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Implementation of Subsidized Fertilizer Policy in Kotamobagu City

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Abstract. The objectives of this research are 1) to know, analyze and describe the Implementation of Subsidized Fertilizer Policy in Kotamobagu City; 2) To find out and analyze and describe the factors that influence the Implementation of Subsidized Fertilizer Policy in Kotamobagu City. This research uses qualitative research methods with data collection techniques in the form of in-depth interviews, observation and documentation studies. In this study, the focus of research is the implementation of subsidized fertilizer policies for farmers in Kotamobagu City with sub-focus research on sufficiency, equity, and accuracy. Informants in this study were determined using purposive sampling. The results showed that the implementation of fertilizer policy in Kotamobagu city has not been effective. The influencing factors are 1) fertilizer distribution is often late and uneven distribution, 2) The distribution of subsidized fertilizers is no longer realized based on the Group Needs Definitive Plan (RDKK) as well as weak coordination and lack of active role in the preparation and implementation of the Group Needs Definitive Plan (RDKK), and 3) The inaccuracy of fertilizer availability is detrimental to farmers. Therefore, the recommendations of this study are 1) strengthen distribution supervision, 2) increase the role of farmer groups, and 3) strengthen collaboration between stakeholders: local government, farmer groups, distributors and other related parties.

Keywords. Policy Implementation, Subsidized Fertilizer, Farmer Group, Group Needs Definitive Plan

A. Introduction

The subsidized fertilizer distribution policy is a government effort to increase agricultural productivity, where fertilizers play an important and strategic role in supporting the agricultural sector (Sudjono, 2011) [1]. However, the current situation of farmers is often disadvantaged due to policies that are not in their favor, for example, the high price of fertilizer as one of the important components in agricultural production so that it is an encouragement for the government to provide subsidies to fertilizers for the agricultural sector and is affirmed for fertilizer producers to continue to prioritize the procurement of fertilizers in order to meet the needs in the agricultural sector (Kholis & Setiaji, 2020) [2]. However, there is still a problem, where the allocation of subsidized fertilizers from the central government to local governments does not match the needs.

The government must be able to develop natural resources and utilize them properly. The government can also invite the community to participate or participate in processing natural resources effectively. So that the results obtained will be very effective, which of course is balanced with the support of facilities and infrastructure from the government (Suryana et al., 2016) [3].

In developing the agricultural sector in North Sulawesi Province, more specifically Kotamobagu City, the minister of agriculture has made farmer groups to make it easier to record and distribute subsidized urea fertilizer needs (Linelejan et al., 2020) [4]. This is contained in the Decree of the Minister of Agriculture Number 771/KPTS/SR.320/M/XII/2021 concerning the Determination of Allocation and Highest Retail Price of Subsidized Fertilizers in the Agricultural Sector for the 2022 Budget Year. This is used to develop farmer groups to be effective in developing and advancing the agricultural sector, so that policies are made to be right on target and in accordance with the objectives. By creating this farmer group, it is a strategic step to create new jobs and reduce unemployment in an area. The farmer groups that are formed then form a definitive design of the needs of the groups or commonly referred to as RDKK then this design is proposed to the local government and then forwarded to the governor. The North Sulawesi Provincial Government, in this case the Governor as the Regional Leader, issued a Decree of the Governor of North Sulawesi Number 68 of 2022 concerning the Allocation and Highest Retail Price of Subsidized Fertilizers for the Agricultural Sector and supported by the Decree of the Mayor of Kotamobagu City Number 225 of 2022 concerning the Allocation and Highest Retail Price of Subsidized Fertilizers for the Agricultural Sector of Kotamobagu City, so that this agricultural development can be used to build the concept of sustainable or sustainable development in the economic field.

