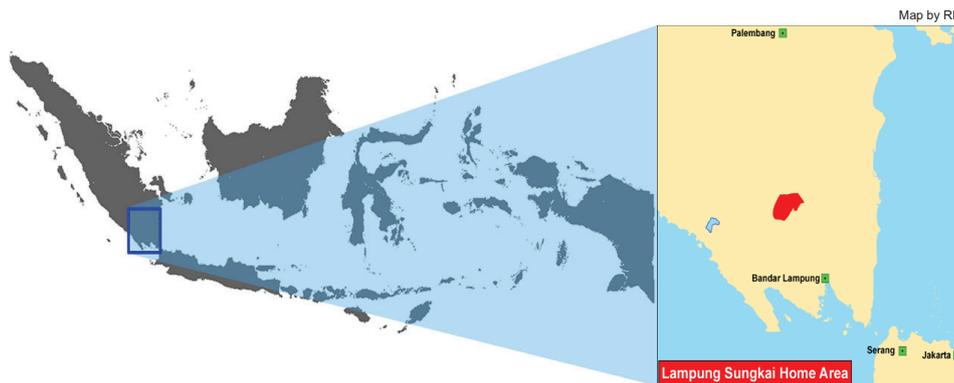


LAMPUNG SUNGKAI



Demography	Lampung Api Language	Status
Location: Lampung Population: 100.000 Major Religion: Islam	Bible: NT Jesus Film: Yes Online Media: No	Believers: 0 Engaged: No Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Sungkai have a strong social structure and make up their own subgroup within the Lampung cluster. The Sungkai are also referred to as the Bunga Mayang. The Sungkai live in North Lampung Regency, in the districts of Muara Sungkai, Bunga Mayang, South Sungkai and North Sungkai.

According to their ancient historical records, the Sungkai are likely closely related to the Lampung Pesisir, Lampung Way Kanan and Lampung Pubian. However they have unique cultural characteristics in that they hold to the Pepadun cultural traditions, whereas the Pesisir people, who speak a dialect of the same language, hold to the Saibatin cultural tradition.

Society and Culture

The Sungkai use a dialect of the Lampung Api language. Several levels of formal language (registers) are used for special purposes. Most Sungkai can also speak Indonesian. A few of them can use the languages of local transmigrant groups like the Jawa and Sunda.

They hold to the Pepadun cultural tradition. The word pepadun means “chair” or a seat used by a ruler. The leadership system in Sungkai is congregational in that there are many punyimbang (cultural leaders) who have the right of voice in community meetings, acting much like a congress. Family ties among the Sungkai are very strong and the Sungkai clans use a system of consensus for resolving issues amongst themselves.

The Sungkai have a strong ethnic identity; so even though they are small in population, they avoid intermarrying and becoming part of one of the larger people groups around them such as the Lampung Way Kanan and Lampung Abung. At present, the Sungkai desire to form

their own regency on the grounds that they are their own group and should have their own regency, like the Way Kanan people in Way Kanan Regency and the Abung people in North Lampung Regency.

Farming is the primary work of the Sungkai people. Their villages are generally not very large and the boundaries between villages are not clear to an outsider, because the villages are situated very close to each other. Their houses have already mostly changed from the traditional raised wooden houses to the more modern cinderblock and concrete houses; almost none of them use the elevated wooden homes anymore. The Sungkai live in close proximity to transmigrant groups; in fact in a few Sungkai villages, outsiders make up the majority of the population.

Beliefs

The Lampung Sungkai hold strongly to their Islamic identity and fiercely oppose conversions to other religions. Social interactions with people from other religions are positive, though, and problems related to religious tensions have never been reported in this area. This shows that religious solidarity is quite strong in the Lampung Sungkai area.

Needs

Coffee is a common local crop among the Lampung Sungkai; besides selling coffee beans, coffee is also frequently sold in the form of coffee powder. In North Lampung Regency coffee production is still a home-based industry, in which families produce coffee powder to sell as a source of additional income. Thus, assistance regarding better management of local coffee production and getting the coffee to good markets would greatly help the Sungkai people. ^(RD)

