ABSTRACT

ANGELA. Pruning Management of Cacao *(Theobroma cacao* L.) in Rumpun Sari Antan I Plantation, PT Sumber Abadi Tirtasantosa, Cilacap, Central Java. (Guided by DARDA EFENDI).

The internship activity was held to find out, learn, and analyze the pruning management of cacao (*Theobroma cacao* L.) in Rumpun Sari Antan I Plantation, PT Sumber Abadi Tirtasantosa, Cilacap, Central Java started from 14th February until 14th June 2011.

Internship activity include the technical and managerial aspects that positioning the author as field worker for one month, as assistant foreman for one month, and as assistant field lead for two month.

During as field worker, specific observations on the author to capture the primary data about pruning aspects of cacao trees include kinds of pruning, pruning time, the area under the pruning, pruning job performance, which is divided based on the success of pruning by tools, sex, age, relationship between the sexes and age, and comparison with observations of a few years earlier. In addition it also conducted observations between plants pruned and not pruned. Through secondary data, analyzed the influence of rotation of the pruning and rainfall toward the production of wet cocoa beans.

Cacao plants in Rumpun Sari Antan I Plantation completely have produced, so pruning is done every year is the maintenance pruning and production pruning. Type of pruning is done during February to June is pruning maintenance. Maintenance pruning in Rumpun Sari Antan I Plantation do with the rotation on average three times a year at intervals of 2-5 months. Pruning production conducted once a year around November or December. Company standards for work performance of maintenance pruning is 4 HK / ha and for pruning production is 6 HK / ha. Based on the results of calibration, one pruner can prun 122 trees / HK for maintenance pruning activities.

Success of pruning is influenced by a number of branch cuts where the skin is not damaged. Pruning is done by the labour of men and women, ages of labour 16-35 years and ≥ 36 years, and *cungkring* tool or trim saws, do not give a
significantly different effect on the t-student test level of 5%. While success of pruning is done by women aged $\geq 36$ years has the lowest and significantly different effect on the t-student test level of 5%. Based on comparison with observations of a few years earlier, the success of pruning by women declined and the student t-test level of 5% gave significantly different effects.

Effect of pruning on the production can be seen about two months after the maintenance pruning and approximately 5-6 months after the production pruning. Pruning is done during high rainfall provide higher production than the current pruning of low rainfall. The development of chupons and flowering cushions in pruned plants increases more than the plants that are not pruned.

Keywords: cacao, pruning management, success of pruning, rotation