

The first news letter of 2020 is published later than usual and also differs from the previous issues. The reason is COVID-19, also known as the Corona virus, which causes international insecurity and uncertainty. SRI is also affected and COVID-19 has forced Janny and Willemien to postpone their yearly visit to all children, women and projects on Java and Bali. For now, this year's visit is scheduled for this autumn. We have tried to contact everyone via e-mail and airmail to confer this news, but we have not been able to reach some of our contacts on Bali.

Our postponed visit also affects our Indonesian Day, our annual *koempoelan* (gathering). We can only organize this gathering after our trip to Indonesia. However, since Janny and Willemien do not have firm dates for this trip, we cannot determine a new date for our Indonesian Day. If we have more information, we will communicate this.

Despite the current situation we still would like to organize an activity to meet each other and inform you about SRI projects during an Indonesian afternoon where we can show pictures and movies and inform you about projects and their status. Drinks and Indonesian snacks will also be included.

However, due to the new regulations imposed by the Dutch government our initial scheduling (Saturday, May 2) needs to be postponed as well, since all meetings of 3 and more people are banned until June 1st, we will need to determine a new date for this Indonesian afternoon as well. The new meeting will be scheduled later this year.

Java

The virus affects daily life in Indonesia as well and schools and offices have closed on Java. Children are home and try to do their school work themselves. Our contact in Solo told us that all school exams have been cancelled.

The members of women's cooperation Lidia in Solo have organized several training sessions and held their annual board meeting including the evaluation and plans for the upcoming year, this time without us. They were disappointed that we could not be present, but they very well understood our decision to postpone our yearly visit to Indonesia. We are looking forward to receiving the report of this board meeting and the plans for 2020.

The women of women's cooperation Kembang Wangi in Musuk are now officially registered and have received the permits to sell their products on the farmer's market, local stores and even online! An excellent job and a major step forward. All thanks to their visit to the Bupati (local government) last year!

The Merapi volcano erupted again; this scared the women of Kembang Wangi, living in the villages at the foot of the Merapi. Lucky for them, the local government did not publish an evacuation order and the ashes from the eruption caused their lands to become more fertile.

Bali

On Bali people do their best to continue their daily life now that tourists are staying away. Many people have lost their income.

The school children are staying home now and they have no internet connection with their schools.

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SRI news

The news letters are also published on our website. We also include an Dutch and Indonesian translation of the news letter, after one of our volunteers has finished the translation:

sri-indonesie.nl/nieuws.html
sri-indonesie.nl/indonesian.html



Java.



Slopes of the Merapi volcano.

We would like to finish this news letter with inspiring news: the young couple managing the drawing project Rare Kemoning have very enthusiastic ideas to set up an environmental school to teach children about nature, plants, composting and animal welfare. In short, they want to educate the children about the direct relationship between human and nature, increase their environmental awareness and prevent them from basing their world view on current TV shows. We are really curious to see these plans unfold.

We do hope that the virus which controls the whole world, will soon be eradicated. Mainly people without a steady and certain income are affected the most. The consequences of this virus are unclear; at present, the consequences for SRI are unclear as well. We all feel very vulnerable in this current situation and we wish you safety, health and solidarity with each other wherever you are.



Offering baskets on Bali.