

The Socio-Economic Impact on Policy National Food Security: Study of the Effects of Agricultural Product Distribution by Poor Farmers on the Pandemic Covid19

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Abstract

One of the socio-economic impacts on national food security is the problem of farmers' poverty. Poverty will cause a lack of ability to access various resources, which in turn will lead to a process of impoverishment. In other words, the poor in the pandemic Covid-19 era have the potential to give birth to poverty issues that will affect the uneven distribution of agricultural products. This study uses a qualitative approach that will look at the extent of the socio-economic impact on national food security problems of farmer poverty. Data analysis uses an interactive approach model that analyzes the current low quality and capacity of farmers' resources. Research findings explain that poverty alleviation efforts will be useful if carried out systematically, comprehensively, and sustainably. This means that poverty alleviation of farmers must be carried out through planned stages, covering all aspects of the causes and their implications, covering various fields in synergy, and carried out continuously. The conclusions of the study provide information on the socio-economic impact of food security as a basis for planning and formulating current poverty reduction policies for farmers.

Keywords

Socio-economic, Food security, Farmers, Regional autonomy.

Introduction

The problem of poverty becomes urgent to overcome because of the potential to cause a snowball effect. In addition to giving birth to issues in various fields such as socio-economic, a large number of population will also cause low economic activity, which results in a slow commercial rate. This condition makes the opportunity to overcome poverty also become increasingly narrow. Conversely, if the problem of poverty has been defeated, it can be said that most of the development problems have been overcome. Increasing the economic capacity of the community by itself will increase their ability to meet their needs. Thus it is expected to increase self-help, initiatives, and community participation in development, which will ultimately reduce the burden on the government and will accelerate development acceleration in all fields.

Seeing the complexity of the problem of poverty in the current pandemic Covid-19 era, it is not possible to overcome it instantly and partially (Lau et al., 2020). Past experience has proven that poverty reduction efforts carried out partially, only from an economic aspect, did not produce results as expected. The data needed include the number of poor people and low-income families and the main problems they face based on established indicators, as well as their distribution across all strata of the region, both at the district, sub-district and village levels. Development carried out by a nation that is seen as a process of transformation basically brings changes in the process of allocating economic resources, the process of distribution of benefits, and the process of accumulation that leads to increased production,

income, and welfare. In this process, a round of economic activity will produce a surplus that will increase prosperity. The entire community will enjoy the final results of the development. The transformation process due to construction in a theoretical framework is known as the natural process. In a conceptual framework, the method also requires the fulfillment of three underlying assumptions, which consist of actor participating in economic activities (Almodóvar-González et al., 2020) .

The performance of development in the agricultural sector, including the food crop agriculture sector, is still strongly influenced by a prolonged economic crisis. Various economic downturns, such as a decline in farmers' purchasing power, relatively high inflation, increased unemployment and poverty, and the government's ability to allocate development budgets that have not been optimal as if Indonesia is back to the beginning of development. All of these are the main determining factors and need to be further analyzed the role and influence of development performance in the agricultural sector (Pachayappan et al., 2020).

Relatively good economic growth, which means increasing the material well-being of the community, does not automatically mean the realization of social justice for all people. To achieve the social justice, there must still be equality, namely the distribution of the results of economic growth fairly and equally. Thus in order to achieve social welfare, three other measures need to be considered, namely the level of poverty, the level of unemployment and the level of inequality in the distribution of income and health services (Nasirin and Asrina, 2020; Ren et al., 2019).

Poverty is often found in rural areas, especially in disadvantaged villages. These poor households generally do not have sufficient production factors such as land, capital, or skills so that the ability to earn an income is minimal. They are unlikely to obtain production assets with their own strength so that the products they produce are low. Limitations of production factors owned by poor households cause production composed are not optimal so that income is low. Low income causes the ability of families in investing to below so that the capital held for subsequent production is deficient. The poverty of farm households is characterized by low production caused by limited production factors. Because production is small, residual income that can be used as business capital is also minimal. Similarly, the area of land owned by poor farmer households is very narrow, which causes low agricultural production. The little knowledge and skills of farmers as managers of their farming businesses lead to low productivity, which is characterized by their inability to manage the production factors that are owned appropriately and efficiently to obtain maximum income. Thus the problem faced by poor farm households is how to make efficient use of a limited number of production factors to receive maximum profit.

