



The Role of the Association of Farmers Groups through the Cooperative Farming Model in advancing the Economy of Rural Communities

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to describe the role of Gapoktan through the Cooperative Farming Model in Karang Indah Village, Mandastana District, Barito District, Kuala Kalimantan. Describe the Gapoktan Karang Indah Program in advancing the community's economy, describing. Describe the impact of the Gapoktan program through cooperative farming. This type of research is qualitative research with a description approach. Research Instruments with Quantitative data through self-researchers (Human Instruments). Sources of data through interviews, observations and documentation. Qualitative data analysis consists of data reduction, data display and drawing conclusions. The validity of the data through triangulation. The results showed that (1) the Cooperative Farming Model plays a role in the management of rice entrepreneurs in expediting the distribution of rice commodities and encouraging the development of sustainable agricultural development. (2) The Gapoktan program in Karang Indah for rice farmers consists of socialization, partnership programs (government and private), and entrepreneurial agriculture-based training. (3) Gapoktan through the Cooperative Farming Model has a real impact on increasing rice farmer household income with the help of capital and financing. The use of the Cooperative Farming Model has a positive and significant impact in terms of the pattern of economic life of the Karang Indah village community.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture located in the location of South Kalimantan has attracted attention. In the midst of the onslaught of oil palm plantation companies, rice farming land which is spread throughout the South Kalimantan region has begun to decrease, including rice agricultural land which has been following the flow of land decline to become narrow. As the population in South Kalimantan increases by 4.17 million in 2022, the need for food, especially rice, continues to

increase (BPS Kal-Sel, 2022). Several districts that have rice fields in South Kalimantan still survive, one of the districts that is considered fertile is the Barito Kuala district which is on the border of the city of Banjarmasin. Barito Kuala Regency has a potential source of rice fields with an area of 289.94 ha and rice production of 1.15 million tons of dry milled grain (BPS Kal-Sel, 2022).

The type of rice that is in the agricultural area of Barito Kuala is Peat rice. Peat Paddy is a type of rice that is located on swamp land which must have special treatment for the land it manages. This shows that peatland is different from hard soil. The agricultural technology is also different (A. Nazeab et al., 2019).

Because it can take advantage of peatlands, culturally this land should only be able to grow forest plants such as purung, galam wood, and oil palm varieties. However, technology and local wisdom can now be converted into peat-based rice planting, although there are some areas that are still constrained by the acidity of peatlands so that the land cannot be planted with rice (Wardie & Sintha, 2017).

The presence of various knowledge about agriculture is undeniable, technological advances to produce similar goals are now being encouraged. Organizing and resource management is prepared, the formation of small groups of farmers is increasingly being improved. This refers to the increase in the yield of rice farmers in the Barito Kuala area, especially the Karang Indah village, which has received attention. Karang Indah Village has the potential of almost 80% having a rice farming profession. According to the results of observations made on July 15 2023, most of the people living in this village are rice farmers. The advantage of farmers is that they have the ability to increase village PPE. This is because the farming system practiced by the farming community is quite sophisticated. Starting from the planted rice seeds, it has local seed varieties and Javanese rice seeds.

The success of the Karang Indah community in producing Javanese and local rice is inseparable from the experience of the farmers. In the village of Karang Indah, it is known for its modern agricultural system. This is supported by maximizing the existing agricultural system, for example the formation of a beautiful coral farmer group, which brings together all the village farmers, management and government assistance related to fertilization and medicines to the marketing of the rice yields obtained, besides that coral village Indah is an icon for providing food self-sufficiency in Barito Kuala. This indicates that private partners are also helping in increasing the yield and marketability of rice in Karang Indah Village.

