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Implementation of Subsidized Fertilizer Distribution Policy in South Minahasa Regency

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Abstract. This research aims to find out, analyze and describe the implementation of subsidized fertilizer distribution policies in the Ranoiaopo district of South Minahasa regency and the determinant factors. This research uses qualitative method. The focus of this research is the mechanism of distribution of subsidized fertilizer policy in Ranoiaopo District of South Minahasa Regency and the determinant factors of subsidized fertilizer distribution policy in Ranoiaopo District of South Minahasa Regency with indicators: socialization, mechanism of subsidized fertilizer distribution, implementing apparatus, and ability to master technology. The results showed that 1) Socialization activities of subsidized fertilizer distribution in South Minahasa Regency, especially in Ranoiaopo District, have not run optimally. It takes an active role of the government in this case agricultural extension workers as a companion to farmer groups in preparing the Definitive Plan of Group Needs (RDKK); 2) The mechanism of subsidized fertilizer distribution in South Minahasa Regency, especially in Ranoiaopo district, is not implemented in accordance with the decision of the Director General of Agricultural Infrastructure and Facilities Number 34.11/KPTS/RC.210/B/12/2023 concerning Technical Guidelines for the Management of Subsidized Fertilizers for Fiscal Year 2023; 3) The local government as the implementing apparatus and policy maker in the distribution of subsidized fertilizers does not play an active role in carrying out its duties and functions. Implementation of monitoring and evaluation from the government as one of the factors that must be done to answer the various obstacles faced in the field; 4) Farmers as subsidized fertilizer users do not fully understand and understand the use of technology, in this case the Farmer Card which is one of the products of the government program to record and compile farmers' needs for fertilizers and as a means of redeeming subsidized fertilizers at kiosks or official retailers.

Keywords. Policy Implementation, Subsidized Fertilizer, Agricultural Extension, Monitoring, Evaluation

A. Introduction

The role of agriculture is very strategic in supporting the national economy, especially in realizing food security, increasing competitiveness, absorbing labor and reducing poverty. On the other hand, providing the food needs of the community is a major task that is not light because it is estimated that Indonesia's population in 2050 will reach 330.9 million people (Wuli, 2023) [1].

Efforts to achieve agricultural production require the support of facilities and infrastructure including fertilizers that play a vital role for plant growth. Therefore, every year the Government allocates a fertilizer subsidy budget to encourage increased productivity and quality of agricultural products while ensuring access to fertilizers at affordable prices for farmers in need (Arifin, 2005) [2].

The availability of fertilizers as one of the main means of production, especially subsidized fertilizers, is expected to be fulfilled according to the 6 principles, namely on time, quantity, type, place, quality and price. Thus, in the management of subsidized fertilizers, an understanding is needed in all relevant stakeholders in realizing this (Lamidja et al., 2023) [3].

Fertilizer Subsidy is allocated in the State Budget (APBN) to support the National Food Security Program. The realization of the Fertilizer Subsidy Budget in 2018-2023 continued to decline from IDR. 33.61 trillion in 2018 to 25.27 trillion in 2023 or 24.81%. For the year 2024, the Government allocated a Fertilizer Subsidy of IDR 26.68 trillion. The fertilizer allocation is given for the types of Urea, Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (NPK) fertilizers for food crops for rice, corn, soybeans, chilies, shallots, garlic, coffee, cocoa and sugar cane.

The effectiveness of fertilizer subsidies is still in doubt because there are several problems that occur almost throughout Indonesia in the implementation of fertilizer subsidy policies that have not fully achieved the expected goals. The first problem is the existence of fraud in the distribution of subsidized fertilizers with the causal factor of high price disparity between subsidized and non-subsidized fertilizers. Second, there is still a gap in the 2024 fertilizer subsidy allocation of 3.4 million tons when compared to the proposed Electronic Group Definitive Plan system. The allocation of subsidized fertilizer in 2022 is 7.4 million tons while the need based on e-RDKK is 25 million tons so there is a gap of 16.25 million tons, third, fertilizer subsidies have not been able to increase agricultural production. The increasing realization of the subsidy budget throughout 2018-2023 has not been able to increase the production of rice, corn, soybeans, and cocoa. Rice production in 2023 was 53.63 million tons. The production decreased by 5.57 million tons compared to 59.2 million tons in 2018. Corn production in 2023 decreased by 15.41 million tons from 30.05 million tons in 2018 to 14.64 million tons. Cocoa production in 2022 decreased from 0.704 million tons in 2018 to 0.7 million tons. The decline in rice production needs to be a concern for the government because Indonesia is the country with the fourth largest rice consumption in the world (Hasanah, 2022). National rice consumption in 2022 based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) was 30.2 million tons and national rice production was 31.34 million tons or still a surplus of 1.34 million tons.

The procurement and distribution of subsidized fertilizers are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Minister of Trade Regulation No. 04 of 2023 concerning the Procurement and Distribution of Subsidized Fertilizers for the Agricultural Sector. The executor of the provision of subsidized fertilizers according to the assignment of the Minister of BUMN is PT Pupuk Indonesia through producers, distributors and distributors in their respective regions.

