

Village Development Analysis: Empowerment Model Of Tunas Baru Farmers' Group in Kualuh Hilir District, Labuhan Batu Utara District

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Abstract

A group is a group of people who have a common goal who interact with each other to achieve a common goal, get to know each other, and see themselves as part of the group. Therefore, in achieving increased agricultural development, the institutional role of farmer groups in rural areas is very large in supporting and implementing various programs that are being and will be implemented because these farmer groups are basically the main actors in agricultural development. Meanwhile, in the concept of community development as a social phenomenon, humans, both individuals and as members of society, have needs. In social life, needs can be individual or collective. Kualuh Hilir District, Sei Sentang Village, has a new Tunas Farmers Group as an institution at the farmer level to organize farmers in carrying out farming businesses. One of the Farmer Groups in Kualuh Hilir District is the Tunas Baru Farmer Group. The formation of the Tunas Baru Farmers Group was motivated by the same interests, the natural resources in Kualuh Hilir District, the same goals, the same conditions, and the existence of a sense of community. The Tunas Baru Farmer Group is led by a farmer group leader who is elected by deliberation. With around 35 members, this research uses qualitative methods. Data collection techniques in this research were observation and interviews. Based on the results of observations and interviews conducted, it is necessary to develop special knowledge for the community and members in Sei Sentang Village. The government must make full efforts to provide facilities so that all activities carried out by farmer groups run smoothly so that they are able to maintain the quality of agricultural products. The inhibiting factors for farmer groups are, first, personality factors in society regarding lack of participation and awareness of taking part in agricultural activities. Not to mention the lack of attention from the government, the programs of these farmer groups are hampered by the lack of capital, the farmer groups are unable to increase their agricultural output.

Keywords: Development, Empowerment, Farmer Groups.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country with an agricultural background or is an agricultural country. This means that agriculture still plays an important role in the national economy. This is reflected in the majority of Indonesia's population who work in the agricultural sector. Until now, the agricultural sector has been a field developed by the government considering the agricultural background. This agricultural sector is an agricultural sector that really supports the Indonesian economy and contributes foreign exchange to the country. (ZALUKHU, 2019).

The large population in Indonesia and limited adequate employment opportunities make the problem of unemployment in Indonesia a difficult problem for the government to overcome. The government's slow handling of this problem has made the Indonesian economy worse. In fact, the government can do a lot to overcome the problem of unemployment in Indonesia, one of which is opening more job opportunities for its citizens. If the government can move quickly, it is not impossible that the unemployment problem in Indonesia will be resolved. (Imsar, 2018)

In terms of terminology, development is a process that seeks to increase the capabilities and skills of human resources to face changes in the internal and external environment through education and skills. Meanwhile, according to Malay Hasibuan, development is an effort to improve employees' technical, theoretical, conceptual and moral abilities in accordance with job requirements through education and training. (Sri, 2018).

Development begins with improving the economy where residents begin to develop (development efforts) if they can carry out development with indicators of economic growth. In this case, the average productivity of citizens/society in one year is the indicator/measure criterion used. The development process generally includes 2 things, namely the development of physical facilities is development that can be felt by community members and is visible to the eye, while the non-physical is carried out at the encouragement/desire of the local community. (Wahyudi et al., 2021)

The national economic development policy places agricultural development as a fundamental first step for industrial growth. It is hoped that a strong agricultural sector can support strong industrial development. The success of the industrial sector is very dependent on the success of agricultural development. This policy encourages a change in the paradigm of Indonesian agricultural development, from increasing production to an agribusiness approach. Ironically, the development of the function and role of this sector does not have a real impact on the majority of people who depend on it. Progress and development results are more widely accepted and enjoyed by entrepreneurs or conglomerates, which are much smaller in number. This condition is running in such a way that an increase in the economic level of people involved in the agricultural sector has not been realized. The problem of inequality in development results obtained by farmers is mostly caused by the weak bargaining position of farmers (Angriani, 2017)

The agricultural sector is still the backbone of the economy in various regions, with the majority of the population working in this sector. Talking about efforts to make national food security a success, Indonesia already has a number of regulations that regulate and guarantee the lives of farmers, starting from Law no. 5 of 1960 concerning Basic Regulations on Agrarian Principles (UUPA), Law no. 41 of 2009 concerning Sustainable Agricultural Land Protection, Law no. 19 of 2013 concerning Protection and Empowerment of Farmers, Law no. 17 of 2019 concerning Water Resources, and so on, until the latest is Law no. 11 of 2020 concerning Job Creation. Apart from that, various other efforts have been made by the government and individuals, such as the green revolution business program, which is used as a way to increase food production in Indonesia. (Iqbal et al., 2023)

Kualuh Hilir District is one of the sub-districts in North Labuhan Batu Regency. The majority of people in Kualuh Hilir District work as farmers, although there are also people who work as civil servants, traders, fishermen and laborers. With this livelihood, the income of the farming community depends on the agricultural harvest, in order to meet the daily needs of farmers. Apart from that, Kualuh Hilir District has quite extensive agricultural land, so this encourages farmers to be able to utilize existing agricultural land to increase agricultural yields.