Many studies have been conducted on the use of cooperative farming models, including research on agricultural cooperative entrepreneurship (Marchant, 2006) Comparative Analysis of Cooperative and Non-Cooperative Farmer Access to Agricultural Inputs in Abuja, Nigeria (Ajah, 2015), Cooperative longevity, based on farming systems (Giagnocavo et al., 2018), support for adopting improved technology through farmer groups (Khan et al., 2022), digitization of agriculture through lowland rice farming (Pratiwi et al., 2022). The role of BUMDES in the Farming concept to increase agricultural output (Syariah et al., 2023). From various studies on the basis of cooperative farming, no one has seen more specific success of farmers through steps and programs carried out by farmer groups.

Apart from the advantages possessed by rice farmers in the village of Karang Indah, they certainly have constraints and shortcomings. This research will explore the role of Gapoktan in the cooperative farming empowerment model, or known as the government and private collaboration system in developing rice agricultural products.

2. METHOD

This research was conducted in the village of Karang Indah, Barito Kuala District. With a range from June to August 2023. The objects of this research are rice farmers and Gapoktan or a combination of farmer groups. The research instrument is the researchers themselves. Sources of data used are primary data and secondary data with the determination of informants through purposive sampling and Snowball techniques. According to (Sugiyono, 2013) the determination of this informant is through criteria that are determined based on the aspects you want to examine. The number of informants is 12 people with the criteria of informants, rice farmers, farmer groups, village government, Gapoktan partners. Data collection techniques are Observation, Interview, and Documentation. The data analysis technique used is data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing. After being analyzed, the validity of the data used is by conducting data triangulation which consists of Source Triangulation, Time Triangulation, and Engineering Triangulation (Creswell, 2018)

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Results

a. The Role of Gapoktan through the Cooperative Farmer Model

Based on the results of qualitative analysis, it can be seen that Gapoktan through mosel cooperatives has a very complex role in the progress and income of the local community. In lowland rice farming in the Mandastana sub-district, Karang Indah village, namely strengthening village independence, expanding the income of local farmers or farmer entrepreneurs, and encouraging sustainable and competitive agriculture (Prasetyo & Novita, 2022). With a cooperative farming system that facilitates cooperation between the government and the private sector. There are several roles that can be seen from the cooperative farming model (1) Marketing development and product innovation (Private and Government), (2) Training and mentoring (Company Management) (3) Natural Resource Management, (Partial Management) (3) Provision Supporting Infrastructure. (Saprodi Support and Services).

b. Gapoktan program in Karang Indah village

Based on the results of the data analysis carried out, it was found that several Gapoktan programs in improving the economy of rural communities, including Socialization, Partnership programs (Government and Private), and Agribusiness-based training. In the Karang Indah Gapoktan socialization, the aim is to add insight to rice farmers with modern, easy agricultural information, and how to maintain superior lowland rice for results and benefits. Then Gapoktan also has a strategic program involving the private sector and the government in terms of capital assistance and provision of management that has a modern agricultural system. Furthermore, Gapoktan Karang Indah every period provides assistance to Adan Angora farmers to discuss rice farming agro-business, starting from nurseries, nurseries, planting to rice harvest, so that the marketing of rice products can increase the economic income of local farmers. (Martha Matashu, 2022)

c. The Benefits of Gapoktan in the Cooperative Farming Model

Based on the results of the data analysis carried out, a real benefit was found in the income and economic progress of the Karang Indah farming community, because through the cooperative farming model, the farmers felt helped by the presence of the private sector and the government, absolute management consolidation was botton- up which serves as a motor in improving the

economic standards of farmers (Neupane et al., 2022). With more accurate land consolidation, members are expected to be more proactive. As a government and private partner, it certainly involves many stakeholders, including farmers, the private sector, and the government (Kundu & Goswami, 2022). Farmers can act as management members, private parties as investors and the government acts as a facilitator. So that in the end the organizational system is structured and according to the target to be achieved.