The distribution of subsidized fertilizers is based on the allocation issued by the Ministry of Agriculture as stipulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture Number 10 of 2022 stipulating the Allocation of Subsidized Fertilizers based on Spatial Data of Farmers' Land or SIMLUHTAN, the standard area of protected rice fields and the determination of LP2B and the Uptake of subsidized fertilizers in the previous year.

The Highest Retail Price of Subsidized Fertilizers for the agricultural sector in Fiscal Year 2023 based on the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia Number 10 of 2022 is Urea IDR 2,250, Npk IDR 2,300, Npk Special Formula IDR 3,300 while the Highest Retail Price of Non-Subsidized Fertilizers for Urea IDR 9,000, SP-36 IDR 5,000, NPK Phonska IDR 20,500 (Widasari et al., 2023) [4].

North Sulawesi Province is a province that receives a quota allocation every year. The allocation of subsidized fertilizer in North Sulawesi is based on the allocation from the Ministry of Agriculture which is then determined by the Governor every year.

Table 1. Realization of Subsidized Fertilizer Distribution in North Sulawesi Province

Fertilizer Type	2021			2022			2023		
	Realization	Allocation	%	Realization	Allocation	%	Realization	Allocation	%
Urea	21.542,7	32.634,0	66%	18.295,4	21.169,0	86%	16.616,7	68.616,0	24%
NPK Phonska	12.975,2	13.126,0	99%	13.339,3	13.426,0	99%	18.496,7	61.772,5	30%
NPK Kakao	-	-	0%	-	-	0%	12,0	654,5	2%
Total	34.517,8	45.760,0	75%	31.634,7	34.595,0	91%	35.125,3	131.043,0	27%

Source: PT Pupuk Indonesia

Looking at the realization data above, there is a significant difference where the realization of subsidized fertilizer distribution in North Sulawesi in 2023 is very much different from 2021 and 2022 which reached above 50% as well as what happened in South Minahasa Regency.

South Minahasa Regency one of the districts in North Sulawesi Province that implements the subsidized fertilizer distribution program. The agricultural sector in South Minahasa Regency is the largest contributor to the North Sulawesi economy because it is able to contribute 34 percent to the total GRDP with an area of 1456.46 km² which is 10.18 percent of the total area of North Sulawesi Province.

In the horticulture subsector, there are vegetable and fruit subsectors. In the vegetable subsector, the commodities with the largest production in 2021 are potatoes, cabbage, carrots, and petsai with respective values of 91,500 tons, 61,801 tons, 41,579 tons, and 40,503 tons. Meanwhile, the commodities with the lowest production were garlic and shallots with 10 tons and 1,715 tons respectively. The production of these commodities is generally directly proportional to the harvest area of the commodity concerned. Meanwhile, tomato is the commodity with the highest productivity with 87 tons per ha. Meanwhile, garlic is the commodity with the lowest productivity at 1 ton per hectare. Plantation crops consist of coconut, coffee, cacao, cloves, nutmeg, cassiavera, and sugar palm. The coconut commodity is the commodity with the largest area and production in plantation commodities in South Minahasa Regency. Coconut was able to produce 44,179 tons in 2021. Other commodities that also produce quite large production are aren palm and cacao with a value of 650 tons and 446 tons respectively. The success of producing large agricultural products certainly requires facilities and infrastructure, one of which is fertilizer which plays a vital role for plant growth.

The distribution of fertilizer in South Minahasa Regency is based on the quota given by the Ministry of Agriculture each year, which is determined through a Regent's Decree referring to the Decree of the Governor of North Sulawesi. The allocation of subsidized fertilizer at the district/city level is determined based on: Spatial Data of Farmers' Land and

fertilizer allocation proposal from sub-districts through electronic definitive group needs plan (e-RDKK).

The fertilizer distribution flow in South Minahasa Regency is based on the Regulation of the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia No. 04 of 2023 where the distributors are PT Pupuk Indonesia, distributors and retailers. In South Minahasa Regency there is 1 fertilizer distributor and has 23 fertilizer kiosks (retailers) spread across 17 sub-districts with the number of farmer groups is 4116. In 2023, the allocation of subsidized fertilizer in South Minahasa Regency was 9,637.46 tons for urea fertilizer and 969.14 tons for NPK fertilizer while the realization for urea amounted to 1,473.50 or 15.29% and for NPK amounted to 1,986.50 or 22.15%.

One of the problems that often occurs in the field related to the implementation of subsidized fertilizer distribution policies is the inappropriate Highest Retail Price of Subsidized Fertilizers carried out by distributors or retailers to farmers, which sell prices not according to the predetermined price.

This research will focus on Ranoiapu sub-district because it has the third largest number of villages with 12 villages and has a large agricultural area. Corn and rice crops are the crops cultivated by farmers in Ranoiapu sub-district with 349 farmer groups and 3053 farmers who use subsidized fertilizers.

