

# NEWSLETTER

*Sustainable spices for a better future in agriculture*

Read **NOW!**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR 2019!**

The SpiceUp team wishes you a prosperous and successful year ahead. As we start another new year, join us as we launch our first SpiceUp Newsletter!

# Welcome

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This newsletter presents the first update of the SpiceUp project in Indonesia, including an introduction to some of our partners and the preparation of our initial steps toward developing a service platform for sustainable pepper farming.

Our initial work covers the preparation of the baseline survey to identify the issues and needs of pepper farmer communities, and the mapping of potential stakeholders that need to be included to strengthen our services.

If you'd like to share your thoughts and opinions regarding anything you read in our newsletters, we'd be happy to hear it. You can contact us via the details below.

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## News & Updates

### PREPARATION OF TECHNICAL DESIGN OF SPICEUP SERVICES

SpiceUp contains four major services: Fertilizer and Disease Prevention Recommendations, Irrigation Management Advices, Good Agricultural Practices, and Traceability. All of these services will be provided based on different inputs from both the field and satellite data. The data is made available by the different partners involved in the SpiceUp project. The

technical design of the service is necessary in order to convert the data into valuable information/ recommendations for our end users, which includes farmers and B2B clients.

SpiceUp's technical partners (Verstegen, ICCO, Nelen & Schuurmans, Vandersat, PT.CAN, IPB, Balitro, Akvo), gathered at a series of meetings to ensure everyone has the same level of understanding and to discuss the role and responsibilities of each

partner. These meetings were very important at the start of the project, before moving forward to the technical development of SpiceUp services.

### SOIL TEST SURVEY BY IPB

The soil test is a necessary step for one of our services: fertilizer recommendations. To be able to provide users with accurate advice on the nutrients needed, we must measure the nutrients contained in the soil, and



in the plant itself. Soil tests start with collecting soil samples in selected SpiceUp areas with two layers of depth (0–30cm and 30–60cm). The soil sample is then measured in IPB’s Soil Lab to identify both macro and micro nutrients. The results of the lab test will be used as a benchmark for further soil recommendations under the SpiceUp services.

As an initial step, IPB as part of the SpiceUp team, conducted soil tests in select locations in Bangka and Belitung islands. The results from these soil tests will be used for fertilizer recommendations

provided to farmers by the SpiceUp platform. These recommendations will include the dosage of fertilizer and when to apply it, by referring to information on plot location and the crop stage. User specific recommendation(s) will be delivered to the farmer through different tools such as an SMS service and/or mobile App.

### **DEMONSTRATION PLOT PREPARATION**

The Demonstration Plot (or ‘Demo Plot’) is an area of around 1 Ha dedicated to the application of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for pepper farming

under SpiceUp. The process of pepper planting in the demo plot starts with the initial phase of land clearing, seed preparation and finally planting. There will be four demo plots under SpiceUp, one in each province.

Aside from the demo plots, SpiceUp will also assist selected farmers (“champion farmers”) to start complying with the GAP. It is expected that with the good practices adopted by the champion farmers, together with the demo plot results, SpiceUp will be able to show other farmers how to grow pepper with efficient inputs and increased yields.

At the moment, the first demo plot is being prepared in Namang Village, Bangka Island. Because the demo plot will be prepared with advice from SpiceUp, the demo plot will function as both a display of good practices (GAP) in pepper plantations, as well as a test farm for the SpiceUp platform before it is launched to the public.

# Baseline Process Started

*Work Package 4 is focusing on tracking results. We finalized an M&E plan in September 2018, indicating all steps that will be taken in the coming years. One of the first action points of our plan is to get the baseline going - a crucial step that allows for measuring our progress over time. Until now, we have collected data in the Bangka area, while the process of collecting data in Lampung and Kalimantan is still ongoing.*

## Several steps were taken to collect the baseline:

1. The key indicators of the original SpiceUp proposal were translated into a survey that we conducted among potential beneficiaries. Examples of these indicators are the number of farmers that have an improved income at the end of the project and optimized fertilizer use. Although this sounds easy, it is pretty complicated in practice.
2. We made a sampling strategy. We wanted to make sure that enough women and people of various age groups were interviewed, we wanted to avoid bias in answers and we wanted to keep the costs reasonable. This led to cluster sampling in districts with the most pepper farmers; then

we did a simple random sampling to pick sub-districts, villages and persons.

3. We collected the data and analyzed it. The data was used in work package meetings to further finetune the design of the information service and to understand the needs, wishes and backgrounds of the farmers. Of course, these figures have to be treated with caution since Bangka is only the first area that is covered and the other locations may show different results.

## Lessons Learned so far:

- It's advantageous to have spread the baseline for the four provinces over time. The lessons from Bangka, for example, the spread of villages, the way data is collected, etc., can be taken up in Lampung and

Kalimantan.

- Using the outcome of the data in Focus Group Discussions was helpful to get a better understanding of the issues pepper farmers face.
- Plotting data on maps helped discover spatial patterns. For example, certain pests & diseases are present in some specific areas.
- Reality differs from theory. For example, farmer lists were not easily obtained, distances were large, and enumerators weren't always using the tool(s) correctly. Some of these we could have foreseen, but probably not all. Therefore, you need to always plan for adaptations.



SPICEUP

# Our Partners

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SpiceUp is made of a consortium of eight public and private partners from Indonesia and the Netherlands, including: Verstegen Spices & Sauces BV, ICCO Cooperation, Nelen & Schuurmans (N&S), VanderSat, Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Akvo, PT. Cinquer Agro Nusantara (PT CAN), and Balitro.



