Triangle Banana Exploration Report, North Sulawesi and North Maluku, Indonesia. 6-24 October 2012

Catur Hermanto¹, Edison HS², Fitriana Nasution², Riska², Erik Malia³, Nofriarjasri⁴, Jeff Daniells⁵, Agus Sutanto² and Yusdar Hilman⁶ ¹AIAT, Medan, ²ITFRI, Solok Sumatra, ³AIAT North Sulawesi, ⁴AIAT North Maluku, ⁵Agri-Science Queensland, ⁶ICHORD Jakarta,













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Agus Sutanto, Indonesian Tropical Fruit Research Institute (ITFRI) and Jeff Daniells, Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

Introduction

At the inaugural *Musa*Net meeting held in Montpellier in 2011 the 'Genetic diversity, taxonomy and characterisation' thematic group recommended as highest priority the exploration and collection of Musa germplasm within the triangle East Kalimantan - Maluku- Lesser Sunda Islands of Indonesia. This region was expected to be particularly rich as it is just to the east of the 'Wallace Line' and is recognized as a transition zone for flora in southeast Asia. We report here on the first collecting mission in this triangle which took place in North Sulawesi and North Maluku from 7-22 October 2012.

The collecting team consisted of Edison and Fitriana Nasution (Indonesian tropical fruit crop taxonomists), Riska (Indonesian Plant Pathologist) and Jeff Daniells (International banana taxonomy authority). Regional AIAT officers that accompanied us were Erik Malia (AIAT North Sulawesi) and Nofriarjasri (AIAT North Maluku). There had been some last minute changes to the team owing to the unavailability of Catur Hermanto and Agus Sutanto but despite this the mission proceeded smoothly and the team worked very well together.

Objectives of Mission

The main objective of our mission was to locate and collect 'new' banana germplasm (wild and cultivated) that could be utilized by banana breeding programs around the world to develop hybrids with stable resistance to major banana diseases.

The expected 'harvest' from the triangle was as follows (Edmond de Langhe pers. comm. 2011).

- 1. Unexplored wild AA ssp/varieties that should provide new alleles in banana breeding.
- 2. Unique edible AA derivatives/hybrids of 1.
- 3. Australimusa species and domesticated forms.
- 4. Original (basic) AAB African Plantain hybrids.
- 5. Unknown AAB/ABB.

The basic approach taken was liaison by ITFRI with regional AIAT to provide regional expertise and assistance with collecting. New banana germplasm was mostly located by visits to local fruit markets, driving/ 'spotting' along roadsides and discussions with 'town leaders'/local authorities. Once an interesting plant was located and we had the okay from 'owners' to go ahead and collect we morphologically characterized it using the list of minimum descriptors and including the set of photographs recommended by Bioversity's Taxonomy Advisory Group. Up to 8 suckers were dug and labeled for later cleaning, trimming, drying, boxing and eventual dispatch to ITFRI Solok, West Sumatra. Where possible, 3 of these suckers were left with AIAT to be planted in regional collections in Manado (North Sulawesi) and Sofifi (North Maluku).

We also collected cigar leaf samples of each accession and sent these as fresh samples to the International Banana Genotyping Centre in the Czech Republic. Their ploidy has subsequently been determined (fresh cigar leaf samples only) as well as DNA profiles to add value in the short-term to the morphological descriptors obtained whilst collecting. This aspect of the mission was all possible because of actions taken following discussions at the '*Musa*Net Diversity working group meeting and a consultation meeting on the use of Musa wild relatives for pre-breeding' held in Bogor in July 2012.

Propagating materials (suckers and seeds) were collected and forwarded to ITFRI in Solok, West Sumatra, to be grown-on, virus indexed and tissue cultured for supply to the International Transit Centre in 2013. As well as collecting germplasm we also collected banana disease samples including *Foc* (vascular strands) to further broaden our knowledge of the location of various VCG groups in Indonesia.

What We Collected

We dug suckers of 23 accessions and also collected seeds from 8 of these accessions – see list below. Minimum descriptor photos (<u>http://www.bioversityinternational.org/fileadmin/bioversity/publications/pdfs/1440_Methodologies%20for%20the%20Assessment%20of%2022%20crops.pdf?cache=1312394634</u>) of each and general passport data for these are available separately from Bioversity International. We have also prepared 2 working documents – 'The banana varieties of North Sulawesi – A work in progress' and 'The banana varieties seen (not just those collected) as well as brief classification information. These are meant to be working guides to assist banana variety identification in those regions – giving something back to the regions visited.

