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Thursday, 8 April 2021,
10.00-12.30 WIT (GMT+9)

Papua's paradigm shift in forest uses

Exploring non-timber forest products for regional economic and local livelihood benefits

Papua's forests generate not only timber, but a multitude of forest products. With their high levels of biodiversity, Papua's forests generate important ecosystem services and non-timber forest products, the potential and uses of which have yet to be fully explored. Many of these NTFPs, including fruits, honey, agarwood (gaharu), resins, sago, leaves, rattans, bamboo and many others, are produced traditionally and used for subsistence, traded commercially, or even exported overseas. It is the time to change the forest use paradigm and pay more attention to how forests can be utilized, not only for generating regional revenues, but more importantly to benefit customary communities. NTFP potential has yet to be explored fully, and efforts are needed to overcome policy and technical challenges ahead.

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