

Creating Fair Market Spaces for
Indigenous Communities' Products

STORIES FROM INDONESIA:
Kajang Woven Textile and Krayan Rice



WORKING GROUP ICCAS INDONESIA (WGII)

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MEET THE KAJANG COMMUNITY

*“Every single leaf on the tree is calling for the rain
and the roots of the tree will hold the water”*

MEET THE KAJANG COMMUNITY

- Kajang is one of the oldest Indigenous Peoples group living in Bulukumba district, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia.
- 8 *dusun* (hamlets): 4,024 individuals (1,882 men and 2,142 women), 957 households
- They call their land: *Tana Toa*, means the Eldest Land, an ancestral land of Kajang people.
- This community is widely known for their consistency in holding their custom intact, including their customary practices in protecting their forest.



photo: Ministry of Environment and Forestry



photo: AMAN



photo: AMAN

- Sacred forest or “*hutan karamka*”, according to *Pasang* this is a forbidden forest, no body is allowed to enter. Community believes that the forest is where their ancestors reside, and also where the roots will preserve water, and where the leaves will call the rain.
- Forest on the boarder or “*borong batasayya*”. Community members are allowed to take few pieces of timber from the forest, with the permission form Ammatoa (customary leader) and this is only allowed under certain rules.
- The Kajang community benefits indirectly from their forest by using the spring water for their daily used and also for farming.

The life of the Kajang indigenous community

- The economic life of Kajang people depend mostly on agriculture. Most of them are subsistence farmers (paddy, corn, clove, coconut, enau/ *Arena pinnata*, etc.)
- In addition to farming, Kajang people also raise cattle.
- Kajang women are known as great weavers. They produce black woven textile called *tope' le'leng* or Kajang black woven sarong, produced using material from forest.

- The Kajang community is known for their distinctive black clothing, in particular the black sarongs known as *tope' le'leng*.
- Black is a sacred colour representing fairness, modesty and solidarity in life.



How to make **tope le'leng**

Black sarong weaving, or *attanung tope le'leng*, is a unique weaving method to the Kajang community. The process of creating a sarong can take up to 2 months due to the number of steps involved.

Step 1: **Dyeing**

Tarung natural dye is prepared from locally sourced indigo plants that have been cultivated for generations. Young tarung leaves are fermented with ash and lime for weeks to produce a natural black colour. The *o'nyilo* dyeing technique is then used to apply the tarung dye to undyed thread, after which it is rinsed, dried, and ready for rolling.



Step 2: **Loom Setup**

Next the dyed thread is rolled in the *nipaturung* style, which can take two or three days. After the yarn is rolled, the *rgane* process involves carefully mounting the thread onto looms in preparation for weaving. These looms (called *pottanungan*) have belonged to families of weavers for generations.



Step 3: **Weaving**

Before weaving, a fermented rice starch (*pottasi*) is applied to the thread and then combed using coconut fibres. Kajang women must master weaving (*attanung*) to be considered eligible for marriage. Because it is considered a side hobby rather than a routine task, a 4-metre length of fabric can take three to four weeks to create, depending on whether it will be turned into a sarong or headwraps.



Step 4: **Polishing**

After the finished woven fabric is cut from the loom, a *pa'garusu* ballast tool, made from spotted tiger cowrie sea-snail shell, is used in a technique known as *arggurusu* to polish the fabric until shiny and smooth. The glazed fabric is then ready to be made into *tope le'leng* sarongs or *passapu* headwraps.



photo: Ministry of Environment and Forestry

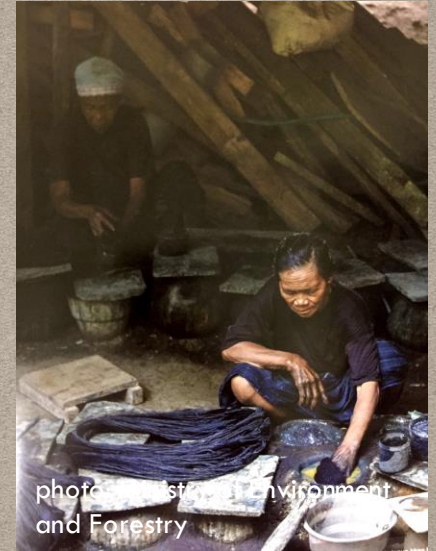


photo: Ministry of Environment and Forestry



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Strategy and Innovation:

Promoting and selling products through alternative marketing platform such as PARARA