Genome	Name ⁷	Code	Classification	Other
Eumusa				
AA	Mas Manado	Sup ¹ . 1	$2x^4$	
	Roa/Cakalang [Small Roa]	$MDO^{3} 005 (M4)^{2}$	2x	
	Boki/Muli Kuning	MLU 002 (H2)	2x	yellow variant
	Batu	MLU 007 (H7)	2x	
	Raja Batu	MLU 015 (H11)	2x; AB?	
	Roa Besar [Big Roa]	MDO 007 (M7)	2x	
	Gaba-gaba Putih	MLU 013 (H10)	2x	~ MLU 005 (H5)
	Putih ⁵	MLU 005 (H5)	2x	~ MLU 013 (H10)
	Spiral/Libod	MDO 001 (M6)	2x	
	Tako Api⁵	MLU 001 (H1)	2x	~ MLU 016 (H12)
	Goba	MLU 016 (H12)	2x	~ MLU 001 (H1)
AAA	Pinang	MDO 002 (M1)	3x	
	Sangate	MLU 008 (H8)		
	Masak semalam/Papan	Sup. 3	3x	
AAB	Goroho Merah	MDO 004 (M3)	3x	
	Mora	MLU 006 (H6)		
	No name available	Sup. 2		Roti
ABB	No name available	MLU 017		Bluggoe subgroup
Wild Eumusa				
acuminata	Yaki 1	MDO 003 (M2) ⁶	2x	
acuminata	Yaki 1A	MDO 003A (Seed 1) ^{6}	2x	
acuminata	Yaki 2	MDO 006 (M5/Seed 2)		
acuminata	Yaki 3	MDO 008 (Seed 3)		
acuminata	Kawasi	MLU 004 (H4/Seed 5)		
acuminata	Kawasi	MLU 014 (Seed 7)		
Wild Australi	musa			
lolodensis	No name available	MLU 003 (H3/Seed 4)		Ngopo?

Table 1. List of banana germplasm collected

Genome	Name ⁷	Code	Classification	Other
lolodensis	No name available	MLU 009 (Seed)		
lolodensis	No name available	MLU 010 (H9/Seed 6)	2x	
lolodensis	No name available	MLU 011 (suckers)	2x	
lolodensis	No name available	MLU 012	2x	

¹ Supplementary – not fully characterized as already held/previously in Solok

² Daniells, 27 November 2012 draft collection codes

- ³ MDO = Manado, the code used for North Sulawesi accessions; MLU = Maluku, the code used for North Maluku
- ⁴ Ploidy in brackets confirmed by flow cytometry analysis at the International Banana Genotyping Centre in the Czech Republic
- ⁵ Name of 'Swangi Putih' and 'Gabar' used in Daniells' November 2012 report draft incorrect
- ⁶ Seed (Seed#) and/or suckers (M# or H#) collected
- ⁷ 'Pisang' is commonly used when referring to bananas throughout North Sulawesi and North Maluku. However, 'Bole' is the traditional name used by the Galela, Tobelo and Kao peoples of Halmahera and 'Koi' is the traditional name used in Ternate.

Notably we have collected suckers and fruit of the 2 different *M. acuminata* encountered – from North Sulawesi we have what was named *M.a.var. tomentosa* by Nasution (1991) and from North Maluku (island of Halmahera) *M.a.* var. *acuminata* Nasution (1991). The other wild species collected was *M. lolodensis* from Halmahera described previously by Nasution (1993). Interestingly a smaller form of *lolodensis* was being cultivated in parts of Halmahera for traditional medicinal purposes. Initially there was some identification confusion with Abaca (*M. textilis*) until male buds were located which resembled *lolodensis* – there was no strong bract imbrication as is the case for *textilis*. Our collecting of seed and suckers of wild species on this mission was greatly limited by availability of mature bunches and access to plants including suckers because of the generally very steep jungle terrain. Much more collection mission time would need to be available and with considerable additional assistance to reach and recover a greater range of specimens better representing the population.

We collected 18 cultivated varieties (includes supplementary ones not fully characterized as already held/previously held in Solok) 11 of which are diploid based on ploidy determination by the International Genotyping Centre. These include 2 New Guinea-type plantains (MLU's 001, 005, 013 & 016) which were initially expected to be AAB but ploidy determinations from IGC indicated they are actually diploid (AA presumably) and so may be progenitors of the Plantain Subgroup. On reflection at the end of collecting mission it appears that these 2 New Guinea-type plantains were collected twice due to confusion with only a very young bunch seen when first collected. DNA profiles confirm this.

