

# **Kemiri (*Aleurites moluccana*) and Forest Resource Management in Eastern Indonesia: An Ecohistorical Perspective**

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*with economic development, "encroachment" of forest area raised complicated issues. As the local people, whichever they are native or migrants, began to open the forest areas for agricultural purposes, the Government of South Sulawesi was forced to adjust the border of the forest area and also to launch a new policy called "Pola Sul-Sel" for stabilizing the encroachment, under which agricultural activities became to be legally recognized if they would be combined with the plantation of useful trees, such as kemiri, even in the forest area.*

*As these cases show, kemiri is considered to have been an important "foot print," with which we can learn the process of political ecology of the forests adjacent to agricultural lands in Eastern Indonesia.*

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## **Abstract**

***K****emiri, *Aleurites moluccana*, is one of important useful plants in the Indonesian archipelago. It has been grown for commercial purposes, in particular, in tropical monsoon climate regions and played important roles in sustaining everyday life of the people in Eastern Indonesia. It has been utilized for various purposes; lipid-rich seed is used as materials for lighting, cooking and medicines, and trunk as timber. Most of the production is currently exported to Surabaya for local consumption, while a part of it is exported for abroad.*

*In addition to such economic purposes, attention is paid to its role in the field of rehabilitation of forest areas in Eastern Indonesia. There were two epoch-making periods in relation to kemiri plantation; one in the colonial and the other in the New Order period. In South Sulawesi, the Dutch forestry agency recommended planting of kemiri in the 1920's and 1930's for the rehabilitation of abandoned fields of shifting cultivation. This was the first encounter of the people with the government's forest policy in the region. Under the New Order regime, in accordance*