

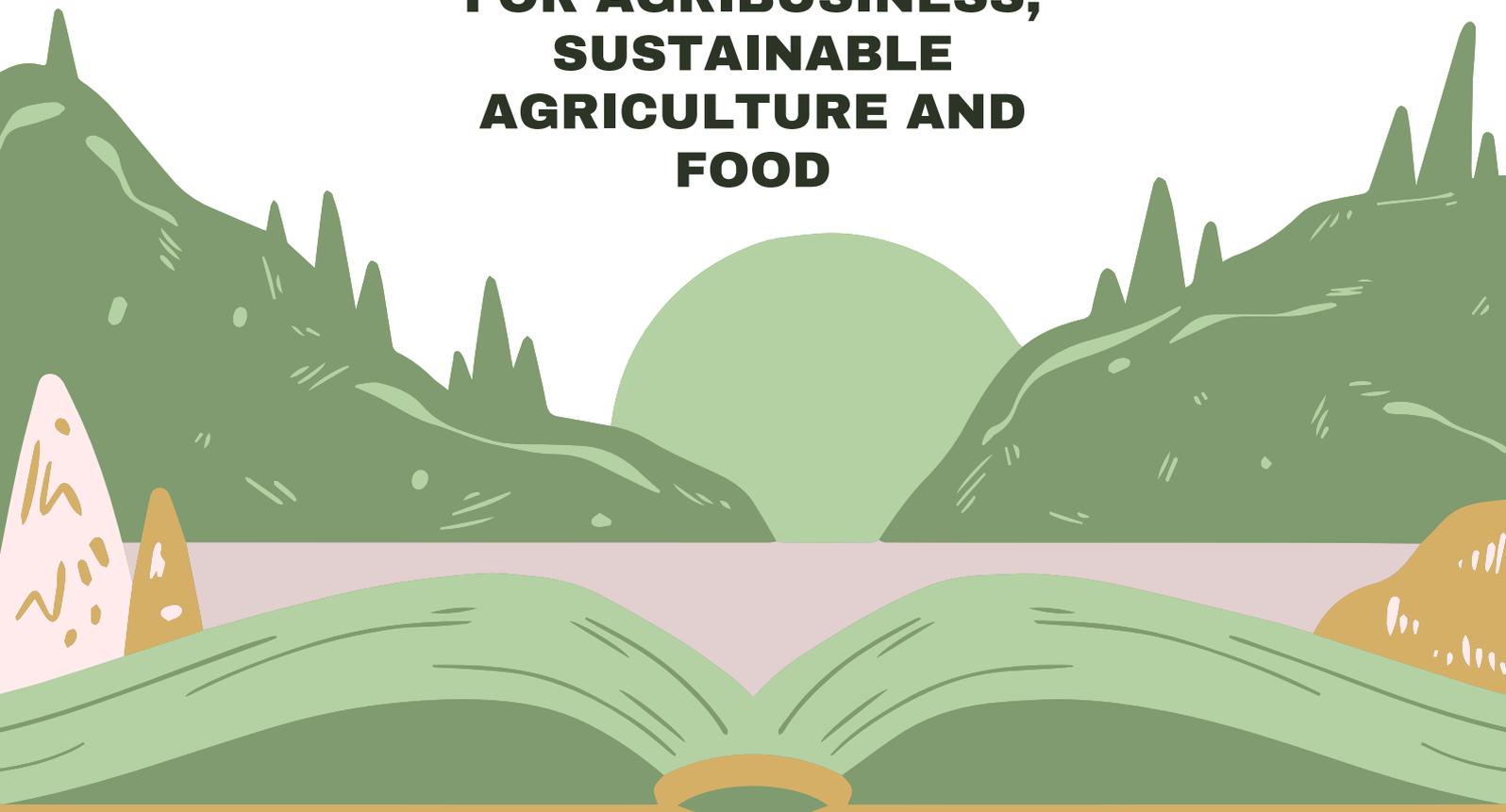


A PROJECT CONCEPT

FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF

“PUNTHUK SEWU” VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

**FOR AGRIBUSINESS,
SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE AND
FOOD**





Country Context

Poverty and agriculture are two vital issues in Indonesia's development. Agriculture is the sector that contributes the most to the national poverty rate in Indonesia. Referring to data from the Indonesian Central Bureau of Statistics, in 2021, 51.33% of poor households in Indonesia depended on the agricultural sector. This figure has increased from the 2019 BPS data, which shows that 49.14% of poor families were farming households. This 2021 data showed that half of the poor households in Indonesia were smallholder families. Referring to the 2023 Agricultural Census (BPS, 2023), the number of smallholders in Indonesia increased compared to the 2014 census results. Smallholders in Indonesia reached 16.89 million households in 2023, up 18.45% from 2013 when there were 14.25 million smallholders.

Furthermore, the number of young farmers in Indonesia has declined since 2010. If it continues, this decline is estimated to have a vast impact on food security and inflation caused by the scarcity of food sources. Research by the People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty (KRKP, 2017) revealed that young people were increasingly less likely to participate in agriculture and animal husbandry. The KRKP survey showed that most farmers were over 30 years old (96.45 percent), and only 3.35 percent were under 30.



Another important topic that impacts smallholders is the ecological crisis caused by global warming. The Ministry of National Development Planning (PPN) estimates that the climate crisis could cost the agricultural sector up to IDR 500 trillion in 2020-2024 (Kompas, 2023). Climate change has caused a crisis among farmers, as indicated by the higher risk of losses and high farming costs. Global warming has implications for changes in climate aspects, such as humidity and atmospheric dynamics.

These changes result in shifts in rainfall and more extreme climate anomalies (MOA, 2023). In addition, climate change significantly impacts floods and droughts, changes in the resilience of crops and domesticated animals, and the development of pests, weeds, and agricultural pathogens (UNSC, 2023; Burrit, 2019). Kusumasari (2016) explained that the ecological and climate crisis has increased agricultural costs by up to 50%. This situation impacts the decline in the value of farmers' profits by up to 25%. These aspects retain smallholder groups vulnerable to poverty.

