Sea Grass Farming

Livelihoods Before Tsunami

Before the Tsunami the major industries supporting the Achenese were fishing and farming. As a result of the Tsunami many farming areas were destroyed or became unusable due to the flooding. In order for the farming areas to get back to work they will need to repair their fields. Many of these areas have flooded, and the remaining good areas will have lost a lot of their productivity.

Tsunami's Effects

Fishing communities were hardest hit with some suffering near-complete destruction of their homes and other productive equipment. In order for the fishing workers to get back to work they will need to repair their boats, which were in some cases destroyed completely.

Advantages in Aceh

Food availability in Aceh is not a big problem – the Government's Bulog system exists to ensure that food is made available at low prices of staple items for consumers and good prices for producers. Markets are currently functioning in most areas and production in Aceh is usually almost double the consumption needs.

Sea Grass Farming

Sea grass farming has a number of advantages. The sea grass can be harvested right off shore and is not affected by storms or seasonal changes in the water. In addition, the sea grass is not affected by the destruction of the Tsunami, and it is a new industry in the Aceh area.

The farmlands that were covered with sea water have lasting effects from the Tsunami. The salt from the water has caused lasting damage to the land and the sea grass can help to absorb the salt and create a new, usable farmland.

Therefore, farmers whose fields became flooded may choose to change their farming activities. The following table provides a summary of the different types of occupation along the coast, the effect of the tsunami on the activity, and possible ways to address the current constraints to the livelihood groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Effect of Tsunami</th>
<th>Possible Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>Major destruction</td>
<td>Repair boats, retrain workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming</td>
<td>Partial destruction</td>
<td>Repair fields, change crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban fishing</td>
<td>Urban effects</td>
<td>Distribute aid, provide community services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The figures below shows the kinds of occupations fishing communities were engaged in before the Tsunami and the relevance after the Tsunami, and a new job possibility Sea Grass Farming.

Sea Grass Farming

There are many ways to use sea grass that are not shown in the pictures. It could be used as a material for making baskets, baby baskets, decorative boxes, cd racks, and even couches/chairs. It can also be used to make decorative boxes, cd racks, and even couches/chairs.

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