



YDML Newsletter

January - April 2023



Vanilla Plantation



Get to Know the Types of Vanilla in Sota Village

Ten years ago, the indigenous people of Sota Village (Malind Dek) started cultivating vanilla plants whose seeds were taken directly from Papua New Guinea. The types of vanilla planted are planifolia and Tahitian. These two types of vanilla thrive in Sota village, and the community already has approximately 5 ha of vanilla plantations.

The "Proffesor of Vanilla"

If you visit Sota and stop by the old village, you will meet "The professor of Vanilla." Musa Ndimar is a child from Malind Dek who lives in Sota. Ten years ago, he focused on growing vanilla. At first, the people did not know about this plant, but the skilled hands of Musa Ndimar made the people of Sota village know what vanilla was.

The indigenous farming community in Sota village calls himself a professor because he is considered to be very familiar with the vanilla plant. He grows approximately 1 hectare of vanilla at his house and already has vanilla lips of around 3000 vanilla saplings.





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He is very skilled at marrying vanilla. This is what makes him called Professor Vanilla. Currently, he is appointed as the leader of the Aembinent group. This group numbered 16 people, and through self-taught training, he trained ten people who could perform vanilla pollination. This process is complicated because vanilla lasts only 24 hours when it blooms. The vanilla essence can stay intact and adequately fertilized if the farmer is skilled.

In the past, Musa Ndimar, in his daily life, was a person who often hunted birds of paradise, wild boar, deer, and kangaroos. However, as time passed, these animals decreased in population, and it wasn't easy to find them again. This realization made Musa Ndimar think it would be better to look for another livelihood. When he met his family in Papua New Guinea, he was offered to grow vanilla.

With the assistance of the Dahetok Milah Foundation, the Aembinent group is continuously equipped with training on making organic fertilizer and vanilla farming techniques using an agroforestry approach. On February 23, 2023, we brought in 2 trainers, namely Roki Piter and Yuniken Mayangsari, to provide training on vanilla farming, and two farmers from the Aembinent group we flew to Jayapura in Genyem village to learn directly from vanilla farmers.



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