3.2 Discussion

a. *The Role of Gapoktan through the Cooperative Farmer Model*

Based on the results of qualitative analysis, it can be seen that Gapoktan through mosel cooperatives has a very complex role in the progress and income of the local community. In lowland rice farming in the Mandastana sub-district, Karang Indah village, namely strengthening village independence, expanding the income of local farmers or farmer entrepreneurs, and encouraging sustainable and competitive agriculture (Prasetyo & Novita, 2022). With a cooperative farming system that facilitates cooperation between the government and the private sector. (Sellare et al., 2020) There are several roles that can be seen from the cooperative farming model (1) Marketing development and product innovation (Private and Government), (2) Training and mentoring (Company Management) (3) Natural Resource Management, (Partial Management) (3) Provision Supporting Infrastructure. (Saprodi Support and Services).

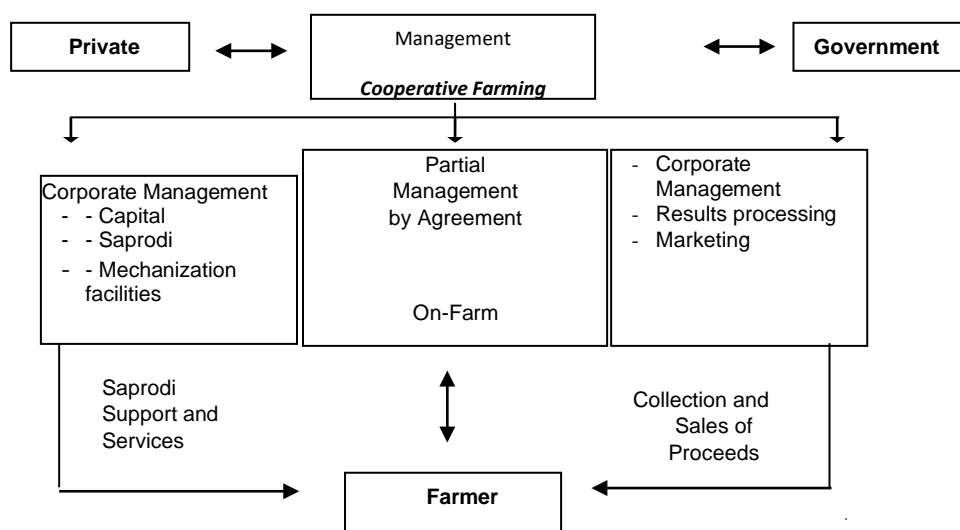


Figure 1. Farmers Cooperative Model of Rice-Based Design (Sipayung, 2000)

Empowerment with the cooperative farming model is a model of empowering farmers through groups, social engineering, technology, and the economy (Chukkapalli et al., 2020). Social engineering can be carried out through strengthening farmer institutions (Gapoktan) human resource development and counseling. (Kim & Laskowski, 2018) Economic Engineering is carried out by developing access to capital in terms of procurement of production inputs and market access. Technological engineering is carried out with technological

agreements with farmers' habits, value-added engineering, can be carried out by developing off-farm businesses, which are coordinated vertically and horizontally (Rondhi et al., 2020).

Gapoktan in Karang Indah, researchers see that there is vertical and horizontal coordination involving various stakeholders consisting of farmers, the private sector, and the government. Here the farmer performs his role as a member as well as manager (Gapoktan), as a farmer he actively plans with on-farm and off-farm and agrees on the technology used in its application. The private sector is very vital in seeing its role because it automatically acts as a capital provider or investor through the upstream to downstream sub-system (Ibnu et al., 2018). As a partner of the private upstream sub-system, it provides capital with agricultural production facilities. Finally, while the government, in this case Karang Indah Village, acts as a facilitator as well as a catalyst in planning activities, developing business strategies, applied technology, efficient location, production inputs and marketing of agricultural products (Wijaya et al., 2020). In many ways, the Karang Indah Gapoktan has succeeded in rehabilitating the system by cursing cooperative farming, so this can be an example for Gapoktans outside Barito Kuala.