PARARA
Panen Raya Nusantara
or
Indonesia Archipelago
Harvest Festival

- > showcases sustainable livelihoods initiatives and models of communities through communities' products such as handicrafts, foods, hand woven textiles, etc.
- > aims to support the local community's economy fairly and sustainably



photo: Wahyu Widhi



photo: Wahyu Widhi



KRAYAN RICE: Food, Identity and Sustainable Future

By Cristina Eghenter and
FORMADAT

Krayan Highlands, North
Kalimantan Indonesia



The Krayan Highlands in the Heart of Borneo

- The Krayan Highlands are located in the district of Nunukan, North Kalimantan (Indonesia), along the border with Sarawak (Malaysia) to the west and Sabah (Malaysia) to the north.
- The typical landscape is one of wide valleys interlaced with traditional paddy fields, bamboo stands and fruit trees embraced by gentle slopes covered with forest.



The Indigenous Peoples of the Highlands in The Heart of Borneo

- While administratively divided between two countries, the Indigenous peoples of the Highlands share a common linguistic and cultural heritage, and a common homeland. The close ethnic and family ties of the peoples of the Highlands are one of the main reasons for the intense social and economic interactions that take place in the highlands across the international border between Indonesia and Malaysia.
- The indigenous communities of the Highlands are:
 - > Lundayeh and Sa'ban in Krayan
 - > Lun Bawang, Kelabit, Sa'ban, and Penan in Malaysia.

FORMADAT

EQUATOR PRIZE WINNER 2015

With the support of NGOs, donors, and the local government, FORMADAT has been working together with local farmers to try to increase the value of the traditional crop and develop rice into a premium commodity with high market value, and strong cultural message



FORMADAT, the Alliance of the Indigenous Peoples of the Highlands in the Heart of Borneo, is a trans-border community organization among the Indigenous Peoples of Sarawak, Sabah (Malaysia) and Kalimantan (Indonesia) who consider the Highlands their common ancestral homeland.

FORMADAT was established in 2004 to encourage sustainable development in the Highlands and protect its biodiversity and fragile environment.



The Krayan products

Multiple varieties of rice, sorghum, and millet from the agricultural tradition of the ancestors and the labor and knowledge of women and men



A tradition of rice farming

The rice is the most popular and significant product of the Highlands in the Heart of Borneo. It is planted once a year. *Adan* rice is the most famous variety grown in the Krayan Highlands. Over the centuries, local Indigenous Peoples have transformed the bottom of the valleys in rice fields and created a self-sustained agricultural cycle integrated with water buffaloes husbandry which proved to guarantee food security for the area and surplus.





An agriculture based on agro-biodiversity

High biodiversity is a salient feature of traditional farming systems and it is what is referred to as agro-biodiversity. It is largely a product of intense agroforestry, i.e., the dynamic, ecologically based natural resource management practiced by communities, local enrichment and experimentation, and the knowledge associated with traditional agriculture and farming systems. It is also influenced by cultural traditions and strong preferences. In fact how something tastes and/or cooks is often mentioned by local farmers as a criterion for selecting and planting particular varieties.

There are over 30 varieties of rice that are planted by farmers every year

Several food plants and fruit trees grow in and around the rice fields





Preserving Indigenous agriculture

Maintaining and enhancing eco-agricultural practices in the production of *adan* rice and other agricultural products in the Krayan Highlands is an investment in long-term economic and environmental returns and sustainability. It also helps safeguard local traditions and Indigenous knowledge of the communities in the Highlands of the Heart of Borneo. In this regard, some key action and conditions need to be promoted and strengthened:

- Support local and small farms as significant share of agricultural production and trade in the Highlands
- Maintain one-harvest production system, avoid introduction of high-yielding varieties, and optimize local productivity and agricultural land-use
- Promote environment-friendly methods and investment (e.g., multi-species, maintain agrobiodiversity, small mechanization, post-harvest storage, pest management)
- Document and protect bio-cultural knowledge systems related to plants and crops
- Value the beauty of the landscape and traditional farming systems as part of the natural capital of the Krayan Highlands
- Engage the local government to enforce policies in support of ICS standards and participatory certification of local agricultural products.



Harvest Time



PARARA: An alternative marketing platform for indigenous products to reach directly the urban consumers

The full Indigenous identity of products

Producers are the distributors

Fair price and full economic and cultural values



Working group ICCAs Indonesia (WGII)



promote ICCAs practices

documentation of ICCAs

land rights

communities products

more info please visit: www.iccas.or.id



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thank you!