

“Preserving our Seeds Biodiversity”

My name is Putu Wahyu Permana, I'm work with IDEP. IDEP Foundation is a Local Indonesian non-Government Organization, officially established in Bali in 1999, right after Indonesia's Crisis. Our farmers' member are present in almost every village in Bali. IDEP main objectives are to provide disaster emergency response and to ensure sustainable food security and proper management of resources through permaculture.

Permaculture (permanent culture and permanent agriculture) is a system designed for environmental management within the community. It aims to fulfill needs and to remain sustainable by utilizing local resources. We found out how difficult it was to obtain organic seeds locally.

All the seeds sold in shops were becoming more and more expensive for local farmers. The worst of it was that the majority of seeds could not be reproduced, so new non-reproducible seeds had to be bought constantly to replenish supplies. This resulted in the farmers becoming economically dependent on the seed producers. This situation continues to this day. Moreover, we also worry with GMO transgenic seeds that are harmful for to agriculture, the environment and consumers.

With hybrid and Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) seeds flooding into Indonesia and the proliferation of GMO products globally, a viable alternative to this potentially catastrophic technology was clearly needed. Multi-national corporations involved in the GMO industry often use biased and misleading promotional materials, and access to clear information about GMO's in the Indonesian language is very difficult to find.

All seeds we have are suitable for Indonesian climates and have consistent values and quality for 6 generations of plant cycles. Organic cultivation of these plants ensures high standards of health and environmental sustainability for the consumer. Today we have more than 30 varieties of local seeds and more than 30 Seeds Farmer Around Bali. They can sharing their own seeds to the farmers, its mean to preserve and safe our biodiversity which is our seeds.

From limited information I have on RCEP, I know that this agreement could prohibit farmers' local seed saving initiative that we do here in Bali. For the farmers it could mean increase their dependency to external input and increase cost of production and also losing our local seeds and knowledge if we are to be prohibit to continue this practice of seed saving and seed exchange freely. Therefore with others who are here, I also would like to express my rejection to this free trade agreement.

Thank you.