



YDML Newsletter

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COLLABORATIVE IMPACT: KOPERNIK AND ECONUSA JOIN FORCES WITH YDML

We are pleased to present the first quarterly newsletter of 2026 from Yayasan Dahetok Milah Lestari (YDML), marking a period of significant momentum and strategic partnership as the opening months of the year have been defined by expanded collaboration and concrete action on the ground, setting a powerful tone for the initiatives that will unfold throughout the rest of the year.

In January 2026, YDML secured institutional support from two key partners: KOPERNIK, through the From Forest to Market program, which focuses on developing non-timber forest products by empowering Indigenous Papuan mothers (OAP) to produce cashew nuts in Kampung Soa; and ECONUSA, which has enabled a multi-pronged community economic empowerment initiative that includes layer chicken farming in Bade and Muting Districts, citronella oil development in Kampung Soa, the production of shredded meat (abon) and albumin in Kampung Tanas and Muting, sago processing and management in Kampung Bupul, as well as the production of coconut shell briquettes, thereby addressing diverse local livelihoods and natural resource potentials across multiple regions.

This edition captures the early successes, lessons learned, and the collaborative spirit driving YDML's work across these communities, and we invite you to read on and witness how these partnerships are translating into tangible livelihoods and sustainable local development, all while fostering resilience and economic independence among the communities YDML proudly serves.





From the eastern region of Indonesia, efforts to drive meaningful change continue to grow from the grassroots level. Amidst the forests, coastal areas, and indigenous villages, local communities strive to protect their ancestral lands and natural resources—ensuring that these inherited treasures remain a source of dignified and sustainable livelihoods.

In this context, the Partners Meeting of Cooperatives in Eastern Indonesia, themed "Enhancing the Resilience of Local Communities through the Development of a Sustainable Economy in Eastern Indonesia," was held on 23–25 February 2026 as a space for dialogue, reflection, and collaboration. The event brought together indigenous community cooperatives, local business actors, and indigenous communities to share experiences, strengthen networks, and formulate collective steps toward developing a community-based economy.

Through this forum, participants developed a shared understanding that the future of development in Eastern Indonesia cannot be achieved in isolation, but rather through mutually reinforcing cooperation. Solidarity among communities and partners serves as a vital foundation for creating an economic system that is just, inclusive, and sustainable.

More than just an economic initiative, this meeting reaffirmed a commitment to preserving natural and cultural heritage, strengthening community identity, and ensuring that efforts to improve well-being go hand in hand with environmental protection. With increasingly empowered communities, the future of Eastern Indonesia is expected to grow stronger, more sustainable, and more favorable to local populations.



PARTNERS MEETING OF EASTERN INDONESIA COOPERATIVES: STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY



SEIZING THE FUTURE OF PAPUA: THREE-DAY MEETING AT HORISON KOTARAJA BECOMES A PLATFORM TO DEMONSTRATE COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Jayapura, 4 March 2026 – A number of civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and development partners from across the Land of Papua convened for a strategic meeting at Horison Kotaraja Hotel on 4–6 March 2026. The event, initiated by Yayasan Econusa, aimed to rekindle a spirit of solidarity in addressing current challenges on the ground.

Bustar Maitar, Executive Director of Yayasan Econusa, emphasized that this forum was not intended to generate new programs, but rather served as a vital moment to strengthen the cohesiveness of existing networks. "This is a space to support one another, share real-time insights into working conditions at the grassroots level, and reinforce collaboration among all of us," Bustar stated before the participants.

The three-day meeting was a follow-up to virtual communications held in 2025. From those earlier online discussions, a shared commitment had already emerged to realize more integrated work, including cross-organizational information sharing regarding the real-life conditions of communities and the challenges looming at the field level.

Participants were expected not only to exchange stories but also to formulate a joint pledge. This pledge refers to a collective commitment to advancing development in the Land of Papua that is inclusive, equitable, and sustainable—a vision that can only be achieved if all elements move in unison.

The meeting was also expected to produce a shared commitment to inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development.



