



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
- ❖ 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.
- 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

- 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

- Tapping into locally available resources eg. INGOs
- Local grants
- Volunteering & solidarity
- 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
- 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

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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 plants. Healthy, strong seedlings grow into healthy, 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 fertilizer can be easily applied and checked
- Potting mix allows for fast and strong root growth, good drainage, and supplies enough nutrients
- Potting area including a table



Caption goes here.



Caption goes here.



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)
- Don't get discouraged and see the bigger picture
- What is real successes? For whom?
- Avoid managerial positions and let the locals make the decisions
- 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!**