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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE TREE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE MOVEMENT PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to identify community participation in the tree planting and maintenance movement program for environmental management in Mugarsari Village, Tamansari District, Tasikmalaya City, Forestry Service Branch Region VI. This study uses a qualitative method. In this study, the subjects of this study were the Head of CDK Region VI, Head of the GTPP Program, Head of Community Groups and the community who participated in the tree planting and maintenance movement program on critical land of the Forestry Service Branch Region VI, especially Mugarsari Village, Tamansari District, Tasikmalaya City. Data collection techniques in this study were observation, interviews and documentation. Data analysis techniques in this study were carried out in several stages, namely, data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions. The results of the GTPP program research have had a positive impact on the community in Mugarsari Village, CDK Region VI, by increasing community authority, independence, and cooperation between parties. The program has also had a positive impact on the environment and the community's economy.



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INTRODUCTION

The West Java Government through Circular Letter No. 522.4/17/Rek dated February 17, 2020 concerning the Implementation of the Tree Planting and Maintenance Movement on Critical Land in Regencies/Cities throughout West Java. It is an appeal for the participation movement of all components of the West Java community in order to follow up on the West Java Provincial Regulation Number 7 of 200 WIB5 concerning the Control and Rehabilitation of Critical Land and to realize the Recovery of Watersheds in West Java.

Planting one seedling in one planting hole reduces competition between plants for nutrients, growing space and sunlight, while increasing the number of seedlings per hole will increase competition between plants both in one hole and between holes and will have an impact on reducing the total number of seedlings. Each ASN in the government environment in the West Java Province area is 10 people. Married as many as 10 trees/person; Graduation/Graduation (High School/College) as many as 10 trees/person; Birthday as many as 1 tree/person; Promotion/promotion of ASN/TNI/POLRI as many as 50 trees/person; Communities who obtain extension of STNK for 2 (two) wheeled vehicles as many as 5 trees and 4 (four) wheeled vehicles as many as 10 trees; Business entities that obtain permits (IMB/business permits/etc.) as many as 100 WIB trees/business entity.

This tree planting and maintenance movement program has several branch areas in carrying out its program in West Java, including the West Java Forestry Service, Ir. H. Djuanda Grand Forest Park, Forest Seedling and Plantation Certification (SPTH), Forest Product Management Services (PPHH), Forestry Service Branch I, Forestry Service Branch II, Forestry Service Branch III, Forestry Service Branch IV, Forestry Service Branch V, Forestry Service Branch VI, Forestry Service Branch VII, Forestry Service Branch VIII, Forestry Service Branch IX, and Forestry Service Branch X. Each of these branch areas has its own working area.

Forestry Service Branch VI has a working area in Tasikmalaya Regency and City. Based on the official website for managing the implementation of the Tree Planting and Maintenance Movement, namely Si Mantri (Seedling Contribution Monitoring Information System), Forestry Service Branch VI has 14 types of tree seedlings that have been planted in the working area, consisting of woody plants and MPTS (Multi Purpose Tree Species) plants. MPTS plants are woody plants that are multipurpose because they are beneficial from an ecological and economic perspective, and produce wood and non-wood commodities, so that farmers can utilize non-wood commodities from planted MPTS plants without cutting down trees. The

seedlings planted from woody types include Albasia, Mahogany, Ganitri, Balsa, Manglid, Acacia, Suren and Gmelina. While the seedlings from the MPTS type include Avocado, Durian, Mango, Guava, Picung and Nutmeg (Website: Si Mantri Bibit). Empowerment is a medium that is used as an effort to provide a vehicle for the community to meet the needs of learning citizens in the form of knowledge and skills related to a better life in family and community life. The concept of empowerment is an effort to make something that is fair and civilized more effective in all aspects of life ([Karwati, 2017](#)).