Meanwhile, the agricultural sector has a very important role in supporting the success of development in Indonesia. The agricultural sector also has an important role in producing products that are needed as input for other sectors, especially the industrial sector. As an agricultural country, the agricultural sector is a very strong sector in the economy, in the early stages of the development process, especially in providing food, and the agricultural sector is a source of natural resources that have a comparative advantage compared to other nations, because the ideal development process must be able to produce agricultural products that have a competitive advantage over other nations, both for export purposes and import substitution. (Kamuntuan, 2017)

DISCUSSION

1. Village Development

Etymologically, development comes from the equivalent of the word developer which means a process, method, action or a process of joint activities carried out by residents of an area to meet their needs. Meanwhile, according to the KBBI, it means a process of making something advanced, perfect and useful. (Jakarta: Library hall, 2005).

The development of a region in a development process is something that is related to and cannot be separated from the principles of regional autonomy. To support the implementation of regional autonomy, broad, real and responsible authority is needed in each region. (Wahyudi et al., 2021)

In essence, development is an effort to realize community welfare. This is made clear in the preamble to the 1945 Constitution that the aim of independence is to advance general welfare and make the life of the nation intelligent. In this way, national development is expected to be able to lead to balance, harmony and harmony in people's lives. 1 Poverty is one of the negative impacts of development. The problem of poverty is quite complex and requires changes from all parties together and coordinated. In general, poverty is a condition where the income level of a person or group of people is not sufficient to meet their basic needs.

Law no. 32 of 2004, the definition of a village is regulated in Article 1 paragraph (12) as follows: "A village or what is called by another name, hereinafter referred to as a village, is a legal community unit that has territorial boundaries and has the authority to regulate and manage the interests of the local community, based on origin, - origins and customs local government which is recognized and respected in the Government system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia". The definition of Village as explained in Article 1 paragraph (1) of Law Number 6 of 2014 explains "Villages are villages and traditional villages or referred to by other names, hereinafter referred to as Villages, are legal community units that have territorial boundaries that have the authority to regulate and managing government affairs, the interests of local communities based on community initiatives, rights of origin, and/or traditional rights that are recognized and respected in the government system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia." (Hasibuan et al., 2022).

2. Farmer groups

Farmer groups are groups of farmers who have the same interests and goals based on a common desire to improve the performance of their farming business. The formation of farmer groups is based on a geographical approach to the position of adjacent land, an administrative area approach of residence and an approach to the commodities cultivated. (Rural, 2005). Farmer groups are also a vehicle for joint learning between farmers and have many roles in developing horticultural agribusiness. Groups as a learning vehicle can be used to learn together in solving various problems. Groups can be used as a vehicle for exchanging opinions and helping each other when they experience problems or obstacles. (Hariri et al., 2016)

Farmer groups are usually led by a group leader, who is elected on the basis of deliberation and consensus among members of the farmer group. At the time of selecting the chairman of the farmer group, the complete organizational structure of the farmer group, namely the group secretary, group treasurer, and sections that support the group's activities are selected. The existing sections are adjusted to the level and volume of activities to be carried out. Each manager and member of the farmer group must have duties and authority as well as responsibilities that are clear and understood by each holder of the task. Apart from that, farmer groups must have and enforce regulations that apply to each group with clear and firm sanctions. Usually the number of farmer group members ranges from 10-25 members.

A farmer group is a group or organization consisting of farmers who work together in various aspects of agriculture, such as production, marketing and agricultural development. The main characteristics of farmer groups usually include:

- 1) Members consisting of Farmers
- 2) Shared Goals
- 3) Partnership and Cooperation
- 4) Joint Management of Resources
- 5) Sharing of Joint Results
- 6) Co-Marketing
- 7) Access to Improved Technology
- 8) Coaching and Mentoring
- 9) Legality
- 10) Democratic Participation
- 11) Focus on Sustainability
- 12) Variations in Size and Scope

These characteristics may vary depending on geographic location, type of farming, and goals of specific farming groups. However, basically, farmer groups are a form of collaboration between farmers to increase agricultural output and improve their welfare.

