

The disaster of development: How womens empowerment projects are damaging Indonesian smallholder farming, rural families, and the environment

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Abstrak

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Ecofeminism, or ecological feminism, is based on a belief that the social mentality that leads to the domination and oppression of women is directly connected to the social mentality that leads to the abuse of the natural environment. This paper, based on field assessments conducted from March - June 2013, will show that agricultural development models focused on income generation, as most of the women in agriculture projects are, are based on gender strategies that instrumentalize women to achieve productivity goals. These ideological hierarchies that instrumentalize women, also allow for the systematic domination of industry over smallholder farmers, and commodities over food security. In conclusion, these combined strategies are leading to the degradation of both rural, agricultural families and rural ecology in Indonesia.