The remaining 7 are expected to be triploid (AAA/AAB/ABB). The following table is a list of all the varieties we encountered in the different locations to put our collecting efforts into context.

Only one plant of *Musa balbisiana* was seen along the roadside near houses in North Sulawesi as we drove along, but we were not in a position to investigate because of time constraints. Bracts retained on the rachis were evident below the bunch.

Genome/Subgroup	North Sulawesi	Ternate(NM)	Halmahera(NM)	Tidore(NM)	Yoshida
AA					
Sucrier	Mas		Mas		Masi
Pisang Jari Buava			Mulu Bebe Putih	Local name?	Namo ma oru
Inarnibal	Berlin	Boki	Boki	Berlin	Baniarmasin
		/ Muli Kuning	Muli Kuning		
Lakatan	Gani	, mun muning	intuit ituiting		
2	Mas Manado		Mas Manado	Mas Manado	
			ivius iviunuuo	Wids Widhado	
2	Roa (small)	Mulubebe	Mulubebe	Mulubebe	
		Marabebe	Williubebe	Raia Batu	
			Batu	Raja Datu	
			Dutih/, Coho, coho		+
			Putih		
?		Tako Api	i utili	Goba	-
?	Roa Besar (Big Roa)	1 uno 1 pi		0000	
	Libod/Spiral				
	Libou/opilui				
Gros Michel	Ambon Putih				
0103 Witcher		Ambon Kuning	Ambon Kuning	Ambon Kuning	
Cavendish	Kanal?[Dwarf	Dwarf	Amoon Runnig	Dwarf	
Cavendish	Cavendishl	Cavendish		Cavendish	
"	Williams	Williams	Compani	Compani	
Pad	Udang	vv miams	Udang	Udang	
Kcu	Oualig		Outing	Outing	
9		Supapa	Sangata		
[Disong Dopon 2]§		Sunape	Tatalaka		
	Pinang		1 ataicka		
	1 mang				
Plantain	Tanduk [variable No	Tanduk[Tanduk[1 H]	Tanduk[Salewati
1 failtaili	hand]	variable No		variable No	Salewali
	nanaj	hand		hand	
		inuno	Tandoc[3 H]	inunto	Saleratu
Pisang Raja	Raia	Raia	Raia	Raia	Bulerutu
Mysore	Kuju	ixuju	Local name?	Local name?	
Silk	Susu		Local name .	Susu	Susu
9	Saribu		Local name?	Busu	5030
2	Daia Nangka	Takuk Ani	Doia Nangka		
2	Kaja Naligka Gorobo Morob	Corobo Morob	Kaja Naligka	Corobo Morob	+
[Doti?]	Goroho Dutih	Gorono Meran	Goroho Dutih	Gorono Meran	
[Külita?]	No nama availabla				
[Kiiita:]			More		Mora
2			Mora Putib		WIOTa
2			Poti		+
			Kou		
ADD Disong Awals	Amole		Amol		+
Pluggoo	Awak		Awak	Local name?	
Saba	Kanak Kuning	Kapak Kuning	Kosta	Konok Kuning	Sapatu
Saba	Kepok Tanjung	Kepok Kunnig	Kosta		Separu
"		Kanok Jawaka	Lewangka	Kenok Jawaka	Gorontalo
		IXCPOR JAWARA	LowangKa	Long Konok	
[Kenok Badak]"		Sepatu Abu	Sepatu Abu	Senatu Abu	Kosuta
	Malikusi	Separa Aba	Separa Aba	Separa Aba	ixuouta
	No name available				+
Wild			+	+	+
acuminata yor	Vaki		+	+	+
acaminata var.	1 ani	1	1		1

Table 2. Banana varieties seen in North Sulawesi and North Maluku (NM)

Genome/Subgroup	North Sulawesi	Ternate(NM)	Halmahera(NM)	Tidore(NM)	Yoshida
tomentosa					
acuminata var.			Kawasi		
acuminata					
balbisiana	Local Name?				Bau ma pau
lolodensis			Ngopo?		
"			Local name ?		