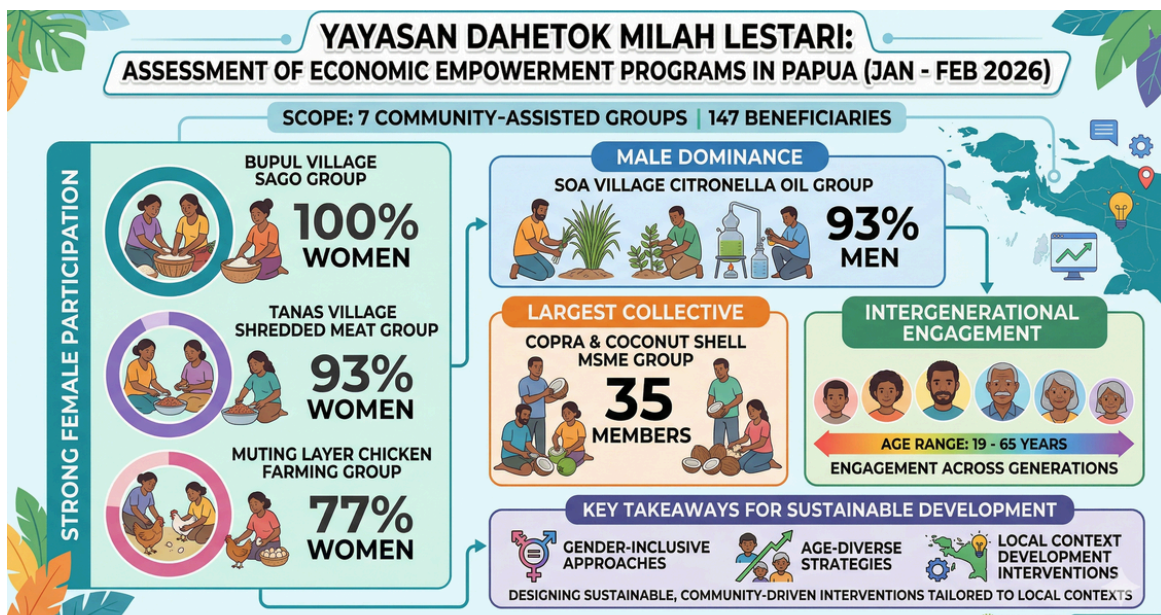
ASSESSMENT RESULTS AND BENEFICIARY COUNT FOR THE 2026 PROGRAM

From January to February 2026, Yayasan Dahetok Milah Lestari executed a thorough and detailed assessment of seven community-assisted groups, involving 147 beneficiaries who are actively participating in various economic empowerment programs across Papua. The findings not only highlight the scale of these grassroots initiatives but also reveal the intricate demographic dynamics within them.

The assessment showcased remarkably strong female participation, particularly evident in the Bupul Village Sago Group, which boasts 100% female membership with 20 women. Similarly, the Tanas Village Shredded Meat (Abon) Group features 13 out of 14 members who are women, translating to an impressive 93% female representation. The Muting Layer Chicken Farming Group also stands out with women comprising 77% of its members, totaling 10 out of 13.

In contrast, the Copra and Coconut Shell MSME Group emerged as the largest collective, with 35 members, including 25 women and 10 men. On the other hand, the Soa Village Citronella Oil Group showed a significant male dominance at 93%, consisting of 28 men and just 2 women among its 30 members. The Bade Layer Chicken Farming Group maintained a balanced yet female-majority composition with 8 women and 7 men, while the Ant Nest Tea Group of Ib Arauw achieved an equal gender split of 10 women and 10 men. The age distribution across all seven groups ranged from 19 to 65 years, demonstrating a meaningful intergenerational engagement that connects youth with older adults in community-driven enterprises.

These findings compellingly underscore the necessity for crafting sustainable, community-driven development interventions that are both economically viable and strategically gender-responsive and age-inclusive. It is imperative that these programs are tailored to reflect the unique social and cultural contexts of each locality in Papua.



BADE LAYER CHICKEN FARMING GROUP



The construction of the chicken coop in Bade District has currently reached 80% completion. All major structures, including the roof frame, support pillars, and flooring, have been installed according to the required technical specifications. The installation of feeding and drinking troughs is also in its final stages. The only remaining components yet to be installed are the wire mesh for the coop walls and the entrance door.

Challenges:

1. **Material Availability:** The wire mesh, which will serve as both the walls and primary ventilation system, has not yet arrived at the site. The distribution route to Bade, which requires both river and land transportation through challenging terrain, is the primary factor causing the delay.
2. **Security Risks:** The coop remains open without barriers, posing a high risk of predator disturbances and the potential entry of wild birds, which could carry diseases.
3. **Operational Readiness:** Without walls, the coop cannot be stocked with laying hens, as biosecurity standards cannot be met.

Expectations:

The wire mesh material is targeted to arrive in the near future. Immediately after installation, the coop will enter its final preparation stage before the initial stocking of laying hens. With the completion of this coop, the supply of eggs to meet the nutritional needs of the Bade community and surrounding areas can soon be realized.





COCONUT SHELL BRIQUETTE PRODUCTION UNIT – PROGRESS REPORT

Yayasan Dahetok Milah Lestari (YDML) has completed the construction of the coconut shell briquette production facility. Currently, YDML is collaborating with 40 coconut plantation owners who supply coconut shells to the foundation. The purchased coconut shells undergo a systematic production process as follows:

First, the shells are sorted to ensure quality and then dried to reduce moisture content. Following the drying stage, the shells are burned to produce coconut shell charcoal. This charcoal is then transferred into a mixing machine to achieve an even distribution of charcoal particle sizes. Subsequently, the homogenized charcoal is fed into a milling machine to produce fine charcoal powder.

The next stage involves mixing the charcoal powder with tapioca starch, which serves as a binder, at a composition of 2% of the total charcoal weight. An adequate amount of water is then added to the mixture to achieve the proper consistency.

Once the mixing process is complete, the final stage consists of molding the mixture into briquettes, followed by a drying process to produce the finished coconut shell briquettes ready for use or distribution.