b. Gapoktan program in Karang Indah village

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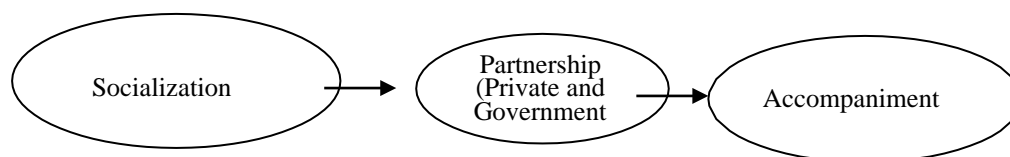


Figure 2. Gapoktan Program in Karang Indah Village (Results of data analysis, 2023)

Some of the Gapoktan Karang Indah Programs in improving the economy of rural communities are: Socialization, the purpose of holding socialization is to provide insight and knowledge to members and rice farmers about agriculture (Sembada et al., 2019). This is in accordance with Bahua that Agricultural Socialization is empowering farmer families and communities through non-formal activities in the agricultural sector so that they can help themselves both economically, socially, politically, so that welfare can increase (Bahua, 2015). This information is given to rice farmers about agricultural systems and techniques, both pre, during and post-harvest. Second, the Gapoktan Karang Indah partnership system is related to the concept of empowering cooperative farming models. Third, providing information related to agricultural technology, superior seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, and finally given knowledge about agricultural innovations.

The Karang Indah Gapoktan Partnership Program, which consists of embodiment of empowerment so that it is able to become an institution that provides facilities in the agricultural

sector. Lan Lio argues that a partnership is an attitude of doing business with the characteristics of long-term relationships, high-level cooperation, trust, customers (Linton, 2011) The form of partnership provided by the Karang Indah Gapoktan is the fulfillment of agricultural needs such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, the provision of assistance from PT. Hasnur in the form of pesticides and rice seeds, for the needs of goods through Gapoktan Karang Indah with capital loans and paid after the harvest. The harvest will be distributed directly to PT Hasnur, facilitated by the Karang Indah Gapoktan.

c. The Benefits of Gapoktan in the Cooperative Farming Model

Based on the results of the data analysis carried out, a real benefit was found in the income and economic progress of the Karang Indah farming community, because through the cooperative farming model, the farmers felt helped by the presence of the private sector and the government, absolute management consolidation was bottom-up which serves as a motor in improving the economic standards of farmers. With more accurate land consolidation, members are expected to be more proactive. As a government and private partner, it certainly involves many stakeholders, including farmers, the private sector, and the government. Farmers can act as management members, private parties as investors and the government acts as a facilitator. So that in the end the organizational system is structured and according to the target to be achieved.

According to Hermanto, community empowerment is how to involve the government, private sector and farmers so that they tend to combine the strengths of involvement that lead to better results (Hermanto, & Swastika, 2016). This strength can be a potential success for the parties in managing agriculture, the government can become a sponsor providing facilities, the private sector can become a driver of capital and farmers as executors of land. The presence of the cooperative farming empowerment model explains that the stakeholder component attachment is very helpful for rice farmers. In the village of Karang Indah this implementation has been carried out through the Association of Farmers Groups (Gapoktan). Farmer groups are a unifying part of farmers who have the same goal of advancing agriculture (Holikman, 2019). The various benefits that have been achieved by farmers through cooperative farming, including capital requirements are met, the provision of fertilizers and pesticides is adequate, and the most later is the consistent marketing of rice agricultural products, both quality and selling price. All of this has been measured through a cooperative farming system.

4. CONCLUSION

The concept of the Cooperative Farming Model used by Gapoktan Karang Indah is one of the keys to the success of rice farmers. Strategies to increase the income of rural communities by cooperating with the government, the private sector and farmers. The presence of Gapoktan is very helpful for farmers starting from nurseries, fertilizers and pesticides, consistent distribution of rice yields by PT. Hasnur really helps farmers and makes the spirit of rice farming. However, it cannot be denied that the most important thing in government policy in Karang Indah Village is to achieve good collaboration. As a recommendation for further research is how this cooperative farming model can survive and be used by farming communities in order to empower and increase the income and welfare of rice farmers.

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