



# SUCCESSFUL AGRARIAN REFORM IN WEST JAVA



United for  
Land Rights,  
Peace & Justice

GLOBAL LAND FORUM, INDONESIA

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# SUCCESSFUL AGRARIAN REFORM IN WEST JAVA

## Location:

Tanjung Karang Village, Cigalontang Sub-District, West Java Province

Date: 21-22 September 2018

## Field and organising partners:

KPA, SPP

GLF themes: Agrarian form

**Sub-topics:** Land reclamation, farmers' organisations, traditional farming, women, youth, collective farming, cooperatives

## Languages:

Indonesian and English

Maximum participants: 30

Difficulty: 3/5



## TRAVEL AND LOGISTICS:

Participants will travel by minibus to Tanjung Karang Village (4 hours). Participants will sleep in local residents' houses, which are equipped with indoor cold-water bathrooms and squat toilets. Food generally consists of rice with salted preserved fish, tofu/tempe, vegetables, and chilli sauce. Participants are advised to wear canvas shoes or sneakers and bring a jumper or jacket; the village gets cold at night (15-20 degrees Celsius).

## WHAT TO BRING:

Sunscreen/sun protection, mosquito repellent, motion sickness medicine, refillable water bottle, tissues/toilet paper, towel, soap, non-slip walking shoes/hiking boots, sandals/flip flops.

## BACKGROUND

Most uninhabited land in Tasikmalaya District, West Java Province, include Tanjung Karang Village, was historically used by large-scale forestry businesses since the Dutch and Japanese colonial eras. Following

independence, the land was neglected and fell into disuse. Local communities began to take back the land, planting crops for food and tree for wood. In the New Order period (1967-1998), a company named Perum PERHUTANI claimed the land was theirs, forcing farmers off 400 hectares around Tanjung Karang Village.

Fights frequently broke out between farmers, PERHUTANI, and the police between 2000 and 2003. As a consequence, nine residents were arrested by the police – three were found guilty, while the remaining six were held for two weeks at the local police office.

Since 2003, the farmers have reclaimed their land, and, through the Pasundan Farmers' Union (SPP), have transformed the land struggle into a political and village development movement. SPP members are now sitting in important roles in the village-level government, and income and overall welfare have increased through the establishment of women's organisations, schools, mosques, road infrastructure, clean water supply system, and collectively-run swimming pools for tourists.

SPP has developed a village development blue print in line with the principles of agrarian reform. This can be seen in how they have allocated land for different uses: the 400ha of land that was reclaimed has been divided into crop land (320ha), paddy fields (30ha), ecological reserves (30ha), and housing (20ha). Each of the 450 families in Tanjung Karang village now have at least 0.5ha of land for cropping; this has made their lives more comfortable and secure, reflected in their increasing quality of life.

### Participants will learn about:

1. Community-initiated land reform;
2. Community strategies for protecting their land rights;
3. Village development based on true agrarian reform principles;
4. The role of women and youths in farmers' organisations.



### In Tanjung Karang, participants will:

- Participate in discussions on land reform implementation that focuses on community-led initiatives in the struggle to retain their land rights, and village development that actively involves women and youths;
- Share successful land rights campaign strategies from different countries;
- Participate in discussions on relationships between village-level governments and the national government in pursuing village development based on true agrarian reform;
- Visit important local sites, such as collective farms, fragrant herb farms, schools, women's groups, and collectively-run swimming pools that provide the community with income.

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**KPA**

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