

**Banana research and development activities  
in Indonesian Tropical Fruit Research Institute to improve the community welfare**

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Indonesia is a country with a very high diversity of bananas (*Musa* spp.). The diversity of bananas can be found in Indonesia ranging from wild to commercial ones. Banana research activities at Indonesian Tropical Fruit Research Institute (ITFRI) started with the *Musa* germplasm collection in 1987, by collecting local cultivars from several regions in Indonesia. In 1995, ITFRI has introduced several accessions of bananas and plantains from INIBAP, and at about the same time *Musa* exploration activities intensively took place to collect both local cultivars and wild species in several main islands of Indonesia. In line with the collection of *Musa* genetic materials, cultivar development activities were also carried out, including the selection and evaluation of superior characters of local and introduced cultivars, and breeding programs to produce superior quality and disease-tolerant bananas. Some of the superior cultivars resulting from selection and hybridization that have been released were, Ketan-01, Kepok Tanjung, Raja Kinalun, INA-03, and Sang Mulyo. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has not yet been over, public awareness of fruit consumption, including bananas, has also increased. The availability of superior disease-tolerant and high-yielding cultivars such as Kepok Tanjung and Sang Mulyo will greatly assist the availability of domestic bananas.

Keywords: Banana, *Musa* spp., germplasm, selection, breeding