? = no subgroup recognized; " = ditto; names in green indicate lack of local name [§] Indonesian synonym bracketed

Comparisons to Yoshida paper

Yoshida (1980) reported on a 1976 study amongst the Galela people of northern Halmahera doing quite a remarkable job of identifying and classifying the bananas he saw. In his paper he lists 61 named banana varieties but over the 2½ month period of the study Yoshida appears to have only located 28 varieties which were characterized in the paper. In the 4 days (3 nights) we spent on Halmahera we located about 34 varieties. Ours was a larger area and occurred 36 years later. It is not possible to find all the diversity present in just a few days but we would appear to have probably found the bulk of what is present. Yoshida described the wild *acuminata* banana Kawasi on Halmahera as *M.a.* ssp. *banksii* but what we saw is clearly very different from the *banksii* of the island of New Guinea. The 1996 collecting mission by ITFRI in Seram found four types of wild *Musa acuminata*. One of them has similarity to wild *acuminata* described by Yoshida (based on yellow colour of male bud and bunch position). Referring to Nasution's paper, this wild acuminata resembles *Musa acuminata* var. *microcarpa*.

There have been speculations that within the triangle and particularly Halmahera [based on paper of Yoshida) that significant African Plantain diversity may exist or that of its progenitors. We found little variation present for the Plantain subgroup (AAB) with just 2 Horn Plantain (Tanduk) present on Halmahera and much the same elsewhere on the mission for the true Plantain subgroup. The French Plantain-like accessions Tako Api and Putih collected are typical of some of the plantain-like ones of the island of New Guinea but neither are identical to any of the 242 varieties presented in the PNG *Musa*logue (Arnaud and Horry 1997). It remains to be seen on the second mission whether there is any further 'Plantain' variation to be found elsewhere in the triangle.

Based on the flow cytometry analysis done by the International Banana Genotyping Centre in the Czech Republic, French Plantain-like accessions such as Small Roa/Cakalang and Gaba-gaba Putih were diploid (2x), these presumably are AA (based on *acuminata* characters they have). Some of them may be the progenitors of French Plantains. If we assume that natural hybridization occurred in Triangle area, some progenies may still exist in this area. They could be Plantain-like triploids or AB diploids.

Musa lolodensis - Variants in Population

There was certainly quite a bit of variation amongst the *lolodensis* we encountered on Halmahera. The shorter plants are cultivated for medicinal purposes – the male bud is boiled and the resulting brew is drunk by victims of heart attack to provide relief from symptoms. These plants are maintained by the farmers in their food gardens. Other variation in wild situations existed for male bud and bract colours. These were mostly yellow but there were bronzer forms and also included one with purple internal bract

colour. Deep or pale pink to creamy white are also described in the literature. There is a good summary on the species by David Constantine (http://www.users. globalnet.co.uk) as well as an interesting transcript of an unpublished report by David Fairchild [Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden] describing his discovery of *M. lolodensis* on Halmahera whilst on the Cheng Ho expedition [name of vessel] in 1940 and subsequent characterization of seeds grown on by Cheesman (1950)in Trinidad see http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Search/?submit.x=37&submit.y=12&keyword=cheng+ho Lolodensis was named after the Loloda river on the north west coast of Halmahera. As one (JD) looks at this population one (JD) wonders about linkages to Musa textilis given also the relative proximity to the southern Philippines. Is this the "transition" zone of M. textilis and other Australimusa referred to by de Langhe?

Fruit Market Visits

Visits to the fruit markets can give a quick overall impression of the important/popular varieties in a region. Comparisons we made with what was in the markets and those overall seen growing in the region showed that those in the market represented between 26% and 67% of the overall varieties. The most popular varieties varied between regions but in general the most popular varieties were Kepok Kuning (Cepatu Abu, local name), Goroho Merah, Raja, Berlin and Mas Manado. No Fe'i bananas were seen in either North Sulawesi or North Maluku.

Banana Pests and Diseases

Several *Foc* (vascular strands) samples were collected during the mission by Riska which were taken to Solok for 'plating of cultures' and then for VCG analysis. Some of the samples were obtained from Pisang Raja so we expected these to be Tropical Race 4 (TR4) based on previous studies in Indonesia (O'Neill et *al.* 2011). This turned out to be the case for all the samples on the mission from which *Foc* was recovered. The three Raja samples came from North Maluku (Ternate and Halmahera).

No.	Cultivars	Site
1	Susu	AIAT North Sulawesi
2	Gapi Kuning	Torout Barat, Domoga Barat, Bolaang Mangondow, North
		Sulawesi
3	Goroho Merah	Tumuyu, Lolayan, Bolaang Manggondow, North Sulawesi
4	Goroho Merah	Tombetu, Minahasa Tenggara, North Sulawesi
5	Raja/Cavendish	Tana Tinggi, Ternate Selatan, Ternate, North Maluku
6	Raja	Global company, Galela, North Halmahera
7	Raja	Pasar Gosalaha, Tidore, North Maluku

