

Utilization of the Agricultural Sector as Supporting the Economy in Loklahung Village, Loksado District, Hulu Sungai Selatan Regency, South Kalimantan Province

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Abstract

This study aims to describe how the role of agriculture in advancing the economy in Loklahung Village and describe it. In collecting data, researchers conducted interviews and observations in Loklahung Village, Loksado District, Hulu Sungai Selatan Regency, South Kalimantan Province. Based on the research conducted, the approach used is through a qualitative approach. This means that the data collected is not in the form of numbers, but the data comes from interview scripts, field notes, and other official documents, so this qualitative aims to describe the empirical reality divided by phenomena in depth, detail and detail. whole. This study aims to identify the potential of the agricultural sector as an economic driver in a region. The agricultural sector has played a role in the national economy through the formation of GRDP, earning foreign exchange, providing food and industry, alleviating poverty, creating jobs, and increasing people's income. The majority of the people of Loklahung village work as farmers, according to sources 85% of the people of Loklahung village work as farmers.

Keywords: Economy, Jobs, Agriculture, Income



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INTRODUCTION

The agricultural sector is one of the biggest supports for the Indonesian people's economy both as a commodity for consumption and a contributor to foreign exchange because it can be exported and absorbs the largest workforce. Based on the results of the national labor force survey in August 2013, it shows that 34.36% of Indonesians work as farmers, trade 21.42%, processing industry 13.43% and other jobs 30.79%. This percentage shows that the agricultural sector is a job field that is still in demand by the community today (Kusumaningrum, 2021). This was also reinforced by the data from the agriculture Special Detachment by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in August 2022 it was recorded that there were 38,703,996 people who had jobs as farmers.

The term agriculture according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary is about farming (cultivating land by planting). The agricultural sector plays an important role in the development and advancement of the economy in Indonesia. As an agrarian country, the agricultural sector can be utilized as a nature conservation, as a provider of food materials and can create jobs for the community. Economic development is one of the benchmarks to show the existence of economic development in the area, in other words economic growth can show development and economic progress (Sukirno, Sadono; 2007). The journey in economic development in Indonesia so far has not shown maximum results when viewed from the welfare of farmers and also the contribution of agriculture to national income. Even though agriculture is the most dominant sector in the formation of the economy in Indonesia because

the majority of Indonesia's population depend on farming. However, agricultural productivity is still far from expectations, this is caused by the low level of human resources in managing agricultural land and also the results of this agriculture.

In various regions in Indonesia, especially in mountainous areas, we find more jobs as farmers in developing the economy in their regions. For example, in Loklahung Village, Loksado District, Hulu Sungai Selatan Regency, South Kalimantan Province. In the village of Loklahung 85% of their lives depend on farming, the remaining 15% are self-employed and civil servants. The community grows various crops, such as rubber trees, rice, peanuts, corn, cinnamon, chilies, etc. The people of Loklahung Village are mostly farmers with rice and rubber commodities which are the main commodities at this time. Different from a few years ago where most of them grew cinnamon. According to the results of the study, as much as 90.8% of the people of Loklahung village have a cinnamon garden and take cinnamon soil preparation, planting, maintenance and harvest. (Vennireza Salsabella, Hafizianor, and Setia Budi; 2021), this happens because of the thinking of the people who use a rotational cropping system where people always replace crops within a predetermined time, this rotation is aimed at rejuvenating agricultural land so that the land is not damaged (barren) and there will be no more opening of new land

