agroforestry, with potential for higher incomes and poverty alleviation

Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US$208,040 (initial grant: $125,000; scaling grant: $83,040)
- Yayasan Hasanah Special grant: $343,000
- Yayasan Hasanah Humanitarian Disaster Relief grant: $10,000
- Robert Walters CSR grant: $7,000





Adaptation benefits

- Enhanced food security and resilience with nutrient-dense crops
- Increased climate resilience by rehabilitating watershed areas with sustainable farming
- Leveraged Indigenous knowledge for soil regeneration, reducing flood and drought risks

Replication potential

- Expansion to six villages aims for economies of scale, self-sustaining operations, and broader marketing channels
- Potential for nationwide replication, leveraging logistics and fair markets, to amplify the green economy's district-level impact

Innovation

- Provides finance, technology, logistics and fair markets for isolated communities
- Integrates local traditions, prioritizing people and planet over profits
- Offers flexible livelihood options aligned with Indigenous values for higher profits and sustainability

Investability	
Revenue per year	2025 expected revenue of $208,571; with an expected net income of $47,827
Sustaining criteria	Target average monthly income of $133 for all 61 farmers (15% above baseline) Cloud Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system expected to reduce operating cost by 60% over two years Integration of carbon finance into its revenue model, with five Orang Asli villages having the potential to sequester approximately 18,950 tCO_2 annually under the Plan Vivo standard, generating an estimated net annual revenue of $176,000 from premium carbon credits sold at $8-12 per ton To achieve financial independence from grants within three years, become self-sustaining by 2027
Financial innovation	Optimized supply chain with regional produce collection hubs to aggregate sales for multiple communities Diversified revenue sources by selling produce to cross-sector B2B firms (e.g., supermarkets, juice makers)

ADAPTATION FUND Climate Innovation Accelerator

ADAPTATION FUND

To read their story, visit UNDP-AFCIA

To watch their video, click here

To contact the initiative, visit YKPM