Statistics Indonesia (BPS) states that farmers earn about Rp 55,503 (US\$3.44) daily. This is the lowest revenue compared to other working sectors, such as construction workers, who earn IDR 887.737 (US\$54,58) daily. The total monthly farmers' revenue for 30 working days is below the lowest provincial minimum wage of Central Java, which is the province with the lowest UMP in 2025. The total minimum wage for Central Java for 2025 is IDR 2,169,349 (US\$133,37), while the average monthly revenue of the farmers monthly is IDR 1,680,000 (US\$103,29).



One approach to alleviating poverty among farmers is to improve access to education. Education is a long-term investment with the most potential to break the cycle of poverty. Access to high-quality primary education and supporting child well-being are globally recognized solutions to the cycle of poverty.

Improving access to education means providing affordable, quality education to disadvantaged groups, including smallholders. By getting adequate education, children and youth from disadvantaged groups can expand their opportunities to acquire decent jobs, become entrepreneurs, or develop more modern agribusinesses that increase their income in the future.



Challenges

Poverty in Indonesia significantly impacts education, and persistent education disadvantage negatively impacts life outcomes. Poverty is globally recognized as reducing opportunities for disadvantaged groups to invest adequately in education.

Youth and children living in poverty often have fewer resources at home to complete study or engage in activities that help them succeed during primary education and future. They often cannot afford educational expenses such as school fees, books, uniforms, and transportation. Many are forced to drop out of school or do not receive adequate education. In some cases, children are even forced to work to help earn income for their families.

This situation creates a cycle of intergenerational poverty among low-income families in Indonesia, especially in rural areas. Schools in rural areas generally still have limited quality, including teachers' quality, infrastructure adequacy, and access to knowledge sources.