Literature Review

The perspective of the delegation of development affairs is established using the main principles of efficiency, effectiveness, externality, and accountability. At the same time the central government is expected to be better able to concentrate on national macro policy formulation that is more strategic in nature. On the other hand, the decentralization of the authority of the central government to the regions, the regions will experience a real empowerment process. Their ability of initiative and creativity will be encouraged so that their capability in overcoming various domestic problems will be stronger. Decentralization is nothing but a form of trust from the central government to the district level government in managing its own households, with decentralization returning the dignity of the government and the community in the region. The reasons for adopting the principle of decentralization are at least two strong reasons, namely the achievement of efficiency and effectiveness of government in carrying out the task of achieving a goal more responsibly. The implementation of democracy comes from below to be able to take care of, master, make appropriate steps according to the needs, characteristics that exist in the region, and its own household (Ren et al., 2019).

In the implementation of decentralization will be able to bring the effectiveness of government in the development of improving the welfare of society, because the territory of Indonesia consists of large islands, which are widely spread by the ocean, has a variety in terms of ethnicity, culture, religion, social systems, the wealth of natural resources, climate, soil conditions, and others, each of which has different characteristics. Experience shows that with a centralized system of government failures in national development in general and in particular disparities between regions and lead to economic, social inequality, and the potential for national disintegration. The relationship includes the relationship of authority, finance, public services, utilization of natural resources, and other resources in a fair and harmonious manner. Relationships regarding financial administration, public services, use of natural resources, and other resources will lead to various types of mutually beneficial relations between one region and another.

The complexity of the problems that must be faced in regional autonomy after leaving the form of centralist government during the New Order's rule Complexity certainly cannot be solved in a relatively short period of time, such as financial difficulties, human resources, understanding of the implementation of decentralization and others requiring various adjustments. Solving multiple problems and complexities in the implementation of decentralization can be used as a benchmark to measure the level of success in the implementation of devolution that includes, the contribution to the achievement of political goals, administration and the increasing economic and managerial efficiency (Lionardo et al., 2019; Mohelska et al., 2015).

Decentralization can be a way to overcome limitations due to centralized planning by delegating a number of authorities, especially in development planning, to regional officials who work in the field and are well aware of the problems facing the community. With decentralization, planning can be done in accordance with the interests of the people in heterogeneous regions. Decentralization can cut through complicated bureaucratic pathways and highly structured procedures from the central government. With the decentralization of functions and assignments to officials in the region, the level of understanding and sensitivity to the needs of local communities will increase, increased contact relations between officials and the community will enable both parties to have better information, thereby resulting in the formulation of regional policies that more realistic than the central government. Decentralization will result in better penetration of the central government for areas that are remote or very far from the central government. It often happens that government plans are not understood by the local community or hampered by local elites, especially for the poor farmer in the village.

Poverty generally defined as a state of all-deprivation, both material and non-material. Material shortages consist of food, clothing, and housing. While the non-material in the form of access to educational facilities, health, and safety (Cloete et al., 2019; Nasirin, 2020). Poverty is defined as a situation that does not allow the fulfillment of basic needs properly. In defining poverty, the special characteristics of the nation, society, and even ethnicity need to be needed in determining the nature, composition, and the number of basic needs concerned. In order to utilize the concept of poverty to determine the poverty line, biological norms are usually required in the amount of nutrition (Herrador et al., 2014). Meanwhile, (Latunreng and Nasirin, 2019; Xu et al., 2020) defines that poverty is a low standard of living, i.e., there is a material shortage in a number of groups of people compared to the general standard of living prevailing in the society concerned and better health quality. Understanding of the different concepts of poverty can be broadly viewed from two sides, namely poverty as a process and poverty as a result of the phenomenon in society. As a process of poverty, it reflects the failure of a community system to allocate resources and funds fairly to its community members. Poverty, which is viewed as a process, will bring forward the concept of relative poverty, while poverty as a phenomenon will give birth to the concept of absolute poverty (Llorca et al., 2020).

Poverty can be viewed at least from two sides, namely: absolute poverty, wherewith this approach the number of people living below a certain poverty line is identified, and relative poverty, namely the share of national income received by each income group (Kattula et al., 2016). Furthermore, the absolute poverty is when someone's income level is below the poverty line or his income is not enough to meet the minimum living needs, including food, poverty is a person's income is still relatively lower than the income of the surrounding community, even though his income is above the poverty line.