Kotamobagu City is a potential area in the agricultural and other sectors. This is supported by human resources and natural resources owned by the city (Mokodompit et al., 2019) [5]. Agriculture in this area is quite developed because many people are engaged in agriculture, both individually and in farmer groups. The area of Kotamobagu City is 108 square kilometers, while the area of agriculture and plantation is 6,587 hectares. This means that the agricultural area in Kotamobagu City is still very large in the middle of an urban area and uniquely, most Kotamobagu people work as farmers. Of the 6,587 hectares of agricultural and plantation land in Kotamobagu, most are in South Kotamobagu Sub-district. Based on data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), the contribution of the agricultural sector in Kotamobagu City was 8.25 percent in 2021 and in 2022 it rose to 8.27 percent (Rempas et al., 2023) [6]. This means that the agricultural sector still has a high enough contribution in order to provide economic contribution to the city of Kotamobagu.

The current allocation of subsidized fertilizers to farmers, especially in Kotamobagu City, still causes gaps in the concept, making several problems both in budgeting and distributing subsidized fertilizers in the field. The problem of subsidized fertilizer availability in the field is influenced by the 6 principles launched by the government, including the right amount, type, time, place, quality and price. The provision of subsidized fertilizer is often lower than the needs that have been proposed by local governments, the delay in the distribution of subsidized fertilizer from distributors to authorized retailers causes scarcity of subsidized fertilizer. The problem of farmers' ability to redeem subsidized fertilizers is also the reason why the absorption of subsidized fertilizers is not optimal. The existence of a fertilizer pricing policy has led to a dualistic domestic fertilizer market, namely a subsidized market and a non-subsidized market. One of the things that also plays a role in the implementation of subsidized fertilizer distribution is the supervision aspect. One of the causes of deviations in farmers'

behavior in purchasing fertilizer is the weak role of farmer groups in coordinating with group members in terms of redemption and utilization of subsidized fertilizer. In addition, subsidized fertilizer is often insufficient to meet the needs of farmers, due to a mismatch between the amount of fertilizer applied for and the amount of fertilizer obtained from the distributor.

Based on the description of the problems described above, the researcher is interested in conducting research entitled “Implementation of Subsidized Fertilizer Policy in Kotamobagu City” with the research objectives being 1) to find out, analyze and describe the Implementation of Subsidized Fertilizer Policy in Kotamobagu City, and 2) to find out and analyze and describe the factors that influence the Implementation of Subsidized Fertilizer Policy in Kotamobagu City.

B. Method

This research uses a qualitative approach. Qualitative research according to Sugiono (2005: 1) in [Masengi et al. \(2023\)](#) is a research method used to research on natural object conditions, where the researcher is the key instrument, data collection techniques are triangulated (combined), data analysis is inductive and the impact of qualitative research emphasizes more on meaning [7].

In this study, the focus of research is the implementation of subsidized fertilizer policies for farmers in Kotamobagu City with sub-focus research on sufficiency, equity, and accuracy. Sufficiency in subsidized fertilizer policy refers to the availability of subsidized fertilizer that is sufficient to meet the needs of farmers who are entitled to receive it. Equity in subsidized fertilizer policy means efforts to ensure that all farmers who are entitled to subsidized fertilizer can obtain it fairly and evenly. Accuracy in subsidized fertilizer policy refers to the extent to which the distribution of subsidized fertilizer is in accordance with the targets and objectives that have been set.

This study used purposive sampling technique in determining key informants, which consisted of the head of the agency, head of infrastructure and extension, general functional employees of the infrastructure section, technical functional employees of the agricultural extension section, distributors and farmers. Data collection techniques were in-depth interviews, observation and document study ([Sugiyono, 2017](#)) [8]. The data analysis technique used was using the Miles and Huberman model in [Dilapanga et al. \(2023\)](#), namely data collection, data reduction, data presentation/display, and conclusion drawing [9].