Existing and running Initiatives

Since 2019 INFEST INFEST Foundation since has been delivering various activities in empowering disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including women groups, youth, smallholders and students. Under Economic Development program, we provide a wide range of empowerment activities, such as technical training for business and commodities production, supporting the establishment of small-scale village level community business units, provide supporting seed grant for communities.

We have operated a small-scale training center that serves as an educational facility for our beneficiary groups. It provides regular training for the livestock management and regenerative farming for smallholders, small business development for women and youth, financial literacy and other technical skills.

Additionally, it serves as well as an informal school for regular class on science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) and local values for children around training center.



Women Economic Empowerment Program

We have conducted series of trainings and capacity building for women to enhance their livelihood.

Sustainable regenerative farming

We also delivered series trainings for smallholder groups on sustainable organic and regenerative farming. The beneficiaries also received field technical assistance to apply the knowledge the gained from the training.



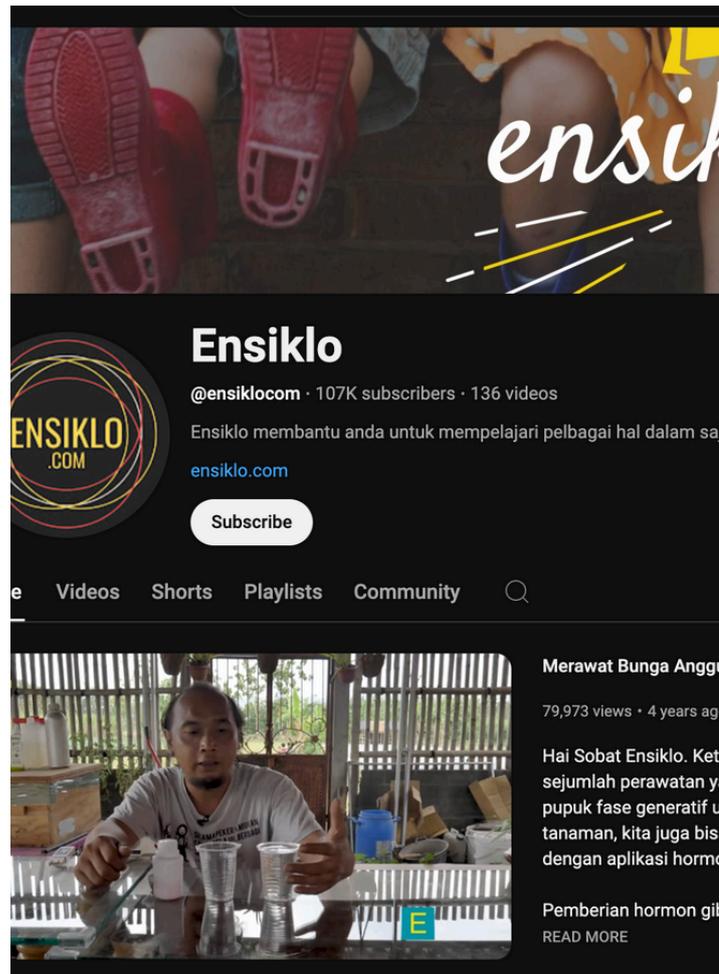


Young Entrepreneur Support Program

We provide trainings for young farmers to adapt new technology and farming approach.

Knowledge management for agriculture

We produce series thematic videos on sustainable agriculture and livestock management and share them on our youtube channel called Ensiklo. This channel has already have moren than 100k subscribers. We already have about 45 million hours watching time.



STEAM and local wisdom class for children

We provide regular class for the children to learn about science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) and local values to support their period of development.