## VERSTEGEN

Verstegen has been a major player in the food sector since the company was founded in 1886.

The family company manufactures and sells quality spices and sauces to every segment of the food sector. Quality, food safety, sustainability and CSR are therefore their core values.

Verstegen is primarily a Dutch company with several offices in the EU and Indonesia, with over 350 employees worldwide. Verstegen has had an active sustainable sourcing strategy and policy for years. The target for 2025 is to become the most sustainable spice company in the world. For more information, please visit: [www.verstegen.eu](http://www.verstegen.eu).



## ICCO COOPERATION

ICCO Cooperation is a global NGO that works towards a world without poverty and injustice. ICCO has over 50 years of experience in development and works in 36 countries supporting programs that contribute to ICCO's two core principles: securing sustainable livelihoods & justice and dignity for all.

Together with its partners, ICCO's interventions focus on responsible business, inclusive markets and sustainable food production and consumption and utilizes a variety of approaches. For more information, please visit: [www.icco-cooperation.org](http://www.icco-cooperation.org).



## PT. CINQUER AGRO NUSANTARA (PT CAN)

PT. Cinquer Agro Nusantara (PT CAN), a local partner of Verstegen in Bangka and manages their plantation, is a company dedicated to providing high quality spices for consumers, which is tied to their respect for the environment and the farmers they work with. Supported with the CAN Traceability System, every spice they deliver is supplemented with detailed information on its journey from farm to table. Experienced in GAP training for farmers. For more information, please visit: <http://cinquer.co.id/>.

# Our Project Managers

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**EVERT JAN VERSCHUREN**

The idea of SpiceUp was initiated by Evert-Jan with the help of ICCO in 2017. Evert-Jan has worked in the spice industry since 2008. In 2013, he moved from the Netherlands to Indonesia and is responsible for the projects of Verstegen in Indonesia and Asia. Evert-Jan was, and still is, involved in setting up the Sustainable Spice Initiative from IDH in 2011. His responsibility and experiences outside of projects are in purchasing and vendor assurance. Evert-Jan studied Food Science and Business Administration in the Netherlands.



**FAKHRURRAZI (RAZI)**

Razi joined ICCO Cooperation in May 2018 when he was appointed as the Country Project Manager of SpiceUp. He has extensive experiences in Spatial Planning with a strong background in working with GIS and remote sensing data, especially on the issue of sustainable landscape management and land use development. Razi is based in the ICCO Southeast Asia Regional Office in Denpasar, Bali. He has a background in project management and has worked in UN Agencies for various human development programs in Indonesia.

***You can learn more about the other consortium partners and fellow team members in our upcoming newsletters. Subscribe to our mailing list [here](#).***

# Achievements and Focus

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## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN Q1

Below is an overview of the progress of the main activities in Q1:

1. SpiceUp services have been introduced to the government at local and national levels. The project team aims to seek good collaboration of services for sustainable pepper farming from different stakeholders in the region.
2. GAP for pepper is developed by Balitro, and sent to Nelen & Schuurmans for further converted into a more interactive format in SpiceUp services
3. Farmer facilitators network established by PT.CAN, facilitators will work with champion farmer and group of farmers in different villages in all SpiceUp area.
4. Curriculum for GAP training is set. PT.CAN will work with Balitro to develop training module base on GAP advices
5. Technical design of SpiceUp services developed. All partners involved understand each role and responsibilities. Milestones of each partners task has been compiled for further progress monitoring and evaluation purposes.
6. Soil test for Bangka and Belitung islands is done. IPB is now finalizing the result of the laboratory test and working on producing soil nutrient maps for Bangka and Belitung island
7. Dedicated SpiceUp platform in the Lizard is set and first link to satellite data from Vandersat is now available in the platform.
8. Setting up API connection between PT.CAN farmer database to Akvo and Lizard
9. Data acquisition plan agreed by partners and Nelen & Schuurmans as work package coordinator will oversee the progress of data input to the SpiceUp platform.
10. Baseline survey conducted in Bangka island, the baseline survey is a combination of one-on-one interview with farmer and focus group discussion with group of farmers in different villages in Bangka.
11. The analysis of baseline results for Bangka and Lampung have been completed and some recommendations are now available based on these surveys.
12. SpiceUp is in close discussion with potential stakeholders in order to extend SpiceUp services to a more comprehensive package.

## OUR FOCUS FOR Q2

Based on the current progress in Q1, the project still has plenty of work to do in the



coming years. The focus for Q2 will be on:

1. Strengthening the coordination with ministerial, provincial and district governments, and identify potential for project collaboration.
2. Developing publication materials (Facebook, Instagram, Website, Video, Photo documentation etc.)
3. Continuing the progress of the demo plots, including the preparation of seed planting (end Dec 2018)
4. Finalizing the training curriculum and training materials for key farmers and farmers.
5. Developing the first mockup of SpiceUp platform.
6. Fill the SpiceUp LIZARD portal with satellite information and local data from partners, and develop prototypes of the services.
7. Improving coordination between WPs.
8. Finalizing the API connection between the PT. CAN database to Akvo and Lizard
9. Completing the Baseline survey for Lampung and Kalimantan
10. Develop value propositions for SpiceUp and continue with business development discussions with potential stakeholders.



SPICEUP

# STAY TUNED!

Issue 02 will be coming out in April. You can subscribe to our mailing list [here](#) so you don't miss out on receiving the latest news and updates from SpiceUp. You can also follow us on social media for more timely updates.

If you have any questions or comments for our project team, you can contact us at any time.

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