Table 4. Diseases noted or present on accessions collected

Accession code	Accession name	Black leaf streak/black Sigatoka	Other
MDO 001	Libod	+	Black cross cordana leaf
			spot
MDO 002	Pinang	+	Freckle, black cross
			cordana leaf spot
MDO 003	Yaki #1	-	Black cross cordana leaf
			spot

Accession code	Accession name	Black leaf streak/black Sigatoka	Other
MDO 004	Goroho Merah	+	Black cross cordana leaf
			spot
MDO 005	Roa/Cakalang	-	
MDO 006	Yaki #2	+	
MDO 007	Big Roa	-	
MDO 008	Yaki #3	-	
MLU 001	Tako Api	+	Black cross cordana leaf
			spot
MLU 002	Boki	-	
MLU 003	Musa lolodensis	+	
MLU 004	Musa acuminata/Kawasi	+	
MLU 005	Koi Putih	+	
MLU 006	Mora	-	
MLU 007	Koi Batu	-	
MLU 008	Sangate	-	
MLU 009	Musa lolodensis	-	
MLU 010	Musa lolodensis	-	
MLU 011	Musa lolodensis	-	
MLU 012	Musa lolodensis	-	
MLU 013	Gaba-gaba Putih	+	
MLU 014	Musa acuminata/Kawasi	-	
MLU 015	Raja Batu	+	
MLU 016	Goba	-	
MLU 017	Bluggoe	-	

Remark: '+' = present, '-' = absent

Sample Handling

Suckers and seeds collected from the mission were cleaned and planted on the seed bed (suckers) and plastic tray (seeds), and some seeds were also embryo cultured at ITFRI. Three-month-old planting materials will then be planted on to big pots for further characterization.



Suckers and seeds were planted on the seed-beds and plastic trays (above). Two-monthold planting materials and seedlings of wild *Musa* (below).

Future Missions

The second collecting mission in the triangle is scheduled for February 2013. The great challenge on these missions is to quickly locate the existing diversity and collect and characterize 'new' germplasm. With so much ground to cover and much time spent travelling and getting local approvals etc. any improvement in the efficiency of this process would be useful. The regional support provided by AIAT staff Erik and Nofri was invaluable but there were difficulties in finding where all the diversity was. The more homework that regional officers are able to do before the mission, contacting key community experts the better. It may be worth experimenting in future with 1 or 2 community meetings organized to coincide with the collection visit where a targeted request is put out beforehand to bring along e.g. mature bunches of wild bananas plus some matching suckers. Perhaps a small incentive for those that participate and the team gives a presentation on some aspects of banana growing etc for the individuals/community's benefit. In

the case of wild bananas in particular this would help to pull together specimens from a range of locations.

There also remains an issue regarding just exactly what different international breeding programs require to be collected? What they currently already have and thus don't need? And what is currently in Indonesian collections that these breeding programs have not yet accessed – Indonesian/all team members are looking for 'new' germplasm but what is new? e.g. discussion with Agus Sutanto, who has responsibility for the Solok collection, has never really been contacted by breeding programs about sourcing germplasm.

Whilst in Halmahera local people also suggested that additional diversity could be found on the west coast of Halmahera and in the Bacan Islands [12 hr by ferry to south] but this was not possible to include in the mission reported here.

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Date	Activities		
Saturday 6 October	[JD only] Travel Innisfail – Cairns – Sydney - Jakarta		
Sunday 7 October	Discussions Agus Sutanto; Travel Jakarta- Manado		
Monday 8 October	Coordination AIAT North Sulawesi		
Tuesday 9 – Thursday 11	Travel Manado – Kotamobagu; collecting Gunung Ambang and Bogani Nani.		
October			
Friday 12 October	Travel Kotamobagu – Manado; collecting		
Saturday 13 October	Airfreight cigar leaves [Czech Rep] and suckers [Solok]		
Sunday 14 October	Travel Manado – Ternate		
Monday 15 October	Collecting Ternate		
Tuesday 16 October	Travel Ternate - Sofifi [Coordination with AIAT North Maluku] - Tobelo		
Wednesday 17 –	Collecting Galela, Daru and Tobelo		
Thursday 18 October			
Friday 19 October	Travel Tobelo – Sofifi - Ternate		
Saturday 20 October	Return Travel Ternate – Tidore collecting		
Sunday 21 October	Sucker preparation; rest day		
Monday 22 October	Travel Manado - Jakarta		
Tuesday 23 – Wednesday	[JD Only] Discussions Agus Sutanto; Travel Jakarta – Sydney – Cairns - Innisfail		
24 October			

Itinerary



North Maluku – collecting route in pink

Sup. 3 Masak semalam/Papan