EXISTING FACILITIES



Small open auditorium for training space



New constructed building for office, classroom and residence



Our Future Dream

“Our dream is to build and operate a modern and well-equipped training center, serves as vocational school and community learning facility to improve disadvantaged groups capacity and welfare”



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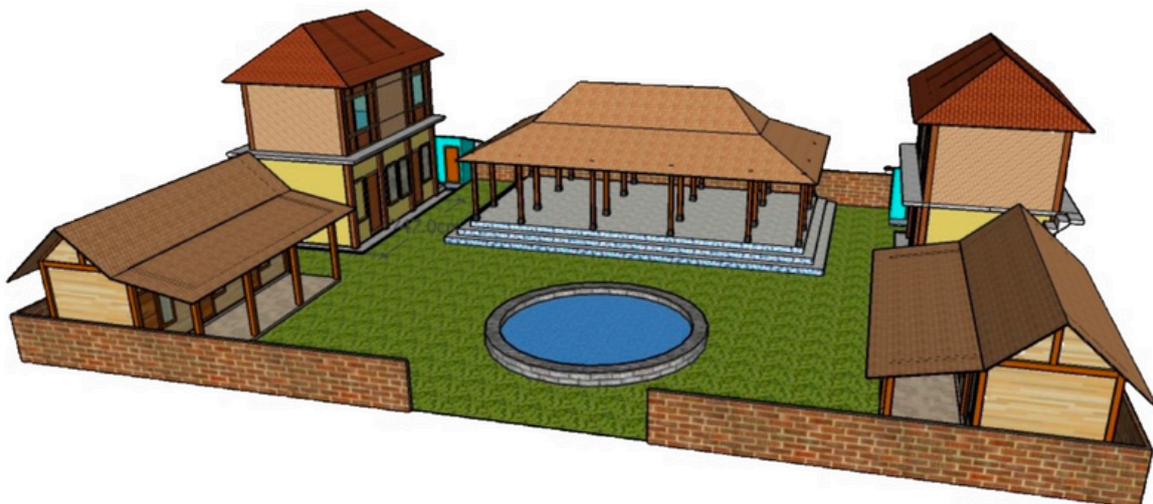


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PROJECT GOAL AND OUTPUTS



Project Goal

The project aims to provide high-quality, well-equipped vocational education facilities accessible to underprivileged youth, smallholder and other disadvantaged groups. The school aims to address disadvantaged youth's educational and skill gaps, empowering them with the essential tools to guide successful and fulfilling lives. A better and holistic education approach and training will break the cycle of poverty and create opportunities for a brighter future.



Objectives

- Providing access to quality vocational education on agriculture to underprivileged youth and smallholder groups, bridging the educational divide and promoting lifelong learning;
- Delivering vocational training programs that provide young individuals with marketable skills, increasing their employability and income potential;
- Facilitating the development of crucial life skills, such as communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and emotional intelligence;
- Promoting entrepreneurship and financial literacy, which enable youth to become self-reliant and contribute to economic growth;

Output:

The project output is a functional vocational school and training center providing tailored trainings to capacitate youth, women, smallholder and other disadvantaged groups.



Education and training make individuals employable and help them gain access to decent work and escape poverty and marginalization. Education and training also improve individuals' productivity and income-earning opportunities at work and their mobility in the labour market, and widen their choice of career opportunities.



Quality Education: The school will provide formal education programs aligned with national curriculum standards and other informal training. We employ dedicated teachers and apply modern teaching methodologies to ensure effective learning outcomes.



Vocational Training: We offer various vocational training programs in agriculture, including animal husbandry and crop farming. The programs also provide students with complementary skills, such as business management, computer and internet literacy.

CONCEPT OF SCHOOL



Soft Skills Development:

We support student with additional valuable soft-skills workshops and training sessions to enhance crucial individual competencies such as communication, problem-solving, decision-making, leadership, teamwork, gender sensitivity, and emotional intelligence.



Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy: We will enhance an entrepreneurial mindset among the youth, delivering workshops on business planning, financial management, marketing, and resource mobilization.



