



DAHETOK MILAH LESTARI FOUNDATION SECURES ECONUSA GRANT FOR 2025



WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT YAYASAN DAHETOK MILAH HAS BEEN AWARDED A GENEROUS GRANT FROM ECONUSA FOUNDATION FOR 2025! THIS FUNDING WILL SUPPORT OUR NEW PROGRAM :

"Community Economic Development & Environmental Protection in Merauke"

This initiative aims to:

- ✓ Strengthen sustainable livelihoods for local communities.
- ✓ Promote eco-friendly business models (agroforestry, sustainable fisheries, handicrafts).
- ✓ Protect biodiversity and forest ecosystems in Merauke.
- ✓ Provide training & mentorship for women and youth entrepreneurs.

Why This Matters

- Merauke is home to rich natural resources and Indigenous traditions but faces challenges like deforestation and economic inequality. With Econusa's support, we will:
 - Train 80+ farmers in climate-smart agriculture.
 - Support 6+ micro-businesses in sustainable product development.
 - Launch reforestation campaigns with local schools.

THE YDML LOCAL UMKM GALLERY WAS INAUGURATED IN MERAUKE



On February 15, 2025, the YDML Local UMKM Gallery was inaugurated in Merauke, marking a significant advancement in supporting the growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises (UMKM) in the region. The ceremony was attended by representatives from various organizations, including the Merauke Regency Trade, Cooperatives, and Small and Medium Enterprises (Perindakop) Service, the GPI Papua Merauke Class, and the Coordinator of the Econusa Papua Foundation, alongside numerous UMKM stakeholders and honored guests.



The primary objective of the gallery is to enhance the visibility of local products and to improve the competitiveness of UMKM in the marketplace. In her speech, Mrs. P. Hapsari, Head of UMKM at the Merauke Regency Perindakop Service, acknowledged the Dahetok Milah Lestari Foundation's initiative in fostering local economic development and empowering small business owners. She stated, "This gallery will serve as a strategic venue for UMKM to showcase their products and boost their market competitiveness."

COCONUT BRIQUETTES AS A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION: YDML, BPE GPI PAPUA, AND OKABA RESIDENTS BOOST ECONOMY WITH COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL BRIQUETTES"

Yayasan Dahetok Milah Lestari (YDML) and BPE GPI Papua, supported by a funding program from Econusa, have identified the development of coconut shell charcoal briquettes as a primary initiative aimed at empowering indigenous Papuans (OAP) while promoting environmental preservation. This initiative is based on the significant potential of coconut shells as a renewable energy source and a means to enhance the local economy while honoring cultural traditions related to the Malind people's totem.



The development of coconut shell charcoal briquettes focuses on three main objectives:

- 1. Economic Empowerment:** YDML and BPE GPI Papua aim to create job opportunities and generate new income sources for indigenous Papuans by transforming coconut shells into charcoal briquettes. These abundant natural resources are expected to help communities improve their living standards.
- 2. Environmental Conservation:** This initiative seeks to decrease reliance on forest wood as a fuel source, contributing to forest sustainability and helping to combat deforestation. The customary-based approach ensures that conservation efforts align with the cultural values and local wisdom of the Papuan people.
- 3. Utilization of Agricultural Waste:** Coconut shells, often regarded as waste and used only for limited purposes like cooking, can be converted into valuable products. This process promotes efficient resource use and mitigates the environmental impact of agricultural waste.

Renewable Energy Source : These briquettes serve as eco-friendly fuels suitable for cooking, heating, or powering small industries. They have a high calorific value and are a greener alternative to fossil fuels.

- **Waste Reduction:** The conversion of coconut shells into briquettes minimizes the amount of agricultural waste, thus supporting environmental cleanliness and reducing pollution.
- **Health and Environmental Safety:** Coconut shell charcoal briquettes produce less smoke and are devoid of hazardous chemicals, making them safer for both health and the environment.
- **Economic Growth for Indigenous Papuans:** The initiative positively impacts the indigenous economy by empowering communities through training and mentorship. Participants are involved throughout the production process—from collection and processing to marketing—enhancing their incomes and fostering economic independence.



In Okaba District, Merauke Regency, a significant training program focusing on egg-laying hen management took place on March 14-15, 2025. Organized by the GPI Papua Okaba Classis in collaboration with the Dahetok Milah Lestari Foundation, the GPI Papua Economic Development Agency, and the Yasanto Agricultural Polytechnic, the program aimed to empower local residents economically, particularly emphasizing women's participation in entrepreneurial activities.

Ten Okaba Village residents, consisting of 2 men and 8 women, highlighted the initiative's focus on enhancing women's roles in economic development. The training is designed to give participants essential skills in managing egg-laying hens, enabling them to generate income while addressing household consumption needs.



Mrs. Maya Novi Pelamonia, a lecturer at Yasanto Agricultural Polytechnic, provided crucial training materials covering effective and efficient management techniques for egg-laying hens. She expressed hope that the participants would utilize their newfound knowledge to establish and sustain their own laying hen businesses.



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT IN OKABA VILLAGE
THROUGH EGG-LAYING HEN
MANAGEMENT TRAINING**



Strategic Collaboration in Soa Village: Development of Cashew Nut and Red Sere Management

On March 21, 2025, a productive partnership was demonstrated between the Dahetok Milah Lestari Foundation (YDML) and the BPE GPI Papua Economic Development Agency, alongside the Head of Soa Village, Mr. Oktovianus Wikom. This collaboration aims to enhance local potential in Soa Village, located in the Tanah Miring District of Merauke Regency.



The event took place at the Soa Village Hall and featured a training session focused on the management of cashew nut production, facilitated by Rev. Osin Pakey from YDML. This marks the third training session designed to improve the community's skills in managing cashew nut products effectively.

Mr. Oktovianus Wikom expressed his gratitude to YDML for their ongoing support in the development of the village's cashew nut resources. He noted that approximately 19 hectares of land dedicated to cashew cultivation remain underutilized, particularly concerning production and product development. "We hope that this training will enable group members to enhance their understanding of managing cashew nuts while ensuring quality and hygiene in production," stated Mr. Wikom.

This training exemplifies the collaborative efforts of YDML, BPE GPI Papua, and the residents of Soa Village in harnessing local resources. Through continued innovation and mentoring, the aim is for Soa Village to become a successful model for the sustainable management of local products.



MAPPING STUDY & NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF STRENGTHENING OSM CAPACITY IN TANAH PAPUA: TONG BELAJAR AS A BRIDGE TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF NGOS/CSOS

Tanah Papua, a region teeming with natural beauty and cultural richness, is not without its share of significant social, economic, and environmental challenges. In this complex landscape, the roles played by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are critical for driving meaningful change and fostering sustainable development. Unfortunately, the trajectory of the NGO/CSO/CBO movement in Tanah Papua has been marked by fluctuating success, leading to several pressing issues both in terms of institutional frameworks and the ability of activists to effectively present and operationalize thematic concerns.



Background and Objectives of Tong Belajar

The evolution of the NGO/CSO/CBO movement in Tanah Papua has been fraught with various complexities, ranging from internal hurdles such as ineffective management systems to the challenges activists face in advocating for strategic issues that resonate with community needs. In response to these challenges, Tong Belajar was established with the primary goal of gathering, documenting, and sharing success stories, effective practices, and valuable insights from various NGOs, CSOs, and CBOs operating in the region. Adopting a solution-oriented methodology, Tong Belajar aims to create a collective learning platform that can be disseminated, replicated, and adapted by other organizations within the sector.