



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

21st Century

Producer: Francis Mead
Script version: Final
Duration: 3'10"

INDONESIA: SAVED BY SEAWEED

INTRO :

From sushi to soup – seaweed appears in diets around the world – and now it's providing an economic lifeline in remote parts of Indonesia. Fishermen in West Papua were struggling to make a living – until they turned to harvesting seaweed. (17")

VIDEO

RESTAURANT

VILLAGE SCENES

FISHERMEN

AUDIO

NARRATION:

What you eat has an impact even in the remotest parts of the world. Take sushi for example – the seaweed that wraps around your rice filling could mean the difference between poverty and a comfortable life for someone else. (13")

3000 kilometres from the Indonesian

capital, Jakarta – here in West Papua – things are changing. The area has been plagued by conflict for decades, so it's been hard to reach – and very poor. (13")

ISKAK

But today, a buyer from one of the country's biggest seaweed processors is visiting. (5")

ISKAK INDRAYANI (In Indonesian):
Coastal communities are no longer marginalized communities. They have a great chance to improve their living conditions. And one way is through seaweed. (10")

EXAMINES SEAWEED

NARRATION:

Iskak Indrayanmi has never been here before, but she's heard there's surprisingly good seaweed being produced here – by farmers like Hassam Basri Heremba. He used to be a fishermen, but times were hard – and it wasn't possible to fish all year round. (18")

BASRI

HASSAM BASRI HEREMBA (In Indonesian):
I had problems when the wet season came. It's very difficult because there is

a strong wind, big waves and it is very difficult to fish. (18”)

BASRI, GOLAP AND VILLAGERS IN
TRAINING ETC

NARRATION:

In 2010 Basri switched to seaweed farming, with assistance from the government and the United Nation’s International Fund for Agricultural Development. At the time the villagers knew nothing about seaweed, but fellow fisherman Abdul Halik Golap was trained in cultivation techniques and he passed on his skills to the village. Basri and Golap now earn almost four times more than they used to. (26”)

ABDUL HALIK GOLAP (In Indonesian):

Before I didn’t have enough income for my children to go to school but with seaweed our children can go to university. (8”)

NARRATION:

Today the villagers can work throughout the year – and their incomes stand a good chance of growing, because Iskak, the buyer, is impressed with what she sees. (9.5”)

SEAWEED HARVESTING

ISKAK INDRAYANI (In Indonesian):

If the community welcomes our initiative to work together and they can produce enough seaweed from this area, we want to build a long relationship with them so they become a fixture of the company and the company can depend on them. (13”)

NARRATION:

Indonesia as a whole exported nearly 180 million US dollars worth of seaweed in 2012 and has now become the largest producer in the world. Basri, for one, is excited about the future. (13”)

BASRI WITH CHILDREN

HASSAM BASRI HEREMBA (In Indonesian):

When the company has a direct collaboration with us, we can change the face of this village. We can build better houses. We can expand our planting areas to grow more. (11”)

NARRATION:

Seaweed has transformed the prospects for both Basri and the whole village – so he’s wasting no time and has already brought his whole family

into the business. (9")

HASSAM BASRI HEREMBA (In

Indonesian):

I'm hoping that if I teach my children about the planting of the seaweed, they can pass it on to their children. That's my goal. (9")