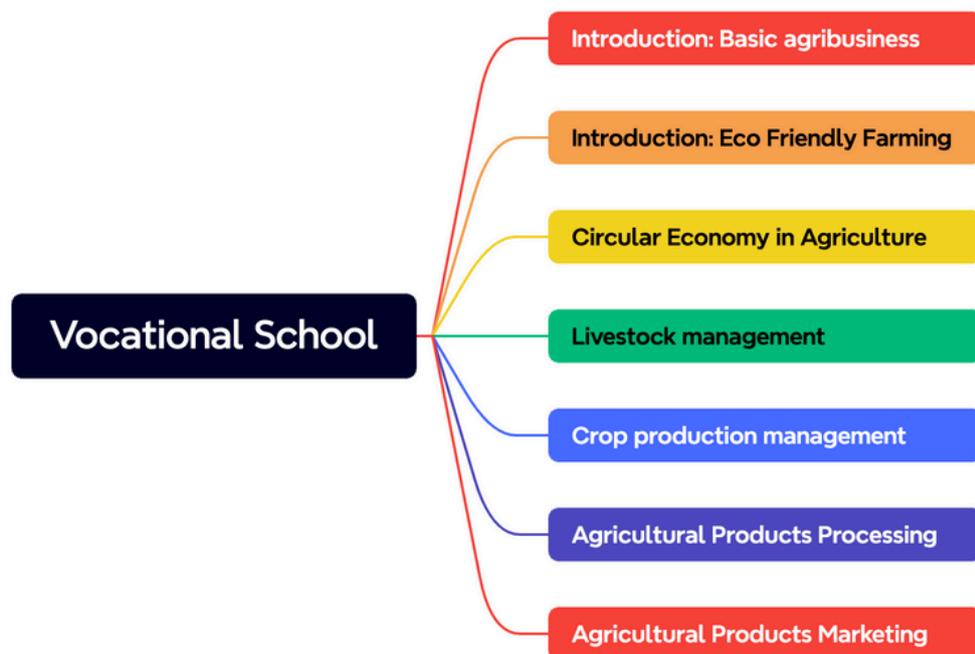
Psychosocial Support: We recognize the diverse needs of underprivileged youth from various personal backgrounds. Therefore, we will provide psychosocial support, such as counseling services, mentoring programs, and support groups, to address the beneficiaries' mental health situations and support their growth.

CONCEPT OF SCHOOL



In this phase the foundation has prepared a vocational education curriculum in agriculture and animal husbandry to strengthen the capacity of trainees from smallholder or disadvantaged youth groups. We developed a science-based curriculum that has been tested and implemented since 2020. In the future, the school may extend to provide other life skills education, such as computer programming, visual design, carpentry, culinary arts, and others.

The figure below describes the list of the curriculum's major topics:



LONG TERM IMPACT



This project is a long-term social investment in preparing a new generation of farmers in Indonesia who have the capacity to manage agriculture in a modern, ecological, science-based method that is adaptive to climate change. The capacity will improve employability, productivity, and the market values of the commodities the trainees produce.

We expect the capacity acquired from education in our vocational schools to improve the welfare of individuals and families of smallholders and alleviate poverty among smallholders in the future.



Sustainability

We have organized a well-designed sustainability plan that helps foster long-term success and positive impacts for this vocational schools and alumni. We will adopt these following actions maintain the school and support the alumni:

