



YDML Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter 3 2026

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES: PROGRESS AND RESILIENCE



Muting community training documentation | July report



Soa equipment handover, 5 August | August report



Coconut-shell briquettes | July report

South Papua, July-September 2026. This quarter, Yayasan Dahetok Milah Lestari (YDML) continued supporting community enterprises in Bade, Muting, Soa Village and Merauke. Poultry rearing, citronella oil and coconut-shell briquettes remained central to this work.

By September, hens in Bade and Muting had reached a reported weight of **1.2 kg**. In Soa, the August handover of **1,000 packaging bottles**, labels and laboratory glassware strengthened the group's packaging capacity.

Progress came alongside serious setbacks. Feed scarcity and rising prices put pressure on poultry groups. Higher freight costs affected the Merauke-Asiki route serving Bade. Fire damaged **2 hectares** of citronella land, while shortages of coconut shells continued to constrain briquette production.

The quarter also brought a major poultry loss at YDML's own Merauke unit, reinforcing the need for stronger animal-health safeguards. This issue shares the gains, the challenges and the priorities for the months ahead.

IN THIS ISSUE

Poultry progress in Bade and Muting **2-3**

Production support for Soa **4**

Citronella recovery priorities **5**

Keeping briquette production moving **6**

Lessons and the road ahead **7**

BADE: PROTECTING GAINS IN POULTRY



Bade participants and facilitators. Training documentation reproduced from the July report.

The poultry initiative in Bade builds on training with GPI Papua Muara Digul and Yasanto Agricultural Polytechnic in Merauke. The July report documents participation from seven congregations and practical learning in chick selection, feeding, housing, manure management and vegetable cultivation.

By September, the group's hens had reached a reported weight of **1.2 kg**. The August report had recorded weights of **782-930 grams** across Bade and Muting. These updates show progress in rearing, while the immediate task remains supporting the birds through their growth phase and preparing for egg production.

The programme aims to improve access to affordable animal protein and nutritious food. Regular feed, clean housing and continued technical support remain essential to that goal.

The most pressing September challenge was securing feed. Scarcity and higher prices increased operating pressure, while transport costs on the **Merauke-Asiki route** rose sharply.

The September report links the disruption to docking in Manado of the usual Sabuk Nusantara or KM Muyu vessel service. The loss of regular transport made delivery planning more difficult and increased the need to assess alternative freight options.

YDML's proposed next steps are to check feed stocks against flock needs, compare the full cost and reliability of transport options, and maintain regular weight and health records. Protecting the gains already made depends on getting feed to the group consistently.



Weight checks and flock care in Bade | August report



Muting training participants | Documentation included in the July report

MUTING: FARMING FOR FAMILY FOOD

In Muting, poultry rearing is linked to a broader approach to household food production. The August report records training for **27 participants** from GPI Papua Muting, delivered alongside day-old chicks.

The practical sessions covered vegetable-bed preparation, vegetable seed distribution and the production of liquid organic fertiliser. The approach is designed to connect poultry and gardening: manure can support soil fertility, while vegetables can contribute to family diets.

The July report's photographs capture this practical learning, from chick care to preparing organic fertiliser. Continued mentoring is intended to help participants apply these skills in daily group activities.

The September update reports that hens in Muting had reached **1.2 kg**. As in Bade, the group faced scarce and expensive feed. Reliable procurement remains the immediate priority as the birds move towards the laying phase.

Follow-up priorities include checking local feed stocks, recording consumption and bird health, and maintaining regular weighing. Transport decisions for Muting need to reflect its own route and actual delivery costs.

Integrated farming offers a way to support household food needs alongside the poultry enterprise. Its contribution will become clearer as the group records vegetable harvests and poultry results separately.



Chick care and liquid organic fertiliser practice | July report



SUPPORTING SOA'S CITRONELLA ENTERPRISE



Packaging and laboratory supplies handed over to the Soa Village head on 5 August 2026.

A practical milestone in August

On 5 August, YDML handed over **1,000 bottles**, product labels and laboratory glassware to the Soa Village head. The supplies addressed a packaging constraint identified in the July report.

YDML also provided a water pump to support the distillation process. Earlier work reported in July included improvements to the furnace, linking equipment support with the group's production needs.

Together, these inputs provide a stronger basis for packaging and preparing citronella oil for the market.

The July report describes a citronella group involving **60 farmers, including 40 women**. This community base is central to the enterprise and to the wider ambition of building local livelihoods.

The Merauke Community and Village Empowerment Office (Dinas PMK) invited the village head to include citronella development in future village planning. A **500-litre distillation unit** was also promised, creating an opportunity for future expansion.

