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Title: *From Growing Food to Growing Cash: the impacts of oil palm production on local diets in Indonesia (SDG*



While the ecological impacts of deforestation for agricultural production are widely accepted, the transformation of rural landscapes also has profound impacts on other development goals, particularly food security and nutrition. The transition away from traditional agricultural production practices in Indonesia, characterized by the production of a myriad of foods in complex forested landscapes to monocultures of oil palm is changing diets profoundly. We present preliminary findings from a project carried out in Borneo, Indonesia to show how these changes in land use, social organization, and market integration are affecting local diets of women and young children.

West Kalimantan has experienced high rates of recent deforestation as its landscapes are being transformed by oil palm production. We randomly selected approximately 250 households with children under five, across 15 traditional swidden villages and 250 households across 18 oil palm villages in a district of West Kalimantan. We carried out dietary and anthropometric surveys of mothers and their oldest children under five in three seasons throughout 2017. We documented the source of each food consumed so that we can determine the relative contributions of forests, fallows, farms, and markets to local diets across the two groups as well as the nutritional quality of the foods coming from each source.

Preliminary results suggest that children who live in households practicing swidden cultivation eat more green leafy vegetables, meat, and fish than those who live in oil palm households. Children whose parents work in oil palm eat more packaged and processed foods purchased in the market. Preliminary findings suggest that these changes are due to a combination of factors including: less availability of wild foods in oil palm communities, less time available for mothers to cultivate green leafy vegetables, less time and area available for hunting in oil palm communities, and preferences for processed foods.

Deforestation for cash crop production is often deemed necessary to increase local incomes, but results presented here (as well as from other studies) suggest that not only do these transitions have negative ecological effects, but they can also have negative consequences on diets and nutrition.