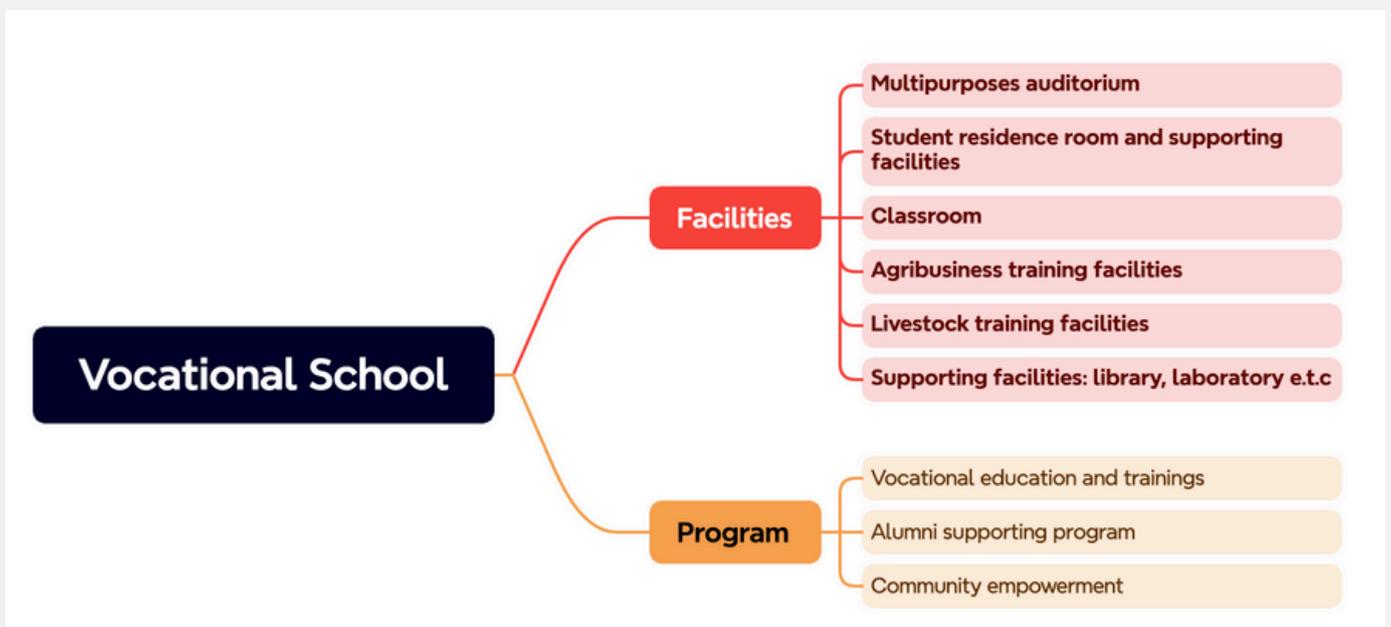
- Engaging the local communities and alumni network to contribute resources, volunteer services, and mentorship opportunities;
- Establishing income-generating initiatives within the center, such as a vocational training service unit or a small-scale enterprise run by graduates;
- Establishing a cooperative to facilitate alumni in producing agricultural commodities and market them to further grown markets.
- Collaborating with government agencies, other foundations, and corporations for financial support and resource mobilization.



Development Plan



This project will support the Foundation in completing the construction of vocational education facilities to complement our existing and limited training facilities. We already have several small-scale facilities, including a small auditorium for training, sheep farming facilities, and organic farming.



Our Focus



Education and Capacity Building



Economic Empowerment



Regenerative Farming



Climate Resilience



Circular Economy



Knowledge Management



Estimated Cost of Construction Plan

No	Project Component	Estimated Cost (US \$)
1	Multipurposes auditorium	26.946
2	Education registration process	1.500
3	Student residence room	32.000
4	Classroom	35,000
5	Toilets, sanitary facilities and waste processing unit	7.078
6	Electricity installation including new renewable energy station	7.500
7	Dedicated road access to school	15.832
8	Agribusiness training facilities	34.706
9	Resources for STEM Education (library, laboratory, computer supplies, etc.)	78.558
10	Livestock management training facilities	35,000
11	High quality educators	18.162
12	Clean water and nutritious meals	25,000
13	Alumni support programs	25.000
	Total estimated budget	\$ 359,121

**Yayasan Lembaga Kajian Pengembangan Pendidikan,
Sosial, Agama dan Kebudayaan (INFEST)**



**Jl. Wonocatur Gg. Menur No.456, RT.11/RW.35,
Banguntapan, Kec. Banguntapan, Bantul, Daerah
Istimewa Yogyakarta, Indonesia
55198.**

**yayasan@infest.or.id
website: <https://infest.or.id>**

