

of the richest Indonesians in 2011.

Plans in Merauke:

Three plantation proposals in Merauke can be linked to Murydaya Poo and Siti Hartati Murydaya's empire: an application under the name PT Central Cipta Murydaya itself, and two more as PT Hardaya Sugar Papua and PT Hardaya Savitri Papua, which is hoping to plant oil palm. The general director for infrastructure at the agriculture ministry, Sumarjo Gatot Irianto, said in August 2011 that he believed that the Murydaya Group companies would commence operations in 2013. ¹⁵⁷ A Supreme Court decision in August 2011 gave PT Hardaya Savitri the green light to operate after a long running legal battle with PT Savitri Nusa Timur, who had mounted a legal challenge after their previous permit, was cancelled in favour of PT Hardaya Savitri Papua.

Stories from the ground:

Employees from PT Hardaya Sugar Papua have recently been approaching the people of Kampung Koa, but the people have so far refused to sell their land. ¹⁵⁸ In April 2011 Merauke's Bupati, Romanus Mbaraya, anticipating that Murydaya group plantations would be the next to start operations, announced that the local government would intervene in mapping the traditional land use rights, including the rights held by each clan, to avoid a repetition of conflicts such as that which happened between Medco and the villagers of Sanggata. ¹⁵⁹

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Wilmar International
(PT Anugrah Rejeki Nusantara, PT Agriprima Cipta Persada)

Company Description:

Wilmar International, first established in 1991 with an oil palm plantation in Sumatra, is one of the largest agribusiness companies in Asia, as well as the world's largest processor of palm oil and largest producer of palm biodiesel. Wilmar is also a big sugar grower and has oilseed processing facilities around the world.

Owned by:

Wilmar International is listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange. Its Chief Executive Officer is Sukh Khoo Hong. Wartus Sitorus, Wilmar's co-founder and chief operating officer, was listed as Indonesia's seventh richest man in Forbes 2011 survey. ¹⁶⁰

Plans in Merauke:

Wilmar seems to be interested in establishing both sugar cane and oil palm plantations in Merauke. Wilmar announced in September 2010 that it had acquired a vast concession of 200,000 hectares to grow sugar cane in the Tabontji district of Merauke, and would proceed with a feasibility study that could take up to two years. ¹⁶¹ In May 2011 formally bought PT Anugrah Rejeki Nusantara, the company that would develop what seems to be by far the largest food plantation planned for MIFEE. ¹⁶²

Wilmar also have plans to develop an oil palm plantation of 34,000 hectares through its subsidiary PT Agriprima Cipta Persada, which is already managing plantations and building infrastructure in the Sumatran province of Jambi. ¹⁶³

¹⁵⁷<http://www.bisnis-kita.com/index.php/2011/08/food-crisis-dimerauke-masih-mundur-wilmar/>
¹⁵⁸<http://blog.mest.or.id/kerak-archives/1546>
¹⁵⁹<http://www.bisnispapua.com/analisa-papua-7716-ombak-ombakan-penataan-dongeng-pemilik-lahan/>



Stories from the ground:

Wilmar's Commissioner, NP Tumanggor is quoted in the press as saying that their plantation in Merauke may not be possible, as the area has been designated as protected forest. ¹⁶⁴

Local groups report however that PT Anugrah Rejeki Nusantara sugar-cane plantation in Tabontji is going ahead, but has been scaled down to 40,351 hectares. Additionally the company has acquired a permit to farm 8000 hectares in Anitma district and is actively pursuing this plan. Villagers in Kampung Koa have reported that Wilmar negotiators have been making approaches to them. ¹⁶⁵ Other than this there is no clear news about the status of Wilmar's plans.

Other Conflicts around West Papua and Indonesia:

Research in 2007 by Friends of the Earth Netherlands into Wilmar's oil palm plantations in Kalimantan found that the company had burning forest illegally to clear it, clearing land without the right permits and not consulting local communities that have customary rights over the land that Wilmar uses. ¹⁶⁶ In 2011 PT AP, a company owned by Wilmar, bulldozed 83 houses of villagers who disputed the company's right to the land in Jambi province in Sumatra, after a confrontation in which one resident was shot and wounded and twelve people were arrested. ¹⁶⁷

International links:

Wilmar is now a global company, for example in Europe they have refineries in the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Ukraine, as well as trading subsidiaries in many other countries. Additionally Wilmar bought Australia's Sucrogen brand from CSR in July 2010 for 1.6 billion Australian dollars. One of the benefits of this deal to Wilmar is that it will bring them the expertise to develop a large industrial sugar plantation in Merauke. It also gives the company access to the Indonesian market to import Australian sugar in the meantime, as under Indonesian rules, only domestic growers can import sugar. ¹⁶⁸ Sucrogen is Australia's top-selling sugar, which is marketed under the "CSR Sugar" brand, and as "Chelasa" in New Zealand. Sucrogen also produces agro-fuels from sugar-cane.

Address:

Wilmar International Limited
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Plasma Nutfah Marind Papua

Company Description:

Officially set up in 2005, PT Plasma Nutfah Marind Papua is a forestry company that wants to produce wood chips in Merauke.

Owned by:

In April 2011, South Korean paper company Moorim bought a majority share in PT Plasma Nutfah Marind Papua. ¹⁶⁹ The Korean company opened an office in Jakarta in 2008 and announced it was looking for a suitable plantation of up to 60,000 hectares. Moorim expects to invest 100 billion Won (\$89 million) in the project. ¹⁷⁰

Plans in Merauke:

PT Plasma Nutfah Marind Papua was allocated a provisional concession of 67700 hectares in Okaba and Kaptel districts in 2008.

Stories from the ground:

¹⁶⁴<http://www.suarakarya-online.com/news/item?id=257144>

¹⁶⁵<http://blog.mest.or.id/kerak-archives/1202>

¹⁶⁶http://www.foeurope.org/press/2007/July7_PDF_Wilmar_PalmOil.htm



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