C. Results and discussion

The purpose of fertilization is to meet the needs of food which plays a very important role for plants both in the growth process ([Mansyur et al., 2021](#)) [10]. Fertilization can be done using natural (organic) and artificial (inorganic) fertilizers. In general, fertilization is carried out twice per growing season with fertilizer doses used, namely: urea fertilizer 200 kg/Ha, SP36 fertilizer 200 kg/Ha, KCl fertilizer 100 kg/Ha or adjusted according to soil analysis. The first fertilization is done after the plants are 12 days old, the second fertilization is done after the plants are 40 days old. However, if the fertilization of rice plants is late, it will have an impact on the growth of rice plants stunted, plants will experience a lack or insufficiency of nutrients that can cause abnormal leaf color, small leaf size, or changes in plant shape. Then it can cause crop yields to decrease, because they do not get enough nutrients, resulting in fewer and lower quality agricultural products ([Siallagan et al., 2014](#)) [11].

Subsidized fertilizer assistance for the agricultural sector is intended to actually realize national food security ([Arif et al., 2020](#)) [12]. That is by providing subsidies, so that farmers

can buy fertilizer at a price that is cheaper than the market price (Rangkuti, 2012) [13]. Thus, it is expected that farmers will be able to fertilize properly in accordance with the recommended dose and type for the cultivation of agricultural commodities. In this way, it is intended that the production and productivity of farming can continue to be increased. Because, after all, fertilizer is one of the most important factors in increasing the production and productivity of farming, in addition to climate, seeds/varieties and others.

The following are the results of research obtained through observations, interviews and document studies based on indicators of research sub-focuses.

Table 1. Findings of Fertilizer Subsidy Policy Implementation in Kotamobagu City Region

No.	Indicator	Findings
1	Sufficiency	It is known that there is insufficient use of balanced fertilizers to meet the target production achievements, especially rice plants, where farmers only get 200 kg of fertilizer / ha while to meet the use of balanced fertilizers requires 350-400 kg / ha
2	Equity	a) The distribution of subsidized fertilizers is no longer realized based on RDKK but is distributed based on the Central / Provincial Government allocation where the allocation does not match the quota or land area in each farmer group. b) Uneven allocation of fertilizer types at the regional level where since the beginning of 2023 the allocation of fertilizer types is only available Urea and Phonska
3	Accuracy	Timeliness of fertilizer availability to the detriment of farmers

Source: Data from Research Findings

The planning and allocation of subsidized fertilizers is an important part in increasing the production and productivity of the agricultural sector in Kotamobagu City, especially for smallholder farmers who depend on Kotamobagu City government subsidies to optimize their production. Subsidized fertilizers are provided as a form of support from the Kotamobagu City government so that farmers can obtain fertilizers at more affordable prices, so that they are able to meet the nutritional needs of plants and increase the productivity of agricultural products. Given the importance of fertilizers in the agricultural process, the plan and allocation of subsidized fertilizers must be carefully prepared and based on accurate data so that the subsidies really reach the farmers who need them.

The process of preparing the subsidized fertilizer allocation plan begins with data collection of fertilizer needs through the e-RDKK (Electronic Definitive Plan for Group Needs) system. This system collects data on fertilizer needs based on land area, crop type, and planting season schedule from each farmer group in Kotamobagu City area. The data integrated in the e-RDKK is the basis for the Kotamobagu City government in determining the allocation of fertilizer per sub-district, so that the distribution of subsidized fertilizer is more targeted. The e-RDKK based data collection also provides better transparency and accountability compared to the manual method, thus minimizing potential irregularities in fertilizer allocation.

After the data collection, the verification and validation process is carried out by agricultural extension officers and the Kotamobagu City Agriculture and Fisheries Office. This stage aims to ensure that the data submitted by farmer groups is accurate and reflects the real

needs in the field. Furthermore, the central government sets the allocation of subsidized fertilizer based on the verified data, adjusted to the budget and national policy. This allocation is determined by considering several factors, such as agricultural commodity priorities, cultivated land area, and food security strategies.

