



TV

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UN IN ACTION

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PAPUA: THE POWER OF WOMEN

VIDEO

WS PAPUA

MAGDA PLANTING

WALKING WITH FRIEND

WS WOMEN WALKING

GROUP SINGING

MAGDA ON-CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

In one of the most remote and least developed places in the world - Magda Wetapo is growing vegetables. (7)

Her village in the highlands of Papua, Indonesia's most eastern province, is reachable only by air and is seldom visited by outsiders. (9)

It's a place where development projects have had little success. (4)

Tribal customs are strong here and for women like Magda, it means that they have no say over their lives. // Men decide how women should think, live and act. (11)

MAGDA: (In local dialect) F

"The men were the ones making the decisions; we didn't question it because it was our tradition. If we tried to violate it, something bad would happen to us. We would get sick, so we

accepted it.” (18)

NARRATION

GROUP MEETING

Then a pilot project initiated by the UN Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD, and the Government of Indonesia, gave women here independence and a promising future. (12)

MEN LISTENING

The idea is simple: facilitators work with village leaders to identify problems and find solutions. (7)

Training in proposal writing and budget preparation helps to transform ideas into reality says leader, Esalek Lani. (8)

ESALEK ON-CAMERA

ESALEK: (In local dialect) M

‘We used to live in a traditional way. Women were under the control of men. With this project, women were able to farm in a group and we are grateful for this.’ (10)

NARRATION

WS FARMING

But this is not what the male village leaders had in mind. They didn’t want to change the role of women but they did want to make more money. (8)

CU FARMING

TRAINING

And as agriculture is their main source of income and women are the farmers, after three months of discussions, the men finally agreed to allow women to receive training in agricultural and financial management. (11)

SMILING WOMAN

After two years, for the first time women have their own bank accounts. (5)

MAGDA ON-CAMERA

MAGDA: (In local dialect) F

“Before, men made decisions about agriculture and when to plant the crops. Now we’re working as a women’s group, we make plans and decide how to work. We make our own decisions.” (14)

SELLING CROPS

NARRATION

Magda is making decisions beyond the group too. The money she earns from selling vegetables quadrupled her family’s income. Now she’s putting away cash for her son’s university studies. (12)

SERVING MEALS

As primary breadwinners, women are treated with respect and have far more independence in all aspects of their lives. (8)

MAGDA ON-CAMERA

MAGDA: (In local dialect) F

“I feel proud because our lives have changed so much and I am very happy.” (7)

BANANA FARMS

NARRATION

The project’s success comes from focusing on local needs rather than importing solutions from outside the region says IFAD’s programme manager, Ron Hartman. (10)

HARTMAN ON-CAMERA

HARTMAN: (In English) M

“Papua itself is quite a challenging environment. It’s very remote and culturally it is very different to other parts of Indonesia. And the difference that this project has made is that it’s tailored specifically for Papua and the populations therein. It uses the social structures that are actually on the ground rather than transposing something from outside on them. But the main point is that it supports the potentials that they have in agriculture which is so important for their livelihoods.” (27)

REAPING HARVEST

NARRATION

This pilot project is already operating in more than 200 villages in Papua, and may get much bigger. Based on its success, the Indonesian Government plans to replicate it across the country which would benefit tens of millions of people. (17)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Joanne Levitan for the United Nations. (4.5)