



Indonesia is 14th largest vegetable producer in the world (2012) and the largest in Southeast Asia. Thirty-three of Indonesia's provinces produce over 20 types of vegetable.

Lused to be a boxer. Lused to be a hunter.

I almost died when a boar slipped out of my net and injured almost half of my body, hence the skewed hand, you see? My partner passed away. We had five kids but lost all of them to illness in their infancy. I never knew why they passed away. I now live by myself.

But I never stopped fighting. I went back to school in 2008 and completed my junior high and senior high school. I was 52 years old when I finished. I studied in the morning and tended my crops in the afternoon – I never gave up.

I learned about highland vegetable seeds after following a training held at Ewindo's demonstration plot on my neighbour's land. The trainers taught us about good agricultural practices – it opened my eyes to new options and better ways to plant my vegetables.

I used to plant only leeks and carrots, now I also plant cabbage and Chinese cabbage. I made Rp. 450,000 yesterday during a vegetable expo day, selling 100kg of Chinese Cabbage without having to make my way to the market. It would have been different if I'd had to pay for transport to the market in Manokwari, which would have equaled the price of the sale. Going to the market is expensive, all farmers here face the same problem.

With the new knowledge, I have gained I intend to plant 1,000 seedlings of Chinese cabbage. My dream is to finish constructing my house from the additional money I earn from selling vegetables.

- Lazarus Mandacan lives in Igimbay Village, Arfak Mountain District, West Papua is a beneficiary of the Australia - Indonesia Partnership PRISMA program.