

Small Coffee Processing Unit Using Renewable Energy for Village Development

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SUMMARY

As an attempt to trigger industrialization in rural Indonesia, a Small Coffee Processing Unit (SCPU) with input capacity of 2-3 tons wet coffee berries was installed in 1999 at Batudulang village, in the Island of Sumbawa. The unit uses a combined Greenhouse Effect (GHE) solar dryer and biomass stove as one of its main processing facility. Beside the dryer the unit also was provided with a 746 W mechanical husker, a 373 W roaster, a 373 W milling unit and simple packing tools to produce pure and blended ground coffee ready for the market. A local cooperative was assigned to operate the facility after a proper training by our Research Center and was capable to produce good quality products. In order to study the viability of the project as an effective means to improve the quality of life of the people in the village and to eradicate poverty, the cooperative has been provided with small grant acquired from ISESCO.

The fund now has been used as working capital for the cooperative so that there will available budget to purchase and process raw materials, and finally sell the product to the market. In this way more than 171 small holders living in the village and its surroundings can get benefit with better price of their products by processing their coffee in the SCPU since the quality of the products can be improved with more local contents of their products. It is expected therefore, more time can be made available for farmer to work in other income generating activities tons and ultimately can solve the multitude problems related to backwardness, poverty, accessibility to better education and health facilities. The project is now has been adopted and under trial as a CDM pilot project by the South-South North (SSN)-Pelangi, since most of the SCPU energy is supplied from the locally available renewable energy sources.