Empowerment of farmer groups is an effort to increase the capacity, knowledge, skills and access of farmer group members so that they can take a more active and productive role in their agricultural activities. This empowerment aims to improve the welfare of farmer group members, increase agricultural productivity, and strengthen the agricultural community as a whole. The following are several steps and strategies that can be used to realize the empowerment of farmer groups

METHOD

This type of research is qualitative research which is often called a naturalistic research method because the research is carried out in natural conditions. Qualitative research methods are research that do not carry out calculations using numbers, because qualitative research is research that provides a factual and systematic description of conditions regarding the factors and characteristics of the relationships between the phenomena that exist to carry out accumulation. (Wahyuni, 2012).

A qualitative research approach is a method in science that aims to understand phenomena or problems from an in-depth and comprehensive point of view. Qualitative research focuses more on interpretation, understanding, and meaning attached to a context rather than measurement and statistical analysis. This approach is generally used in social sciences, humanities, and various other fields that examine complex and multidimensional aspects. This research will describe the analysis of village development: the empowerment node for the Tunas Baru farmer group in the Kualuh downstream sub-district, Labuhan Batu Utara district.

RESEARCH RESULT

Tunas Baru Farmer Group Program in Development and Empowerment.

Based on the results of an interview with one member of the Tunas Baru farmer group, he said:

"Village development through empowering farmer groups requires capital and long-term commitment and collaboration between various parties. This aims to achieve sustainable development, reduce poverty, and improve the welfare of farmer groups and village communities as a whole." (IS interview 28 August 2023).

In accordance with Republic of Indonesia Law NO 19 OF 2013 concerning Protection and Empowerment of Farmers article 1 paragraph (4) it is explained that agriculture is the activity of managing biological natural resources with the help of technology with the help of capital, technology, labor and management to produce agricultural commodities which include food crops, horticulture, plantations and animal husbandry in an agroecosystem. Meanwhile, article 1 paragraph (3) states that farmers are individual Indonesian citizens and/or their families who carry out business in the agricultural sector. With capital problems making it very difficult for farmer groups, they are really hoping for help. As one of the heads of the Selamat Baru farmer group said as follows:

"Efforts to increase empowerment for farmers are through improving the quality of agricultural human resources, namely by facilitating farming businesses by providing formal education and providing capital and attention from local government officials." (NN Interview dated 28 August 2023).

This was also complained about by members of the Tunas Baru farmer group in the following interview:

"How we as farmers will progress is that there is often assistance from the government but it is not very optimal and sufficient because the way it is distributed is uneven and the government's control over farmers is weak as seen from the price of rice which has risen but the selling price is still low. And sometimes there are those who sell expensive and there are also those who sell cheap." (NR Interview dated August 28 2023)

From the results of the interviews above, it can be concluded that the model of empowering farmer groups is the importance of attending counseling for members of farmer groups to increase their knowledge and insight regarding how to farm properly and correctly, knowing about modern agricultural systems because many farmers do not understand this. In Sei Sentang village, another obstacle is the lack of activity of several extension workers in providing material to farmer members, which is one of the causes of the lack of knowledge about agriculture among farmer group members.

Increasing Community Economic Growth Through the Tunas Baru Farmer Group in Sei Sentang Village, Kec. Kualuh Hilir

Increasing community economic growth through the Tunas Baru Farmers Group requires hard work, commitment and good coordination between all related parties. With the right steps and sufficient support, it is hoped that the people of Sei Sentang Village can improve their welfare through a more productive and sustainable agricultural sector. As a statement from one of the Sei Sentang village residents stated:

"Currently, the increase in community economic growth is starting to increase through farmer groups because the agricultural sector itself is a sector that makes a huge contribution to economic development" (SD Interview 28 August 2023).

This was also conveyed by members of the farmer group regarding increasing economic growth:

"As the head of the honest group, I really feel helped by the existence of this farmer group program, farmers are more disciplined in carrying out farming activities, because this makes it easier for farmers to get seeds, fertilizer and other medicines which makes farmers enthusiastic about managing agriculture. so that getting satisfactory harvest results for farmers can support a good economy" (Interview AR 28 August 2023).

From the interview above, the researcher here explains that with the existence of the Tunas Baru farmer group, the community is more helped in improving the economy of the community in Sei Sentang village, where they help the economy in terms of increasing income by farming, and there are also farmers who feel that the existence of this farmer group feels It is not beneficial for them and there are also some people who do not really care about the farmer group program being implemented, they still use the methods they know for farming without involving the farmer group.

