



FAMILY COLLABORATION DRIVES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: SERE WANGI LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE IN SOA VILLAGE, 2026



Soa Village, Tanah Miring District, Merauke—Nestled in the southern region of Papua, Soa Village is emerging as a hub of economic potential through the cultivation of Sere Wangi. This traditional crop has now evolved into a valuable livelihood asset for Indigenous Papuans (OAP). The year 2026 marks a turning point, with the community transitioning from dialogue to decisive action.



As part of the 2026 Indigenous Papuan Economic Development Program, initiated by the Regional Government in collaboration with various development organizations, Soa Village is experiencing targeted growth. The program goes beyond introducing modern agricultural techniques; its core strength lies in fostering family-based collaboration. To this end, the Dahetok Milah Lestari Foundation (YDML) organized a training session led by Mr. Nyoman Artha, an experienced agribusiness practitioner who has worked to empower indigenous communities. With a hands-on and motivating approach, Mr. Nyoman emphasized the importance of unity and perseverance, stating, “Sere Wangi won’t sell just because we’re proud. Sere Wangi sells because we work as a team—and we must be diligent and consistent.”



Held at the Sere Wangi production site, the training drew active participation from local families, including mothers, fathers, and youth. Together, they engaged in interactive discussions, practiced improved post-harvest handling techniques, and co-designed collaborative marketing strategies. Participants were assigned specific roles, ranging from garden management and produce handling to digital marketing, ensuring shared responsibility and collective ownership.



The enthusiasm of the Sere Wangi Farmer Group was palpable, as members openly shared their cultivation experiences and voiced their aspirations for economic independence. A village representative expressed, “We’ve been planting for a long time. Now we want to make a living from this crop—not just to survive, but to thrive.”

This initiative in Soa Village is more than a training program; it is a transformative movement toward building a sustainable economic model rooted in family structures. Through the dedicated efforts of YDML and Mr. Nyoman Artha, Indigenous Papuans are being empowered to take ownership of their economic destiny.

Key highlights of this initiative include:

- 2026 is the year of implementation.
- Sere Wangi is positioned as a high-value commodity.
- Family unity serves as the backbone of sustainable growth.
- Collaboration is the cornerstone of success.
- Local leadership is emerging through community commitment and active participation.

As a result, Soa Village is not only cultivating Sere Wangi—it is nurturing a new generation of economic leaders and laying the groundwork for long-term prosperity in South Papua.





SOP TRAINING ON CASHEW NUT PRODUCT MANAGEMENT IN SOA VILLAGE: A STEP TOWARD STANDARDIZATION FOR MSMEs

On April 22, 2026, the Dahetok Milah Lestari Foundation (YDML) organized a training session on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Cashew Nut Product Management in Soa Village, coinciding with the global observance of Earth Day. The primary goal of the training was to establish systematic and integrated standard procedures across every stage of product management.

The initiative specifically targeted Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that are members of the "Soa Village Jambujob Group." Participants not only learned about the SOP framework but also actively contributed to developing their own procedures, tailored to meet both general and specific operational criteria. Through a participatory approach, the women were involved from the initial needs assessment through to the final formulation of the SOPs.

This training is part of a broader strategic program titled "From Forest to Market: Advancing Women-Led Groups and Social Forestry in Indonesia," facilitated by the Kopernik Foundation. The program aims to strengthen women's groups engaged in social forestry, enabling them to improve market access and achieve greater economic equity.

The session was led by Ms. Dea, an experienced resource person from Telkom's State-Owned Enterprises Creative House (RKB), who shared valuable insights and guided participants in developing practical and effective Product Management SOPs. Ms. Dea noted the participants' high level of enthusiasm and readiness to learn, adding that their existing foundational knowledge of product operational standards significantly contributed to the training's success.



EMPOWERING PAPUAN WOMEN THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN SENAYU



Senayu, A significant initiative to empower Papuan women took place through the "Women's Leadership Training," held from May 6–7, 2026, as part of the broader program "From Forest to Market: Advancing Women-led Groups and Social Forestry in Indonesia." The two-day event brought together ten members of the Jambujob Group, a women-led business cooperative in Soa Village that specializes in cashew nut production.

The training was facilitated by two accomplished professionals, Sumarni Kaize and Beatrix Gebze, who equipped participants with essential leadership skills, effective communication techniques, and strategies for identifying business opportunities rooted in local natural resources. In her opening session, Sumarni Kaize shared her inspiring personal journey—from being a housewife and mother of three to building a successful enterprise. She candidly spoke about the challenges she faced, delivering a powerful message on resilience and perseverance that deeply resonated with the attendees.

Sumarni's experiences have enabled her not only to develop marketable products but also to mentor over 30 business groups within Papua's Sinai MSME community, helping them grow and secure funding. She reinforced her guiding philosophy: "We may fall and fail repeatedly, but we must rise again by partnering with others, so that we can rise and succeed together." She encouraged participants to harness the potential of local resources, proposing innovative ideas such as gluten-free banana flour and candlenut oil, while stressing the importance of solidarity among women in Soa Village to create new economic opportunities.