The results from agriculture will then be sold to the market or collectors, while the community's problems related to the sale of crops are not stable or even the market value is low, so that the community feels a loss because the initial capital spent is quite large, since the prices for organic fertilizers and plant medicines are quite high. expensive. This makes farmers often feel at a loss. Another problem is the lack of local government intervention (assistance) for small farmers, so that farmers are lacking in developing the selling value of their crops. Farmers in Loklahung village really hope for assistance from the government in the form of organic fertilizers, plant medicines, farmer group cooperative loans, to counseling from the government to improve the quality of farmers' crops.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used by the author in finding data is a descriptive qualitative research method. Qualitative research methods are methods that are used in capturing data in the field, where with this method it is intended to determine the condition of natural objects, where the researcher is the key instrument. The data collection technique was carried out in a triangulation (combined) manner. Data analysis was inductive and the results were that the researcher emphasized meaning and generalization (Sugiyono, 2013). Qualitative research is research that uses a natural setting with the intention of interpreting phenomena that occur and is carried out by involving various existing methods (Denzin & Lincoln).

Qualitative research is a research method which produces data in the form of words or spoken words from people and actors that can be observed. By using qualitative research methods, researchers will obtain data that is more complete, more in-depth, credible and meaningful so that the research objective is to obtain a broad, comprehensive, holistic (whole) and in-depth picture can be achieved. Interviews were conducted directly with informants who had been determined, namely people who worked as farmers, and when conducting interviews the writer used tools in the form of observation sheets (as a regulator of observations and what would be observed), mobile phones (as a tool for recording conversations with informants and as a documentation tool during observation. Apart from interviews, the researchers also collected data by means of observation. The researchers observed how the conditions of the people in Loklahung village were and how the daily life of the farmers was. Observation is a data collection technique that has specific characteristics when compared to other techniques. Observations are also not limited to people but also other natural objects (Sugiyono 2018:229).

It is further said that observation is a collection of impressions about the world around them based on all the capabilities of the human senses.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Agriculture is a human activity that involves farming, raising livestock, fishing, and also forestry (Putriayu Dwi Anggraini; 2021). Agriculture plays an important role in national and regional economic growth, agriculture is one of the contributors to employment in Indonesia. In this era of globalization, there has been a significant decrease in the number of farmers, this is caused by: Many young generations today do not want to become farmers, because agriculture is considered to be incapable of guaranteeing the future and the lack of land to work on, the more the population increases, the more little land that can be used as agricultural land. However, there are still many people who have to depend on the agricultural sector for their livelihood, for example in Loklahung village, Loksado sub-district, Hulu Sungai Selatan district. South Kalimantan Province.

Condition of Farmers in Loklahung Village, Loksado District, Hulu Sungai Selatan Regency, South Kalimantan Province

The people in Loklahung village are not much different from other rural communities, where people depend on farming, especially rice, the type of rice planted by the community is mountain rice. The rice harvest period ranges from 4-5 months and in a year there is only one planting period, after the harvest the farmers usually plant vegetables, peanuts, corn, etc. in between them, this is also done by the community to improve soil conditions. Agriculture is one of the biggest drivers of the economy in rural areas, Economists are starting to realize that rural areas in general and the agricultural sector in particular are not only positive but far more important than just supporting the overall economic development process (Fikriman; 2017). The harvest is not completely sold to the market, but part of the harvest is consumed by the community. When farming, people still use traditional tools to help with their daily work.

The majority of people in Loklahung village depend on farming, both rice and rubber farmers. As many as 85% of the people in this village work as farmers, both young and old. The agricultural sector is a sector that has the potential for economic activity. For this reason, the government needs to see the potential of the agricultural sector that can be developed so that it can help the regional economy and can create jobs so that it affects the workforce (Jui Rompas, Daisy Engka, Krest Tolosan; 2015). Farming has indeed been a lifeline in the Loklahung village community for a long time. Agriculture is the main income of the community but not all people can be said to be prosperous, because the market value of the crop is still low. Most people in Loklahung village cultivate rubber and rice trees. The harvest of rubber sap can be done every day, but the community can sell the harvest in a week, in one week vulnerable farmers can sell up to 50-70 kg where the price of rubber latex is IDR 8,000/kg. Some of the mothers have jobs as nutcrackers. It is very difficult to say that the wages you get from breaking hazelnut seeds are a decent wage because the wage system is Rp. 250,000/kg, the process will be done in groups,