A planned and measured allocation is essential to support the success of the subsidized fertilizer program. Proper allocation not only has a positive impact on farmers' productivity, but also helps prevent scarcity in the market. With a good plan and allocation of subsidized fertilizers, the Kotamobagu City government can ensure that this assistance really encourages increased food production, supports farmers' welfare, and contributes to economic stability.

RDKK (Group Needs Definitive Plan) data of Kotamobagu City in 2022 that was inputted in the previous year's e-RDKK system and allocation data for each type of fertilizer at Kotambagu City level in 2022 can be seen in the following table:

Table 2. RDKK Data of Kotamobagu City in 2022

No.	District	Number of Farmers	Planting Area (Ha)	Urea (Kg)	ZA (Kg)	NPK (Kg)	Organic (Kg)	POC (L)
1	North Kotamobagu	781	2.292,3	455.886	-	778.260	1.107.156	14.775
2	East Kotamobagu	1.098	3.963,6	1.000.668	4.140	1.124.145	1.994.450	-
3	South Kotamobagu	1.815	6.596,76	1.490.890	-	1.820.973	3.206.930	-
4	West Kotamobagu	539	1713	349.665	28.050	541.989	716.250	-
Total		4.233	14.565,66	3.297.109	32.190	4.265.367	7.024.786	14.775
Conversion to Tons & Liters		-	-	3.297,109	32,19	4.265,367	7.024,786	14,775

Table 3. Allocation Data of Subsidized Fertilizers in Kotamobagu City in 2022

No.	Fertilizer Type	Quota (ton)	Quota Change I (ton)	Quota Change II (ton)	Distributed Amount (ton)	%	Remaining Quota (ton)
1	Urea	737	800	735	703,75	95,75	31,25
2	NPK	626	754	754	754	100	0
3	Organik	230	8	8	8	100	0
4	ZA	300	5	5	5	100	0
Total		1.893	1.567	1.502	1.470,75	97,92	31,25

In 2022, the number of Kotamobagu farmers registered in the subsidized fertilizer e-RDKK system is 4233 NIK with an allocation of 1,502 tons of subsidized fertilizer. The amount of subsidized fertilizer absorption is 1,470.75 tons or about 97.92 percent of the total allocation. This year there were 3 changes in the relocation of subsidized fertilizers because there were types of fertilizers whose previous allocations had run out, for example, the initial NPK fertilizer allocation was only 626 tons to 754 tons. There are also types of fertilizers that due to very minimal absorption by the Provincial Government are relocated to Regency / City areas with high absorption, such as organic fertilizers whose initial allocation was 23 tons to 8 tons.

The results of interviews with farmers, stating that the distribution of subsidized fertilizers has not been effective because it is still often felt by farmers that there is a scarcity of

fertilizer, where at the producer level it has distributed fertilizer in accordance with the Definitive Plan of Group Needs (RDKK) proposed jointly by the Farmer Group. Thus, the community considers that the current distribution model is not in their favor and there are many obstacles, especially delays in delivery and scarcity, which will affect the agricultural productivity of food crops in the form of rice, even resulting in crop failure.

Based on the results of the research, the distribution of fertilizer subsidies is regulated by the Kotamobagu City Regional Government, where farmers can directly buy fertilizer to official retailers through farmer groups. Supervision is carried out to determine the effectiveness of the fertilizer subsidy policy. Effectiveness can be known through indicators, namely sufficiency, equity, and accuracy. Each indicator shows the constraints experienced by farmers in obtaining subsidized fertilizer, which ultimately affects agricultural productivity in the field. The following is a further discussion of the research results based on each of these indicators.

Sufficiency

The sufficiency indicator shows that the amount of subsidized fertilizer received by farmers currently does not meet the optimal needs to achieve production targets. This means that the amount of fertilizer provided by the government through the subsidy program must be balanced with the demand from farmers, so that there is no shortage or excess of fertilizer.