Barriers to the Tunas Baru Farmer Group in Implementing Development and Empowerment Programs in Sei Sentang Village, District. Kualuh Hilir

One of the inhibiting factors is the lack of knowledge resources possessed by farmer groups. This proves that the knowledge resources of farmer groups are so that farmer groups pay less attention to technological developments so that the way of planting is still the old way and the results are not increasing. In the application, the implementation of farming is only based on experience. This was expressed by the head of the farmer group in the following interview: *"The inhibiting factor in empowering farmer groups can be seen from the large number of farmer group members whose knowledge is very minimal. Because most of the members of the farmer groups here are elementary school graduates."* (NN Interview 28 August 2023).

The results of this interview indicate that the knowledge of members of the new shoots farmer group regarding maintenance and fertilization is still lacking. This is due to the lack of initiative of farmer groups in increasing their knowledge of farming, because some members of their Tunas Baru farmer groups think that taking part in training and education is just a waste of time. They prefer to be laborers rather than having to take part in such activities. As expressed by the head of the Tunas Baru farmer group as follows:

"Perhaps members of other farmer groups will participate in the education and training provided by the government as long as the extension workers provide more accurate information or approach other members." (NN interview on 28 August 2023).

From the results of the interviews above, it can be concluded that the farmer group empowerment model and the Tunas Baru farmer group program, capital, knowledge and equipment are one of the main obstacles faced by the Tunas Baru farmer group. Capital and equipment are very important tools for supporting the smooth running of activities. farming business management. Facilities in managing farming businesses are very supportive for the success of the farming business being developed. The facilities owned by the Tunas Baru farmer group are not yet adequate in quality or quantity due to limited funds. Therefore, attention from the government is needed so that the programs of the Tunas Baru farmer group run according to expectations.

Empowerment of the Tunas Baru farmer group in Sei Sentang village, sub-district. Kualuh downstream

Farmer training is non-formal education carried out in the field or in this case in rice fields, open areas, farming studios or places that provide comfort for farmers which are not far from learning facilities. This meeting is held during the planting season. As one member of the Tunas Barau farmer group said as follows:

"One of the efforts made by the Tunas Baru Farmers Group to improve the welfare of the community in Sei Sentang Village is by conducting frequent training for members of the farmer group in order to further increase the insight and knowledge of farmer members regarding crops such as corn, rice and beans. the land can grow fertile and improve" (IS interview 28 August 2023).

This training is carried out to manage plant growth levels so that they can provide maximum benefits. In this case the farmers are students and teachers while the guides act as moderators or facilitators. Apart from that, the head of the Tunas Baru farmer group, Sei Sentang Village, Kualuh Hulu Subdistrict, Labuhan Batu Utara, said that:

"So far we have made efforts to ensure that agricultural yields are better and increase every year, so that the farming community is able to improve social welfare, especially for Sei Sentang Village. Several efforts have been made, namely: (1). Procurement of subsidized fertilizer, counseling, (2) Monitoring each activity to see whether it is in accordance with its potential and seeing its development, you must be directly involved in the field. (3). Participation then invites what needs to be done in participation, for example what is proposed by the community for corn seeds, the provision of superior rice seeds and deliberations between village officials and people who work as farmers, (4). Farmers' agricultural products are usually budgeted for production costs and income to improve the welfare of the community." (NN interview 28 August 2023).

The role of the Village Government is the most important indicator in a society to encourage productivity for farmers and make every effort to meet the needs of farmers.

CONCLUSION

From the research results that the author has described, it can be concluded that:

1. Farmer group programs are an important strategy in agricultural development and empowerment. Farmer groups can be an effective vehicle for increasing agricultural production, improving farmer welfare, and strengthening the sustainability of the agricultural system. The farmer group programs include farmer participation, education and training, joint business plans, access to resources and marketing.
2. Increasing community economic growth through farmer groups can be achieved by integrating various strategies that strengthen the agricultural sector. Such as developing added value, access to markets, financial and business management, use of digital technology and education and skills. Through the implementation of these steps, farmer groups can become a motor of significant economic growth in society, helping to increase income, create jobs, and improve overall well-being.
3. Even though farmer groups have great potential to develop and empower agricultural communities, they are also faced with various obstacles that can limit their ability to achieve these goals. The obstacles for farmer groups include limited resources, climate change, limited access to markets, price uncertainty, lack of Education and training and policy instability.
4. The role of Village Government is the most important indicator in a society to encourage productivity for farmers and make every effort to meet the needs of farmers.

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