Local community involvement is a key element to the success of these programs. Local governments typically encourage community participation in tree planting and maintenance activities. The program also includes aspects of environmental education and awareness. Communities are provided with information about the importance of trees to the environment and are given an understanding of how to care for them. Some local governments use digital technology to track and monitor tree growth, facilitate community reporting, and provide transparent information on program progress ([Daryanto & Suprihatin, 2013](#)). From the background above, the purpose of this study is to find answers regarding how community participation in the tree planting and maintenance movement program for environmental management in Mugarsari Village, Tamansari District, Tasikmalaya City, Forestry Service Branch Region VI.

Several theories used in this research are taken from several sources as follows:

A. Community Participation

It is stated in the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 18 of 2018 concerning Village Community Institutions and Village Customary Institutions that community participation forums, as partners of the village government, participate in planning, implementing and supervising development, as well as improving village community services. Community participation is a key element of the concept of community empowerment. Community empowerment refers to a process by which individuals or groups of people are given the skills, knowledge, and resources to increase control over their lives, make better decisions, and improve the overall quality of life of the community ([Akbar, 2018](#); [Anwar, A., Mone, A., & Arfah, 2022](#)). Community empowerment involves strengthening individuals or groups in terms of knowledge, skills, and access to resources, so that communities can overcome challenges, increase their empowerment, and contribute to community development ([Maryani, Dedeh and Nainggolan, 2019](#); [Mina, 2016](#); [Purwadi et al., 2021](#)).

Many experts provide an understanding of the concept of participation. If we look at its origin, the word participation comes from the English word "Participation" which means taking

part, taking part ([Dewi, 2021](#); [Siregar, 2020](#)). Participation means the role of a person or group of people in the development process, either in the form of statements or in the form of activities by providing input of thoughts, energy, time, expertise, capital and/or materials, as well as participating in utilizing and enjoying the results of development ([Juniartini, 2020](#); [Subekti et al., 2018](#)).

B. Tree Planting and Care Movement (GTPP)

The tree planting movement is an act of saving the Earth which is currently experiencing global warming due to human actions. Actions and carrying out the rescue of the Earth which is inhabited by living things so that it is comfortable and friendly like the time of our ancestors in ancient times ([Mina, 2016](#)). With the advancement of the times today, many products are not environmentally friendly and can damage nature and the environment because many materials are toxic and have the potential to damage the environment. the number of motorized vehicles, the use of plastic bags and others. The act of planting and maintaining trees is a preventive measure that can be done to save the Earth to be green and fresh. In fact, this movement is not just a moral movement in building awareness of the environment, but is further a tactical and strategic movement to anticipate climate change in the present and the future ([Asmarahman & Indriyanto, 2023](#)).

C. Environmental Management

Environmental protection and management based on Article 1 number (2) of Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management (UUPPLH) is a systematic and integrated effort carried out to preserve environmental functions and prevent environmental pollution and/or damage which includes planning, utilization, control, maintenance, supervision and law enforcement. Environmental management is an effort to preserve environmental functions which includes policies on environmental management, utilization, development, maintenance, restoration, supervision and control ([Daryanto & Suprihatin, 2013](#); [Mina, 2016](#)). Environmental preservation needs to be done because the environmental carrying capacity is very limited both in quantity and quality. Environmental management is carried out voluntarily by individuals or community groups who care about environmental preservation, and is carried out based on existing guidelines, namely Law no. 23 of 1997 concerning Environmental Management (PLH). The purpose of the PLH guidelines is so that every activity carried out by environmental users does not damage the environment, but must be environmentally aware ([Rusdina, 2015](#)).

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative method. In this study, the subjects of the study were the Head of CDK Region VI, Head of the GTPP Program, Head of Community Groups and Communities participating in the tree planting and maintenance program on critical land of the Forestry Service Branch Region VI, especially Mugarsari Village, Tamansari District, Tasikmalaya City. Data collection techniques used in this study were adjusted to field conditions and data collection needs. Data collection techniques in this study were observation, interviews and documentation. Data analysis techniques in this study were data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Community Participation

Community participation in the Tree Planting and Maintenance Movement (GTPP) program in Mugarsari Village is the main pillar of the success and sustainability of this program. The level of community participation was recorded at 127% of the initial target set by the local Forestry Service, indicating the high enthusiasm and awareness of the community towards the importance of environmental conservation. This program has succeeded in mobilizing more than 350 residents from various age groups, genders, and socio-economic backgrounds, who are actively involved in all stages of the activity—from planning, planting, maintenance, to evaluation. The community not only plays a role as beneficiaries, but also as the main actors who drive the direction and implementation of the program at the local level. Throughout the implementation period, more than 12,000 tree seedlings were planted in various critical areas and residents' yards. The types of trees planted include rain trees, mahogany, albasia, and mango, which were selected based on ecological and economic value. The survival rate of the trees reached 82% in the first year, indicating success not only in planting, but also in sustainable maintenance.

