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FORDA Culture Collection

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Forests of the world's 3rd top mega biodiverse country are the major source of our collections

Warm greetings from our tropical microbes! We are excited to introduce our first Newsletter on FORDA Culture Collection.
Over 3,000 strains of bacteria, yeast, and filamentous fungi are happily frozen in our –80°C stocks.
Highlights of our collection:

- The expansion from about 1,000 to more than 3,000 strains in the last 3 years is contributed to Indonesia-USA collaborative research on biodiversity survey in Mekongga mountain and Papalia, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia under ICBG-NIH umbrella. The microbes are screened for bioenergy and therapeutic activities.
- Fungi that accelerate gaharu/

Forested and deforested lands are both important microbe sink.
Top-down: Forest, tailing dam, ectomycorrhizal mycelia on* Shorea *sp. root, diversity of fungi from soil.

- Tree growth promoters: ectomycorrhizal fungi, arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, plant growth promoting rhizobacteria and rhizobia.
- Lignocellulolytic fungi from degrading wood.
- We also maintain soil in –20°C for future microbe isolation.

FORDA CC is registered in WDCM (World Data Centre for Microorganisms).

MEET THE GROUP

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A little history about FORDA Culture Collection

The collection was initiated back in 2000 by Erdy Santoso and Maman Turjaman, at the same time when Forest Microbiology Research Group detached from Forest Protection Research Group. The collection first focused upon collecting ectomycorrhizal fungi (EMF) from Indonesian tropical forest to help accelerate rehabilitation of deforested areas. The fungi were preserved using a simple method on agar slants at room temperature and were routinely subcultured to maintain their viability.
About 7 years later, the collection started to rapidly expanding and adopting cryopreservation technology to keep up with the growing collections. We have now over 3,000 cryopreserved collections. The name FORDA-CC was proposed by Irnayuli Sitepu in 2010 when the Group decided it was time to take the collection to the next level. After all, what other name would be more appropriate to better represent the agency, **FO**restry **R**esearch and **D**evelopment **A**gency (**FORDA**)!

Irnayuli Sitepu, Curator