# Harnessing the Potential of Permaculture for Sustainable Development and Resilience

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#### Permaculture's Added Value

- Holistic beyond agricultural production
- Integrated agriculture, energy, water, natural building ...
- Design oriented think about it from the beginning closing loops
- Vision for food sovereignty
- From response to preparedness.
- Principles for resilience and sustainability
- Multidimensional / multifunctional fitting to various initiatives
- Appropriate scale
- Slow change changing behaviour
- Networking
- lacktriangle Back to the roots 'ancestral knowledge'

### Post Tsunami rehabilitation Aceh



## Green Hands Permaculture Field School Aceh



### What the aid industry can be....

- FAO and UN agencies and even large INGOs are slowly changing stance on what is sustainable and working
- Some INGOs do have longer term programs and community driven programs
- It's about the person lots of amazing people contributing amongst the industry and bureaucracy
- Harnessing funds for good projects
- Conduit for change & spreading info
- Can provide evidence of what works

### An I-NGO ram pump project

- Smart, simple and long lasting
- From a program run by a "conventional agriculturalist" who turned out to be one of permaculture and Permatil's biggest supporters in Timor Leste

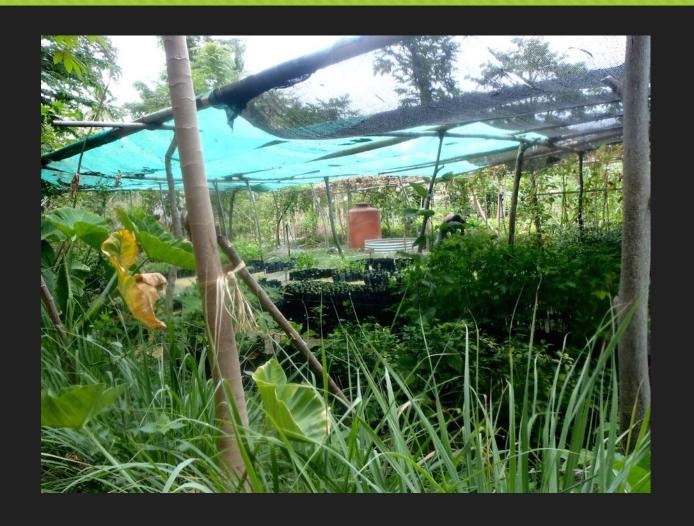


### Models

- Local organizations as movement builders (Permatil) Timoroan, Long term accompaniment, support, advocacy, linking with governmental and donor processes.
- O Local organizations as service providers (Green Hands Field School Aceh) training centres, service provision, contracting and subcontracting.
- Embedded solidarity (Na Terra East Timor) Foreigner driven but rooted in local context, integrating into the community, embedded, tapping into global connections for funding and volunteering, facilitating long term accompaniment, connecting the dots globally and locally. (+setting up institutes)
- Mentoring established organizations supporting (not necessarily financially) starting organizations

### **Embedded solidarity**

O Na Terra's community nursery



### Partnerships

- Working in partnership with local CSOs ensures continuity
- Bottom-up approaches
- > Hands on accompaniment
- Longer term
- Fosters linkages with other key actors (governments and other Civil society organizations) and stakeholders
- Able to tap into local funding resources (INGOs, Ministries...)
- Enables influencing at local level to address root causes and holistic long term solutions

### Partnership in Oecussi, Timor Leste





From a few terraces many terraces grow

### Community Approaches

- Road to hell is paved with good intentions
- Can't just parachute into a community
- Cultural sensitivity and language skills
- Accompaniment
- Long term
- Embedded
- Everything is available to everyone
- Movement building with other communities, CSOs
- Strategic gender interests vs ticking gender box

## Vision - Empowered Architects of Meaningful Development





### Manifesting & Funding

- O Tapping into locally available resources eg. INGOs
- Local grants
- Volunteering & solidarity
- O Donations
- Contracting and subcontracting
- Start a cooperative/business to fund other work
- Harnessing community resources & Collaboration 'Gotong Royong'

# Income, education and environment outcomes

- Waste water garden at Greenhand Field School, Aceh 2006
- Creating economic sovereignty