The sufficiency indicator in the implementation of subsidized fertilizer policy plays an important role in analyzing the effectiveness and sufficiency of fertilizer allocation for farmers, with extension workers as the main link between the government and farmers (Ragimun et al., 2020) [14]. Extension workers, who have a deep understanding of fertilizer needs in the field, can provide valuable insights to identify constraints and formulate policy improvements that are more responsive to real conditions.

The use of subsidized fertilizer by farmers is profitable, as they do not have to spend a lot of money to buy non-subsidized fertilizer. The use of subsidized fertilizer by farmers is also profitable, because since the existence of subsidized fertilizer, farmers continue to use subsidized fertilizer. This is because non-subsidized fertilizer is very expensive. Furthermore, the influence in the form of price or availability that is detrimental to farmers is the lack of availability of subsidized fertilizers, and sometimes also the procurement of subsidized fertilizers is late. So that the application to the plants is also not on time, which sometimes has an impact on reducing the number of crop yields. To overcome this, farmers buy non-subsidized fertilizer, which is much more expensive, but sometimes farmers also use compost fertilizer which is easy to make and environmentally friendly.

Based on interviews with agricultural extension workers and farmers in Kotamobagu, there are several factors that influence the effectiveness of the subsidized fertilizer allocation policy, and the challenges faced in the field. First, the current allocation of subsidized fertilizers is considered to not met the real needs of farmers, because the allocation policy has not fully considered important variables such as the type of crop and the area of land managed. In addition, climate change has a direct impact on fertilizer needs and cropping patterns, so farmers often must adjust fertilizer use to remain optimal in the midst of uncertain climatic conditions. Farmers' reliance on inorganic fertilizers to achieve high yields also raises concerns regarding land sustainability, as overuse risks degrading soil fertility. Extension workers also face constraints in submitting accurate data on fertilizer needs to the government due to limitations in the reporting system, which results in allocations that do not always match the real needs in the field. Based on experiences in the field, extension workers provide recommendations to increase the allocation amount, tighten distribution supervision, and improve the reporting

system to better match field conditions. The hope of the farmers, as conveyed by HK, is that the central government will increase the allocation of subsidized fertilizers in accordance with the RDKK prepared by the Kotamobagu City Government, so that the insufficiency of fertilizers can be resolved, and agricultural productivity can be maintained. Government support in adjusting the allocation is very important considering the high dependency of smallholder farmers on subsidized fertilizers.

Equity

The policy of equal distribution of subsidized fertilizers in Kotamobagu City is an important step to ensure adequate fertilizer availability for all farmers, so that agricultural productivity in this area can be maintained and increased. With equalization, it is expected that all farmers, both those with small and large landholdings below 2 Hectares, can receive the amount of fertilizer according to their needs based on land area, crop type, and cropping pattern. This policy not only aims to increase crop yields, but also to create a fair distribution balance and minimize over-reliance on certain fertilizers, especially inorganic fertilizers, which if used excessively can damage soil fertility in the long run. Through the implementation of measured and targeted fertilizer distribution, the local government is expected to be able to overcome various obstacles that have been faced by farmers related to limited fertilizer allocation, as well as support the sustainability of a better agricultural sector in Kotamobagu City. This discussion is important because the policy of equal distribution of subsidized fertilizers does not only focus on the distribution aspect, but also on improving the welfare of farmers and the sustainability of the agricultural ecosystem in the region.

Based on interviews with agricultural extension officers, to anticipate the allocation of subsidized fertilizer that does not always match the needs of farmers, they took steps to distribute fertilizer more evenly across farmer groups by considering the area of land managed. This distribution is done by considering the proportion of land managed by each farmer group, so that no one feels disadvantaged or short of fertilizer, and reduces the potential for uneven distribution that often occurs. This step is very important considering farmers' dependence on subsidized fertilizers is very high, and if the allocation is not in accordance with the needs, it can hamper agricultural productivity. In addition, this fair distribution is also expected to prevent the accumulation of fertilizer in farmer groups that have lower needs, while other farmer groups that need more do not get enough fertilizer.

