

## FIRE FREE VILLAGE PROGRAMME

### Ketapang, Indonesia

Traditional burning practices are common in agriculture to clear residue from the fertile peatlands before planting new crops. However, consisting of layers of decomposed organic materials, burning peatlands release greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Furthermore, fires often burn out of control, making vast areas useless for farming. The Fire Free Village Programme, an initiative that started in 2016 in West Kalimantan - Indonesia, aims at preventing fires through educational activities and by raising awareness about the negative impacts of land burning.

The three-stage programme run by the Golden Agri-Resources (GAR) organization, has supported communities in developing social and economic capabilities by a) introducing fire-free concepts and initiatives through awareness and engagement activities; b) providing capacity building, training programmes on ecological farming and incentives to adopt zero-burn targets; c) sharing best practices by creating a network of villages. In cooperation with the local government, GAR provides support and education to village communities and indigenous groups living in fire-prone areas, to minimise forest fires and haze.

The number of peat fires reduced dramatically - up to 90 per cent within the first 3 years, contributing significantly to a decrease in greenhouse gases emissions. Furthermore, the initiative has been replicated in neighbouring villages and at the national level. In 2017, the programme was expanded to include forest conservation and food security, on top of fire prevention and response.



**Golden Agri-Resources (GAR)**

<https://goldenagri.com.sg/desa-makmur-peduli-api-fire-free-programme-kalimantan/>

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