

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are important forest resources that can contribute to improving the welfare of communities living around forest areas. The Alue Simantok Community Forest (HKm) area in Bireuen Regency has various NTFP potentials that can be developed as sources of community income, including wild honey, jernang, rattan, and medicinal plants. However, the utilization of these resources still faces several challenges, particularly related to processing knowledge, value addition, product development, and strengthening community groups. This community service activity aimed to improve community capacity in identifying, utilizing, processing, and developing NTFPs productively and sustainably. The activity employed a participatory approach consisting of three main stages: identification and inventory of NTFP potential, NTFP processing training, and community group mentoring. The activities were conducted through field observation, discussions, counseling, demonstrations, processing practices, and mentoring. The results showed that the community gained improved knowledge and skills in NTFP utilization and began developing superior NTFP products based on local resources. Wild honey, jernang, rattan, and medicinal plants have opportunities to be developed into value-added products through improved processing, packaging, and marketing. Community group mentoring also contributed to strengthening local capacity in managing NTFP resources as productive economic activities. The main impacts of the activity were the emergence of opportunities to increase community income and the development of superior NTFP products in the area. NTFP development should be implemented sustainably by considering economic, social, and forest resource conservation aspects.

Keywords : community empowerment, non-timber forest products, community forest, NTFPs Alue Simantok

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