The larger unit remains a prospective investment. Its delivery had not been confirmed in the September report. Meanwhile, the group still needs a dependable supply of leaves, suitable planting material and continued production and marketing support.



1,000 BOTTLES
1 WATER PUMP

Equipment and handover documentation | August report



Citronella product presentation included in the July report; this image predates the September fire.

SOA: RECOVERY AS DEMAND RISES

September brought a major setback for the Soa citronella group. Fire damaged **2 hectares** of land and destroyed at least **600 citronella shoots**. The field update associated the fire with dry conditions described locally as El Niño-related.

The loss came as market demand was increasing. With fewer plants available to supply leaves for distillation, the group faced greater difficulty fulfilling orders. Packaging supplies and improved equipment could not, on their own, compensate for the loss of planting stock.

Restoring the crop is therefore central to protecting the enterprise. YDML's September report proposes an assessment of damaged land, surviving plants and replacement planting needs as the starting point for recovery.

Planting material was already a concern before the fire. The July report noted low oil content in the commonly available lenabatu variety and difficulty obtaining mahapangiri seedlings. Recovery planning needs to address both availability and suitability of replacement plants.

Proposed follow-up includes phased replanting, checking water availability and discussing measures to reduce further fire risk with the group and village government.

For buyers, the immediate priority is clear communication about available oil and realistic delivery times. Matching orders to actual capacity can help maintain confidence while the group works to restore its source of leaves.

NEXT PRIORITY: RESTORE THE CROP AND MAINTAIN BUYER CONFIDENCE

Source: September 2026 report. Recovery actions described here are proposed follow-up, not completed work.

COCONUT SHELLS INTO BRIQUETTES



Coconut-shell briquettes produced by YDML | Photograph from the July report

YDML's briquette enterprise in Merauke uses coconut shells as a production input. The July report recorded **3 tonnes of briquettes produced**, while the August report identified 26 July as its latest production date at the time of reporting.

By September, production was still continuing, but its reliability depended on the collection and processing of copra. Coconut shells are a by-product of that activity, making the briquette enterprise closely linked to work in supplying villages.

The recurring challenge was access to raw material. The August report recorded only **20 sacks of shells** remaining in storage and noted that replenishment had not yet been possible.

Supplies from Urumb, Matara and Waninggap Nanggo were constrained because copra processing was not operating fully. The September update continued to identify this dependence as the key condition for keeping briquette production running.

YDML's proposed follow-up is to coordinate copra collection with suppliers, maintain a realistic schedule for shell procurement and base production plans on material actually available.

The July report also identified Kumbe, Onggari, Kaiburse and Domande as potential additional sourcing locations. Their availability and transport costs still need to be checked before they can support regular production.

A LOCAL VALUE CHAIN THAT NEEDS CONSISTENT SUPPLY

The 3-tonne figure is the quantity reported in July, not a verified Q3 total. The 20-sack stock figure is from August.



Practical vegetable-bed preparation in Bade | Documentation included in the July report

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE ROAD AHEAD

Learning from a serious loss

On 19 July, YDML's directly managed Merauke poultry unit lost all **84 hens**. The August report attributed the loss to chronic respiratory disease (CRD). This was a separate unit from the groups in Bade and Muting.

The incident makes stronger animal-health management a priority. The reports propose sanitation, tighter biosecurity, a review of housing and technical guidance before restocking. The September report calls for continued attention to cleanliness and early reporting of health concerns.

Working through local partnerships

YDML's community support connects church-based groups, Yasanto Agricultural Polytechnic, village leadership and government offices. Continued cooperation is important for technical mentoring, access to inputs and practical enterprise planning.

Priorities proposed for October

Poultry: verify feed stocks and flock needs in Bade and Muting, assess freight options serving Bade, and continue weight and health monitoring.

Citronella: assess fire damage, identify replacement planting material, phase recovery work and align orders with available production capacity.

Briquettes: coordinate copra collection and shell supply, then schedule production against confirmed stocks.

Enterprise records: improve documentation of inputs, production, stock and sales so that groups and YDML can make decisions from reliable field information.

The shared aim is continuity: keeping community enterprises active while addressing the supply, health and environmental risks that shaped this quarter.

Published by Yayasan Dahetok Milah Lestari (YDML)

Quarterly Newsletter 3 2026 | July-September 2026

Based on the July, August and September 2026 monthly reports. Photographs are reproduced from the July and August reports; some July documentation depicts earlier training. Images are captioned by their source report or a confirmed event date.