Regreening is the main objective of Indonesia’s watershed conservation program conducted on critical farmers’ land through farmers’ participation. Initiated in 1976 by a Presidential Instruction the program has the following objectives:

- Watershed resource conservation
- Farmers’ prosperity improvement (productivity increase)

Regreening, executed by the district-level Forestry and Conservation Service, encompasses:

- Village-level demonstration
- Nursery of tree crops and grasses
- Community forest
- Mixed garden
- Check dam
- Gully plug

The main effort is spent on the demonstration units and village nurseries.

Each demonstration area is established on about 100 ha of farmers’ land involving a group of 20 to 50 farmers. Participating farmers receive: technical guidance, subsidized seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, and partial labor payments. In about 100 ha ‘impact area’ surrounding each demonstration unit, farmers receive tree seedlings originated from the village nursery and technical guidance one year after the establishment of demonstration units. In 500 to 1000 ha ‘outer area’, farmers only receive guidance from extension workers and on their own are expected to imitate the conservation practices as conducted in the demonstration unit.

The most common measures demonstrated in the 10 ha area are

- Tree planting: 100 trees/ha for land with slopes <25 %, 200 trees/ha for land with slopes 25-40 %, and >400 trees/ha for land with slopes >40%
- Bench terracing or terrace improvement
- Grass strip on terrace lips
- Drainage line and drop structures

Serious erosion on steep hill slopes cleared by slash-and-burn for new rubber planting in Jambi (Sumatra)....

In general, farmers’ adoption in the impact and the outer areas has been very low and this is attributed to a mismatch between farmers’ production orientation and the government’s environmental objectives, and to the different levels of subsidies between the demonstration unit and the outer areas.

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