The Head of Facilities and Infrastructure of the Kotamobagu City Agriculture and Fisheries Agency explained that there are several internal and external factors that affect the equitable distribution of subsidized fertilizers in the Kotamobagu City area. In terms of internal factors, the RPT mentioned that the e-RDKK (Group Needs Definitive Plan) based distribution policy plays an important role in ensuring a more targeted fertilizer allocation that is in line with farmers' needs. However, strict and sometimes bureaucratic distribution procedures can slow down the process of distributing fertilizer to farmers, especially in hard-to-reach areas. In addition, limited stock of fertilizer at distributors is also a bottleneck, as when stock is limited, distribution will be more concentrated in certain areas and farmers in other areas will be undersupplied. From an external perspective, limited transportation accessibility also has a major effect on equitable distribution. In areas with inadequate transportation infrastructure, fertilizer distribution can be delayed or even not reach the locations in need, especially in remote areas. In addition, unpredictable weather conditions, such as heavy rain or a long dry season, can also hamper distribution, as fertilizer deliveries can be delayed. According to him, to achieve more effective equitable distribution of subsidized fertilizers, there needs to be

improvements in the distribution system, strengthening of transportation infrastructure, as well as an increase in fertilizer stocks at the distributor level so that all farmers, without exception, can receive an allocation that suits their needs.

Overall, the various factors affecting the equitable distribution of subsidized fertilizer in Kotamobagu, both internally and externally, show the importance of a more holistic and integrated approach. Close cooperation between extension workers, retail kiosks, and related agencies is needed to ensure fair and targeted distribution. By considering aspects such as the use of organic fertilizers, kiosks' ability to redeem fertilizers, and a more accurate e-RDCK-based policy, it is hoped that dependence on subsidized fertilizers can be reduced, and equitable distribution can be achieved more efficiently. In this case, the role of farmers, extension workers, and support from the government is very important to create a more equitable distribution pattern, increase agricultural productivity, and maintain overall soil sustainability.

Accuracy

The accuracy of subsidized fertilizer distribution is a very important factor in supporting the success of agricultural production in Kotamobagu City. Timeliness of distribution, targeting the type of fertilizer that suits the needs of the crop, the amount of fertilizer that is sufficient for the land area, as well as equitable distribution based on location, all play a role in ensuring that the available fertilizer can be optimally utilized by farmers. Analysis of fertilizer uptake data referring to these various factors can reveal existing problems, such as mismatches between fertilizer allocations and farmers' real needs, in terms of time, type, quantity and price. Accuracy in this case also includes the correspondence between extension workers' recommendations and absorption data, as well as the identification of constraints that hinder effective distribution. By ensuring that every aspect of fertilizer distribution runs appropriately, it is hoped that the subsidized fertilizer policy can support more sustainable and productive agricultural growth in the Kotamobagu City area.

The following are some aspects of the accuracy discussion:

1. Time Accuracy of Fertilizer Distribution

Timeliness in fertilizer distribution is very important, especially at the beginning of the planting season. If absorption data shows that fertilizer is absorbed more slowly at the beginning of the season or there is a significant lag before fertilizer reaches farmers, this indicates a problem with the timeliness of distribution. For example, if the absorption of urea or NPK fertilizers that are highly needed at the beginning of the season is only partially achieved in the middle of the season, then it is likely that the fertilizer cannot be fully utilized. This reduces the effectiveness of the fertilizer in supporting optimal plant growth.

2. Targeted Accuracy in Absorption by Type of Fertilizer

Absorption data by fertilizer type (such as urea, NPK, SP-36, ZA, and organic fertilizer) can reveal whether fertilizer distribution has been tailored to the needs of different crops. If the data shows that the uptake of non-subsidized fertilizers is higher than subsidized fertilizers for certain types of fertilizers that are supposed to be needed, this may indicate mistargeting or insufficient allocation of subsidized fertilizers. Inappropriate uptake may indicate that farmers are forced to use non-subsidized or different types of fertilizers because subsidized fertilizer allocations are insufficient or unavailable according to crop needs.