Environmentally, monitoring results show a decrease in soil erosion rates of 18% in the hilly area after two years of program implementation. In addition, there is an increase in air quality as measured by a decrease in dust and fine particles (PM10) levels of 12%, based on periodic measurements by the environmental monitoring team from CDK Region VI. Close collaboration between the community, village government, Forestry Service, and non-governmental organizations is also an important factor in the success of this program. This pattern of cooperation forms a solid social ecosystem that is oriented towards sustainability. With these achievements, Mugarsari Village is now an inspiring example of community

empowerment through active involvement in environmental protection and development in a participatory and measurable manner.

B. Increasing Independence, Community Empowerment, and Partnership

Tree Planting and Maintenance Movement Program (GTPP) in Mugarsari Village, CDK Region VI, Tasikmalayahas shown significant success in encouraging community independence and empowerment and strengthening cross-sector partnerships. Through the active participation of various elements of society—including students, companies, and local community groups—this program has not only succeeded in exceeding the target of planting trees, but also changing the community's paradigm regarding the importance of environmental conservation. Collaboration between the community, government, and other parties such as field extension officers (PPL) is the key to the success of this program. Each party has a relatively clear and complementary role. The community acts as the main implementer in the field, while the government through CDK Region VI functions as a facilitator and provider of technical support. Students contribute through community service activities and environmental education, while companies support through social responsibility (CSR) programs, either in the form of seeds, funds, or technical training.

However, this collaborative process does not always run smoothly. The main challenge faced is cross-party coordination which is sometimes hampered by different schedules, limited communication, and different understandings of the program's objectives. For example, at the beginning of implementation, there was confusion at the community level regarding who was responsible for maintaining the trees after planting. To overcome this, further socialization and the preparation of a more structured work mechanism were carried out, such as the establishment of an environmental working group at the hamlet level and a periodic reporting system involving PPL. In addition, the existence of a regular discussion forum between all parties involved is an important means of strengthening coordination and building mutual trust. In this forum, various parties can convey obstacles, share good practices, and agree on joint solutions in a participatory manner. This process also strengthens the community's sense of ownership of the program, because their voices are accommodated in every stage of decision-making. With this synergy, the GTPP Program not only contributes to the restoration and maintenance of a balanced ecosystem, but also strengthens local capacity in sustainable natural resource management. More than just a tree planting movement, GTPP has developed into a collaborative model that is oriented towards sustainability and community welfare holistically.

C. Community Capacity Development and Pioneering

Through the Tree Planting and Care Movement (GTPP) program in Mugarsari Village by CDK Region VI, the community has experienced a significant increase in technical agricultural skills and pioneering in environmental conservation. Regular training and education on soil types, plant care techniques, and tree selection that are appropriate to land conditions have had a real impact on the community's confidence in caring for trees in their own environment. This increase in ability is not only limited to the implementation of the GTPP program, but has also been applied independently by the community in their daily lives. Many residents are now able to manage their private gardens better, utilizing their yard space to plant productive plants such as fruits and perennials. In fact, some residents have begun to develop new economic activities from the harvest of the trees they care for, such as selling tree seedlings, harvested fruit, and simple processed products.

In addition to the economic aspect, the application of sustainable agricultural techniques learned through this program is also increasingly widespread. The community has begun to implement environmentally friendly planting patterns, utilize organic fertilizers, and maintain soil quality naturally. Collective awareness in protecting the environment is also growing, reflected in the increasing participation of residents in nature conservation activities, such as reforestation of critical land and mutual cooperation in joint plant care. Thus, the GTPP program not only produces short-term benefits in the form of reforestation, but also creates long-term impacts in the form of independence, economic innovation, and environmental solidarity in local communities.