In a parallel session, Beatrix Gebze led an interactive discussion focused on foundational skills, including public speaking, group dynamics, and conflict resolution. She emphasized the critical role women can play as agents of change within their communities, fostering a supportive and participatory atmosphere throughout the training.





ENHANCING FINANCIAL LITERACY AMONG PAPUAN MOTHERS IN SOA-SENAYU VILLAGE

On May 18, 2026, the Dahetok Milah Lestari Foundation (YDML) organized a financial literacy training session for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) involved in cashew nut and lemongrass production in Soa Village, Senayu District, Merauke Regency. The session was attended by 20 participants, comprising 18 Papuan mothers and two fathers, all of whom are actively engaged in local agribusiness activities.

The primary objective of the training was to equip MSME owners—particularly women—with essential skills to manage both household and business finances effectively. Participants learned practical strategies to avoid debt traps, make informed financial decisions, and plan for a more secure economic future. The material was delivered using relatable examples drawn directly from the participants' daily experiences, making the content accessible and immediately applicable.



The session was facilitated by Nurdana Pratiwi from Econusa, who provided valuable insights on sound household financial management. A follow-up training focused specifically on product-based financial management is scheduled for May 19, 2026. Pratiwi noted the participants' remarkable enthusiasm and active engagement, expressing optimism that the training would significantly strengthen their capacity to manage their cashew and lemongrass enterprises.

Held at the Soa Village meeting hall, the training fostered a collaborative and interactive learning environment. The mothers actively participated by posing questions and sharing personal stories about the financial challenges they face in running their home-based businesses. This open exchange not only enriched the learning experience but also reinforced a sense of mutual support and community empowerment among the participants.

DPD MEMBER VISITS COCONUT SHELL BRIQUETTE FACILITY AND LAYING HEN FARM IN MERAUKE

On April 27, 2026, Rudi Tirtayana, a member of the Regional Representative Council (DPD) of the Republic of Indonesia, conducted a working visit to the coconut shell briquette production facility and laying hen farm operated by the Dahetok Milah Lestari Foundation (YDML) in Merauke.

The visit, which commenced at 9:00 a.m. WIT, was aimed at evaluating the sustainability of YDML's empowerment programs for indigenous communities, particularly in the areas of renewable energy and food security. Upon arrival, Rudi was welcomed by YDML field assistants, Rev. Andre Serhalawan and Rev. Osin Monika Pakey, in a meeting characterized by open and constructive dialogue reflecting Rudi's commitment to gaining firsthand insights rather than relying solely on written reports.



Rev. Andre Serhalawan informed Rudi that YDML currently supports over 20 indigenous community groups across various districts in South Papua. These groups are engaged in a wide range of production activities, including knitted goods, citronella oil, cashew nuts in Soa Village, Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) in Onggaya and Okaba, laying hen farming in Kaptel, Okaba, Bade, and Muting Districts, as well as food products such as fish floss and ant nest tea in Tanas Village. He emphasized the foundation's ongoing commitment to mentoring these communities, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that indigenous products generate substantial economic value and long-term benefits.

During the field inspection, Rudi Tirtayana expressed his appreciation for the efforts of YDML and the GPI Papua Economic Development Agency in supporting indigenous communities. However, he placed particular emphasis on the coconut shell briquette production unit, noting that these briquettes represent more than just a commodity—they are a strategic solution to potential energy shortages in South Papua. He categorized them as green biomass energy, aligned with climate action initiatives and capable of addressing essential household energy needs.

Rudi firmly stated, "These briquettes are an excellent source of biomass containing green energy, and they can play an important role in climate action. Importantly, I stress this: if there is a kerosene shortage, using these briquettes is the most effective solution available, as there are currently no faster or cheaper alternatives." His visit underscored the critical role of community-based renewable energy initiatives in strengthening both local livelihoods and regional energy resilience in South Papua.



COMBATING STUNTING FROM THE CHURCHYARD: YDML AND GPI PAPUA PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS FOOD SOLUTIONS IN BADE

BADE, June 17, 2026 — The Dahetok Milah Lestari Foundation (YDML) and GPI Papua Muara Digul Classis held a training session on Integrated Laying Hen Management at the GPI Papua Imanuel Bade Congregation, aimed at addressing food security and stunting issues in remote Papua. Participants from seven congregations learned practical skills for economic independence and improved nutrition, with expert guidance from Yasanto Agricultural Polytechnic facilitators, Ms. Maya Novi Pelamonia and Ms. Puji Susanty Artaningsih.



The program encourages egg-laying chicken farming and integrated agriculture to provide affordable protein sources and create income opportunities. Rev. Viktor Tunay emphasized the importance of community efforts in achieving long-term food security, while Ms. Maya highlighted the participants' enthusiasm and the commitment to ongoing support from Yasanto. YDML plans to expand similar initiatives to other underdeveloped areas, demonstrating the benefits of collaboration among social foundations, educational institutions, and faith-based communities for a sustainable future in Papua.