Methods

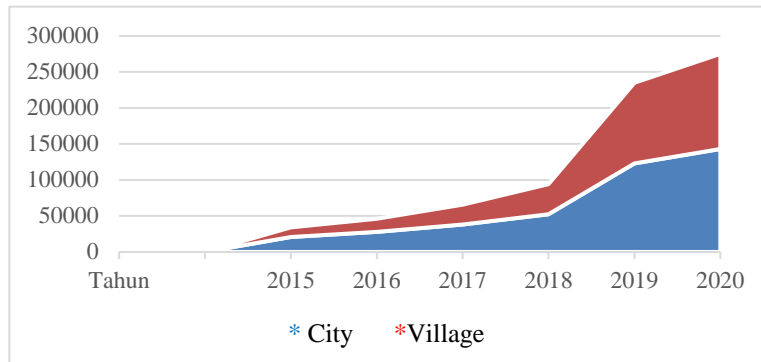
This type of research is descriptive with a qualitative approach that emphasizes the expression of meaning and process of socio-economic impacts on national food security problems of farmers' poverty. Various factors related to changes in organizational structure, typology of bureaucratic organizations, especially in poor farmers' environments. Qualitative research, in addition to being able to reveal real events that occur in the field, can also reveal hidden values, that is the value has not been revealed behind the process of strengthening poor farmers in the pandemic Covid-19. The method is the choice of researchers because it is expected to be able to uncover the reality that occurs in the field, and is more sensitive and adaptive to the role of various factors in research, as well as more sensitive to descriptive information and trying to maintain the integrity of the object under study.

Results and Discussion

The socio-economic impact of national food security is a problem of farmer poverty. Meeting the minimum food needs of poor farmers in the city area must have a minimum income per month. When compared between regions, the poverty line in the city is higher than in the village. This is influenced by the consumption patterns of each population,

namely, the variety of needs of the rural population tends to be less than the variety of urban population needs. While the increase in the poverty line from time to time is often due to an increase in the prices of goods consumed by the community.

Table 1. Poverty Line Limits in Indonesia 2015-2020



Source: Statistical Data, 2020

The poverty line for each region is not the same. This is due to differences in needs and living standards. The necessities of living in rural areas with urban areas are certainly not the same, causing poverty lines for rural and urban areas to be unequal. In general, the poverty line for urban areas is higher than in rural areas. In calculating the number of poor people, the poverty line varies for each province, both for urban and rural areas.

Farmer's poverty is a low-income family. The criteria such as all family members cannot eat twice a day, do not have different clothes for home, work, and not able to bring family members to health facilities.

The research findings explain that in the collection of a prosperous family, Indonesian families are classified for operational purposes into, namely: pre-prosperous family that is if the family has not been able to meet their minimum basic needs. The indicator needed is if the family cannot or cannot fulfill the requirements of being a prosperous family, as follows: all family members eat twice per day or more, the house floor is not from the ground and difficult to get health access (Nasirin and Asrina, 2020; Richter et al., 2018).

Food security affects the increase in prices of agricultural production inputs. Judging from the number of uses of production inputs, especially fertilizer, namely Urea, SP36, there is no difference or reduction in the number (composition) before and after price increases. The use of production inputs remained even though prices of fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides rose by around 15% from the previous estimate. Farmers do not want to reduce the amount (composition) of production inputs because farmers do not want their rice yields to decrease in capacity. Farmers are very aware that reducing the formation of fertilizer poses a risk of reducing their rice production. The farmers' livelihoods in the village are mostly rice farmers. So from this agricultural land, they can depend on their lives and are the main source of income to meet the needs of their family's life. Thus, although the price of production inputs (seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides) rises, farmers continue to make sure that the input needs for rice farming must be met according to the recommended size.

Conclusion

To improve the welfare of poor farmers in the pandemic covid-19 era, it is expected that farmers can increase rice farming income by making efficiency in rice farming. The ability that must be done by farmers is to make efficient input of inefficient production to be efficient so that they can increase their output of rice farming. Efficiency that needs to be done by farmers is to make technical efficiency where economically farmers have used production inputs in accordance with the amount recommended by the government. However, but it has not used these production inputs efficiently in a technical manner. With the production of rice farming increased and income of rice farming also increased so that the welfare of farmers is also expected to be achieved. This condition is one of the socio-economic impacts on national food security problems of farmers' poverty.

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Biographies

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