3. Accuracy of Fertilizer Amount Based on Crop Needs and Land Area

By comparing data on fertilizer absorption and estimated needs by crop type in Kotamobagu City, it can be evaluated whether the amount of fertilizer absorbed is sufficient to meet the needs of the entire area of land planted. If the data shows that fertilizer absorption is

lower than the estimated needs, for example in the case of urea and NPK fertilizers that are generally required for rice and corn crops, this indicates that farmers may experience shortages or difficulties in obtaining subsidized fertilizers. The accuracy of the amount of fertilizer is very important so that the distribution of subsidized fertilizers can cover the real needs in the field.

4. Analysis of Absorption Spread by Location

Data on fertilizer absorption in each region or sub-district in Kotamobagu City can also be used to analyze distribution accuracy. If the data shows higher absorption in certain areas but lower in other areas, this may indicate inequality or mismatch of fertilizer distribution with local needs. For example, if sub-districts with high fertilizer demand have low absorption, then distribution accuracy issues need to be identified and corrected.

5. Price Appropriateness and its Impact on Absorption

Price also plays an important role in the accuracy of fertilizer absorption. If the price of subsidized fertilizers, which should be cheaper, does not differ much from non-subsidized fertilizers or has increased, this could reduce the effectiveness of the policy in easing the burden on farmers. Absorption of data showing that farmers prefer non-subsidized fertilizers may indicate that the subsidized fertilizer price policy is not effective enough in providing the expected economic impact.

6. Conformity between Extension Recommendations and Absorption Data

Agricultural extension officers often provide recommendations on the type and amount of fertilizer required for a particular crop. By comparing these recommendations with fertilizer uptake data, it can be analyzed whether uptake is in line with recommendations in the field. For example, if the extension officer's recommendation for maize fields is to use a certain amount of urea and NPK, but the absorption data shows a much lower amount, this indicates an inaccuracy in absorption.

7. Constraints on Accuracy Revealed from Absorption and Interview Data

Absorption of data that is not optimal or does not match the needs often indicates constraints in the implementation of distribution policies. Through interviews with extension workers or farmers, constraints such as distribution delays, mismatches between quotas and needs, or limited access in the field can be identified as contributing factors to this inaccuracy. Absorption of data can strengthen the findings from interviews and provide more concrete evidence to the extent to which such constraints affect the implementation of subsidized fertilizer distribution policies.

The accuracy of subsidized fertilizer distribution plays a very important role in supporting the success of agricultural production, especially in optimizing the utilization of fertilizers that are on time, right type, and right amount (Priandanata et al., 2024) [15]. Problems such as distribution delays, allocation mismatches with farmers' real needs, as well as uneven distribution management constraints, need to be addressed immediately so that the main objectives of the subsidy program can be achieved. With good coordination between farmers, extension workers, distributors, and other related parties, as well as wise financial management by farmers, it is expected that the distribution of subsidized fertilizers can run more smoothly on target, and more evenly. This will increase agricultural productivity, improve food security, and realize the sustainability of the agricultural sector in Kotamobagu City.

D. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion above, it is concluded that the implementation of subsidized fertilizer policy in Kotamobagu city has not run well and effectively. Things that affect it include 1) fertilizer distribution is often late and uneven

distribution, 2) The distribution of subsidized fertilizers is no longer realized based on the Group Needs Definitive Plan (RDKK) as well as weak coordination and lack of active role in the preparation and implementation of the Group Needs Definitive Plan (RDKK), and 3) The inaccuracy of fertilizer availability is detrimental to farmers. Therefore, the researcher's recommendations or suggestions through this research are 1) strengthen distribution supervision, 2) increase the role of farmer groups, and 3) strengthen collaboration between stakeholders: local government, farmer groups, distributors and other related parties.

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