



Season's Greetings 2013

Dear Colleagues, Supporters and Friends of IPNI Southeast Asia Program (SEAP)

Another year comes to an end and like so many times before, this is a moment to reflect on and to look back to months that seemingly have flown by. In appreciation of our association during the past year with you, everyone at the Southeast Asia office of IPNI extends our best wishes for an enjoyable year's end to you, your family and friends.

This year has seen IPNI SEAP strengthening its engagement in oil palm. And we are proudly supporting this industry. In 2013, we continued with our work in the Best Management Practices (BMP) All Growth Stages Project. We are now moving into the immature phase in our partner sites, with existing results that are coming out of the nursery phase. Our BMP Nutrition Project has completed its second year, and we have recently published first results at the PIPOC 2013. Our Plantation Intelligence Project, which is looking at innovative ways to analyze existing commercial information, is now moving at full swing, and is generating insights that will help partners to improve overall plantation management, specifically use of fertilization and labor. We are excited about the 2013 start up of a BMP Project in Ghana, West Africa, which we implement jointly with our friends of IPNI Africa.

We have opened an office in the Philippines!

Hosted by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), this is now our home for the successful Nutrient Expert Program that delivers 4R consistent nutrient management recommendations. The program is now engaged in Southeast Asia, China, India, and Africa, in rice, maize, and wheat. We are currently looking at the option to include sugar cane and cassava into the program.

The island of Sulawesi, Indonesia, is host to another start up program: sustainable intensification of cocoa. This program is rapidly developing into an innovative example for on farm research and development. Jointly implemented between IPNI SEAP and the Cocoa Care program of Community Solutions International, this endeavor leads to increased yields and improved quality of cocoa, thereby directly improving livelihoods of growers. The work with our growers is already generating valuable information on nutrient management in smallholder cocoa production systems.

The IPNI SEAP book portfolio has grown as well a little bit. The newest addition is a book on coffee quality management in the field. With this book IPNI SEAP has established itself as a member of the

coffee research and development community. We now look for opportunities to engage in coffee field projects. We are also looking forward to the publication of an interesting book BMP in oil palm. This book will be ready for you in early 2014. In 2013 we have commenced a new series on Press Releases that many of you may have seen. It was well received by readers.

Finally, in June IPNI SEAP hosted the annual global meeting of IPNI. This was a great opportunity to showcase Southeast Asian agriculture and our activities to the institute's staff. Some of you have helped in the preparations and during the meeting. We would like to once more extend our sincere gratitude to you.

At the close of another year, we thank you for your support, and sincerely wish you a prosperous 2014, On behalf of IPNI Southeast Asia Program Team

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'T. Oberthür', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Oberthür