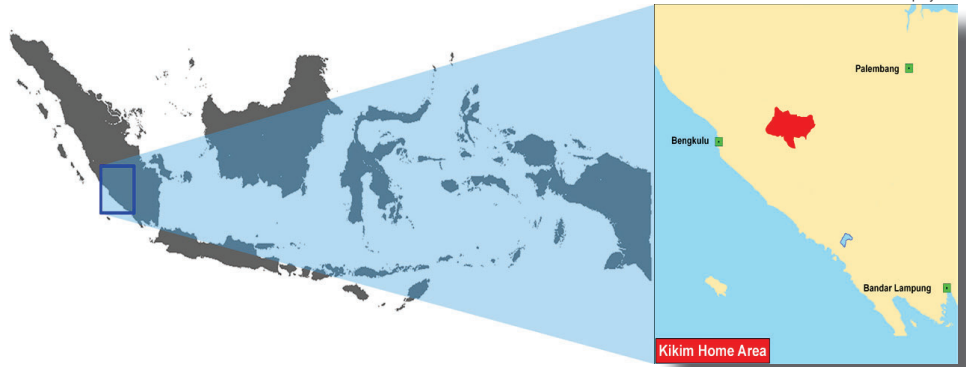


KIKIM



Demography	Kikim Language	Status
Location: South Sumatera	Bible: No	Believers: 0 (225)
Population: 88.000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: Yes
Major Religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Kikim people group live in the districts of Eastern Kikim, Central Kikim, Western Kikim, Tebing Tinggi and Lahat in the Lahat Regency in South Sumatra Province.

The Kikim are generally the only people group in the Eastern, Central, and Western Kikim districts but there are a few areas with a small number of Javanese as well. In Tebing Tinggi, the Kikim live alongside the Lintang, Jawa, Sunda, and Saling (Lembak) people. In Lahat, the Kikim live alongside the Lematan, Jawa, and Sunda people.

Society and Culture

The Kikim live in a fertile area with water needs supplied by small rivers and springs from the Barisan Mountains which rise 25-100 meters above sea level.

Most Kikim are rice farmers. The type of rice they plant only takes 6-7 months until it is ready for harvest. They don't yet have the kind of rice that can be harvested after 4 months.

In the eastern Kikim area, farmers can only plant rice once a year, and rubber is their main cash crop. In Kikim Barat and Tebing Tinggi, the Kikim are more inclined to plant rice twice a year as their main crop. Rubber is a secondary source of income for the Kikim in these areas. However in the eastern Kikim area, rubber is the main cash crop and rice is a secondary source of income. Rice is grown between the rubber trees.

When the rubber trees become mature, rice can no longer be grown in that field. Rice is important for

basic dietary needs, while sales from the rubber plant products provide income for other food and living costs.

Many people in the Kikim community have chosen to plant rubber trees because the income can be used to pay for daily living costs. On average, they each have one hectare of land.

Kikim farmers usually live near the jungle and move around, because they can't maintain the fertility of the soil. They clear new land by felling the large trees and burning the bushes. This way of clearing land is often considered one of the causes of forest fires that frequently occur in Sumatra. Although this causes damage, it's very minor compared with the destruction caused by large businessmen who illegally burn forest areas at will without any punishment because they are protected by corrupt government.

Beliefs

The Kikim follow Islam mixed with mystical beliefs. They believe there are three kinds of knowledge: intelligence, good vs. evil, and profit vs. loss. They have a saying about hypocrites, "In the mouth, coconut milk is sweet; in the heart, poisoning plays." They believe it's okay to be rich but not to be stingy. And they believe in three kinds of death: suspended animation, natural death, and spiritual death.

Needs

The Kikim need instruction in more effective and efficient planting of rice so they can plant rice three times per year and increase their income. A good irrigation system is greatly needed, in light of their fields' strong dependence on the rainy season. (E-RD)