### Lessons Learned (i)

- Shorter courses with ongoing accompaniment
- O Good to not be precious about the word Permaculture
- Focus on the outcome and vision
- Empowerment beyond "beneficiaries"
- Embed with other processes education curriculum

### Access to Information

- ➤ The Permaculture Guidebook
- From Timor Leste
- People have the information
- When they need it



Nursery location	
Nursery design and construction	
Good materials to use for construction	
Nursery tables and workbenches	
Seedling boxes and containers	
Potting mixes	
General potting mtx	
Potting mix for seeds	
Potting mix for cuttings and propagation	
Potting mix for long-term productive trees and plants	
Potting mix for native trees	
Problems of too many nutrients and fungus	
Planting seeds	
Improving the seeds success rate	
When to plant	
Root propagation plants	
Garden plot nurseries	
Nursery maintenance	
Watering	
Fertilising	
Transplanting	
Weedcontrol	
Pest and disease control	
Preventing root problems	
Hardening plants before planting	

#### PLANT NURSERY

A plant nursery is an essential part of every farm and garden. It provides the best environment for plants when they are small and fragile. As children need special attention when they are young, so do blants. Healthy, strong seedlings grow into nealthy, productive plants.

The early stages of a plant's life determine how well it will grow in the future. This is the same for all plants grown from seeds, cuttings, roots, and other methods of growing plants. A nursery can be as small or large as you need: e.g. it can be part of a garden bed with some coconut leaf cover or a large

#### Important functions that nurseries provide:

- Easier planting, watering and maintaining seedlings because everything you need is in one place
- Shade from the hot sun
- · Protection from heavy rains
- Protection from strong winds
- · Protection from pests, such as rats,
- mice, goats, snails, and ants

  Water and fertiliser can be easily
- applied and checked
  Potting mix allows for fast and strong
- Potting mix allows for fast and strong root growth, good drainage, and supplies enough nutrients
- · Potting area including a table



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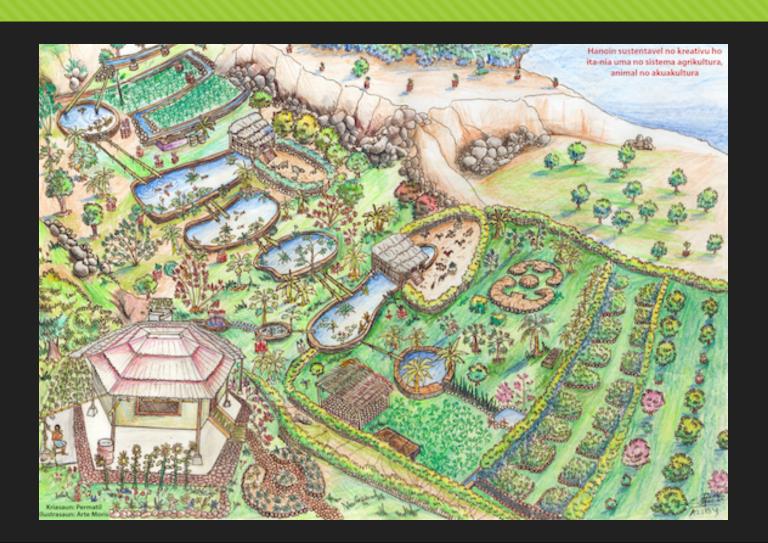
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### Lessons Learned (ii)

- Inspire the youth to participate in the vision (perma-scouts)
- Has to go hand in hand with advocacy efforts (influencing public sector to make appropriate investments in agriculture)
- O Don't get discouraged and see the bigger picture
- What is real successes? For whom?
- O Avoid managerial positions and let the locals make the decisions
- O Don't set limits to what you can do, but always step by step and see things through

### Pictures tell the story

- Educational resources
- > That are appropriate
- > And resonate
- Will last and last



### So what can a keen permie do?

- Attend a respected orientation course for working in developing countries (if you can).
- Work to make yourself redundant!
- Help build capacity education materials, technical trainings
- Accept mistakes will be made
- Balance between technical advice and control freak
- Act as connector reporting, networking, proposals, liasing etc.
- Be an organizational growth advisor
- ☐ Have a side kick who is learning, being mentored, practicing...
- Get your own contract work
- Follow the principles, they really do help to give perspective!