Table 1. Average Monthly Farmer Expenditure

No	Type	amount	Expenditure
1	Fertilizer	2 Sacks	RP. 850,000
2	Herbal medicine and grass poison	3 bottles	Rp. 270,000
3	Transportation costs	Vehicle fuel	Rp. 150,000

Table 2. Average Monthly Farmer Income

No	Yields	Number of harvests (harvest period)	Income
1	Rubber latex	50kg/week (1 month 4 weeks)	IDR 1,600,000
2	Vegetables	150kg/2 months (June-November, 3 times planting and harvesting)	IDR 800,000 / 2 Months
3	Peanuts	300kg/3 months (June-November 1 time of planting and harvesting)	Rp. 2,400,000
4	Cracking hazelnut	150kg/week	Rp. 375,000

Agricultural Culture in Loklahung Village, Loksado District, Sungai Hulu Selatan District, South Kalimantan Province

Indonesia is a country known for its diversity, both from culture, religion, to language, and all of this is guarded by indigenous peoples and the government. Article 18b paragraph 2 reads "The state respects and respects customary law community units and their traditional rights as long as they are still alive and in accordance with the development of society and the principles of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, which are regulated in law. The diversity of cultures and customs in Indonesia has resulted in the birth of customary laws in their respective customary areas.

Customary law is usually born and made based on customs in the area, such as in Loklahung Village, Loksado District, Sungai Hulu Selatan Regency, South Kalimantan Province. In the village of Loklahung there is a traditional hall. In the past this hall was the residence of several families, but according to the development of the era, this custom hall has changed its function to become a family gathering and a place of worship for Kaharingan adherents. This traditional hall is also the place for carrying out traditional ceremonies by the people of Loklahung village, at least in one year three traditional ceremonies are held, namely welcoming the planting season, harvest season, and post-harvest thanksgiving or called Aruh Ganal, this traditional ceremony is carried out as a thank you to God Almighty. Stheologically the Aruh Ganal ceremony has a strategic meaning in order to increase a sense of sincere devotion to Nining Bahatara. The ceremony carried out with sincere devotion is called the yadnya (Heriyanti 2019).

Agriculture Becomes an Economic Driver inLoklahung Village, Loksado District, Hulu Sungai Selatan Regency, South Kalimantan Province

Agriculture is an activity of utilizing natural resources to produce food, industrial raw materials or energy sources, as well as to manage their environment. The agricultural sector still has an important role to play in driving Indonesia's economic growth so far, Indonesia is an archipelagic country rich in natural resources, with fertile soil. Indonesia is dubbed an agricultural country, where most of the population works as farmers (Heppi Syofya & Silvia Rahayu; 2018).

Table 3. Number of Farmers in Indonesia According to Statistics for 2021

No	Farmer Age Group (Years)	Number of people)
1	65	3,332,038
2	55-64	5,229,903
3	45-54	7,325,544
4	35-44	6,885,100
5	25-35	3,129,644
6	15-24	229,943
7	<15	3,297
Amount		26,135,469

In the village of Lokhalung the agricultural sector is a driver of economic growth. Most of the people depend their lives and livelihoods on the agricultural sector. Farmers in Lokhaluk village built their regional economy mostly from agricultural products. It is hoped that through this agriculture the level of community welfare can increase, but what farmers want is often the opposite of reality on the ground, farmers still often feel at a loss due to various things, such as: Low market prices for crops, pests on plants, crop failure, reduced crop yields, and various other things. The low price of rubber has had various impacts on the socio-economic conditions of rubber farmers in South Sumatra (South Sumatra) because more than 40% of the population of South Sumatra depend on the commodity of rubber (Lina Fatayati Syafira, Dwi Shinta Agustina, Cicilia Nancy, and Muhammad Supriadi; 2016). Due to these various factors, the economy in Lokhalung village cannot be said to be prosperous.