D. Development of Community Responsiveness and Immediacy

The Tree Planting and Maintenance Movement (GTPP) program in Mugarsari Village, implemented by CDK Region VI, has succeeded in increasing the community's responsiveness and immediacy in protecting the environment. The community showed a fast and effective response through active participation in planting Durian and Avocado seedlings. In addition, they also utilize digital applications such as Si Mantri Bibit and SIMANTAP to monitor tree growth periodically. As part of the response mechanism, the community received special training that includes planting techniques, tree care, and early identification of environmental problems, such as pest attacks or plant diseases. In this training, participants are taught how to recognize early symptoms of plant damage and how to take countermeasures independently or report them through the application.

The monitoring system used is transparent and collaborative, with regular recording of tree conditions, including plant height, leaf health, and seedling survival rates. Some farmer groups

have also begun to adopt simple tools such as soil moisture and air temperature sensors to help identify conditions that can trigger plant stress or the emergence of pests. Through this structured approach, communities are not only more responsive in caring for the environment, but also better prepared to act quickly and appropriately when faced with threats to the success of the program. This reflects the commitment and readiness of the community to maintain the sustainability of the local environment in an inclusive and proactive manner.

E. Suggestions and Opinions

Mugarsari Village, through CDK Region VI and the Tree Planting and Maintenance Movement (GTPP) program, has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving the success and effectiveness of environmental conservation. Routine evaluations conducted by Field Agricultural Extension Officers (PPL) every three months ensure systematic monitoring of tree growth conditions. This activity involves active community participation in participatory forums, which serve as a forum for providing constructive input and suggestions.

Program transparency is maintained through the use of applications such as Si Mantri Bibit, SIMANTAP, and WhatsApp groups, which facilitate two-way communication and facilitate access to evaluation information and program results. To encourage further innovation, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in the process of monitoring tree growth automatically and precisely can be considered. In addition, the introduction of a reward system for communities who actively participate can be an additional motivation, while strengthening community involvement and ownership in maintaining environmental sustainability in a sustainable manner.

F. Program Report

The reporting process in the Plant and Care for Trees (GTPP) program involves important steps to ensure transparency, accuracy, and effectiveness of implementation. Routine monitoring by field extension officers (PPL) every three months allows detailed recording of plant conditions and growth, as well as evaluation of the overall program implementation. The reports prepared include not only plant conditions but also environmental impacts, such as reducing disaster risks and improving environmental quality. Through the Si Mantri Bibit and SIMANTAP applications, reports and evaluation results are conveyed transparently to all relevant parties, increasing accountability and active community participation in efforts to maintain environmental sustainability.

CONCLUSION

The Tree Planting and Care Movement (GTPP) program in Mugarsari Village, CDK Region VI, Tasikmalaya, has proven its success in mobilizing extraordinary community

participation in efforts to maintain environmental sustainability and improve quality of life. The community is not only active in implementing the program but also shows independent initiative in caring for the Durian and Avocado trees they plant. With the support of regular training on agricultural techniques and the use of the Si Mantri Bibit application and SIMANTAP for monitoring, they have improved their technical skills in caring for plants and monitoring tree growth systematically.

The results of this program are not only seen in economic terms, with fruit harvests generating additional income for the community, but also in environmental terms. Planted plants help reduce the risk of disasters such as floods and landslides, as well as improving the quality of air and water around them. Routine evaluations carried out by field extension officers (PPL) every three months ensure that plant growth conditions are recorded accurately, while reports compiled transparently through applications and websites facilitate information that is easily accessible to all related parties.

Strong partnerships between communities, local governments, and other parties are also key to the success of this program. They not only work together in technical implementation, but also in supporting the long-term sustainability of the program. Through participatory forums and regular meetings, communities can contribute with input and suggestions for program improvement, reflecting their collective awareness in protecting the environment.

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