Farmer's Obstacles in Loklahung Village, Loksado District, Hulu Sungai Selatan Regency, South Kalimantan Province

As the times progress, there are more and more diseases in plants, at this time many new diseases have been found. Plants that are touching will always be given pesticides so that the plants and yields are better. plants, but the price of fertilizers and plant drugs is very expensive. When farming, the obstacles that farmers often face are capital and unstable market prices. The capital that must be provided by farmers when planting and caring for plants is quite large. The following is an explanation of the constraints faced by farmers:

1. High prices of fertilizers and medicinal plants. This resulted in people often not being able to buy fertilizers and medicines for plants, so that what happened was the lack of quality of farmers' crops.
2. This disproportionate expenditure with income is caused by the very high prices of fertilizers and plant medicines, people have to spend quite a lot of capital, but sometimes the price of their crops is unstable, this causes farmers not to always make profits but also sometimes experience losses.

From these constraints the researcher saw that if the farmer's business expenses or capital must be in accordance with the market selling value, so that through agriculture the community can obtain prosperity. Height the prices of fertilizers and pesticides as well as the unstable selling price of corn greatly affect the income of corn farmers in Kelubir Village, Tanjung Palas Utara District (Nila Rusyanti, Sona Mawarni Seli; 2023).

Government and Community Efforts in Improving the Community's Economy Loklahung Village, Loksado District, Hulu Sungai Selatan Regency, South Kalimantan Province

The agricultural sector is the main economic driver in Loklahung village, therefore the government sees this as a good thing. The government created a farmer group in Loklahung village with the aim of being able to become a forum for learning for farmers both from how to care for plants and the selling potential of the farmers' harvests and through government farmer groups it is hoped that it can help farmers' capital and through farmer groups it is hoped that it can improve farmers' welfare in the village of Loklahung. The government's policy to advance agricultural development is through the establishment of programs to empower farmers through various types of activities, which have started since the New Order era until the current reform era. This is stated in various policies as outlined in various regulations, such as Republic of Indonesia Law Number 16 of 2006 concerning agricultural, fisheries and forestry extension systems, Law Number 19 of 2013 concerning the protection and empowerment of farmers (Hendrawati Hamid; 2016). The benefits of farmer groups are like farmers: 1) as a place for learning for members through information obtained from interaction between members, 2)

as a place for deliberation and mutual cooperation, 3) as a place for collaboration both between groups and with related agencies, and 4) as a forum for embodiment of the ideals and goals of the group (Andhika Silva Yunianto and Eko Sutrisno; 2019).

After observing and interviewing the village head of Loklahung (Bapak Ibas) and the local community (Hasan) that the government is helping farmers by forming farmer groups in Loklahung village, but farmer groups are not always active, therefore the community really hopes that the government will always actively helping farmers, both through cooperative loans and assistance with fertilizers and pesticides to pay for the harvest, so that farmers can be made easier when farming and through farming the community can be said to be prosperous.

CONCLUSION

Agriculture is an activity of utilizing biological resources carried out by humans to produce food, industrial materials or energy sources, as well as to manage their environment. Agriculture is one of the development sectors of the regional and national economy. In rural areas the agricultural sector is the main source of livelihood, such as in Loklahung village, Loksado sub-district, Hulu Sungai Selatan district, Central Kalimantan province, where the majority of people work and depend on farming, both farming rubber trees, morning crops, and vegetables. As a builder of the agricultural economy, it is not always as expected by farmers, there are several obstacles such as unstable capital and market values. Capital is very influential in the agricultural sector because of the current high prices of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The government sees this as something that will hamper regional economic development, therefore the government forms farmer groups in Loklahung village with the hope that it can ease the burden on farmers' capital, but farmer groups in Loklahung village are not always active, therefore farmers really hope that the government pays more attention farmers for the development of the regional economy and for the welfare of farmers.

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