Based on data from the Agriculture Office of South Minahasa Regency in 2023, the need for subsidized fertilizers in Ranoiapu Sub-district is as follows:

Table 2. Ranoiapu Sub-district Needs for Subsidized Fertilizer

Planting Season	Land Area (Ha)	Urea Fertilizer	NPK Fertilizer
Planting Season I	1.628,5	406.291	265.375
Planting Season II	1.303,5	204.817	366.625
Planting Season III	1.513,5	377.813	238.000

Meanwhile, the allocation and the Highest Retail Price of subsidized fertilizers for the agricultural sector in 2023 based on Regent Decree Number 497 of 2022 are:

Table 3. Highest Retail Price of Subsidized Fertilizer in 2023

Fertilizer Type	Total (ton)	HET
UREA	1.200,00	IDR 2.250 per Kg
NPK	870,00	IDR 2.300 per Kg

Table 4. Realization of Subsidized Fertilizer in Ranoiapu District in 2023

Total of Allocation		Remaining Allocation		Perentation (%)	
UREA	NPK	UREA	NPK	UREA	NPK
355	233	290,50	114,00	18,17%	51,07%
150	185	73,50	100,50	51,00%	45,68%
200	350	166,50	273,00	16,75%	22,00%
705	768	530,50	487,50	24,75%	36,52%

Source: Ranoiapu District Agricultural Extension Office

From the data on the allocation of subsidized fertilizers in Ranoiapu sub-district, it shows that the realization of the absorption of distribution for each type of fertilizer does not reach 100%. This means that there are still many farmers during the planting season who do not buy subsidized fertilizers.

Based on preliminary observations in the field, one of the causes of the unrealized fertilizer quota in Ranoiapu District is because the use of Farmer Cards has not been maximized by farmers in redeeming subsidized fertilizers, while to get access to subsidized fertilizers the farmer card is the main requirement. From the results of this observation, the cause of farmers buying subsidized fertilizers because the use of farmer cards to redeem subsidized fertilizers is not effective, because the majority of farmers are reluctant to make transactions using farmer cards on the grounds that the mechanism for using farmer cards must top up the balance at the bank and when buying fertilizer farmers forget the pin and the signal problem is not good coupled with a lack of knowledge in the use of technology, so farmers do not want to be complicated in buying fertilizer, so farmers buy non-subsidized fertilizers that are expensive or buy subsidized fertilizers at prices outside the highest retail price. The prices of non-subsidized fertilizers at retail kiosks in Ranoiapu District are NPK Plus 25 KG for IDR. 350,000, Pearl 50 Kg for 900,000 and Urea Prill 50 Kg for 650,000.

Indeed, the policy of using the farmer card by the Government aims to distribute subsidized fertilizers with the principle of 6 (six) right, namely right in terms of quantity, right in terms of type, right in terms of time, right in terms of place, right in terms of quality, and right in terms of purchase price.

Government policy in the agricultural sector aims to be able to answer and minimize various violations or irregularities related to subsidized fertilizers in Indonesia more specifically in South Minahasa Regency but has not run optimally.

Based on the urgency of the distribution policy, the researcher is interested in conducting research with the title Implementation of Subsidized Fertilizer Distribution Policy in South Minahasa Regency. This research aims to find out, analyze and describe the implementation of subsidized fertilizer distribution policies in the Ranoiapu District of South Minahasa Regency and the determinant factors.

B. Method

In this study the authors used descriptive qualitative research methods. Descriptive research is research conducted with the aim of exploring and clarifying a phenomenon by describing a number of indicators related to the problem under study (Moleong, 2013) [5], to get an overview of the implementation process of subsidized fertilizer distribution policy in South Minahasa Regency.

The focus of this research is on the distribution mechanism of subsidized fertilizer policy in Ranoiapu District, South Minahasa Regency and the determinant factors of Subsidized Fertilizer Distribution Policy in Ranoiapu District, South Minahasa Regency with indicators: socialization, mechanism of subsidized fertilizer distribution, implementing apparatus, and ability to master technology.

The data collection techniques used by researchers are observation, interviews and document studies. The steps of data analysis were carried out using the interactive model of Miles and Huberman (1984) in Pangkey et al. (2023) i.e: data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification [6]. Data validity tests in qualitative research include tests of credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability (Kairupan et al., 2023) [7].

C. Result and discussion

Socialization

The role of local government through related agencies is needed such as socialization in subsidized fertilizer distribution policies and how the government socializes subsidized fertilizer policy programs to reach farmers. Based on the results of interviews with Mr. V of the South Minahasa Regency Agriculture Office that “For socialization to farmers, it is usually carried out by Extension Officers in the local sub-district and for the initial data of the group needs definitive plan is made by the Agricultural Extension Agency in each sub-district and submitted to the Office, the office only receives data from BPP”. A statement from the Coordinator of the Ranoiaopo District Agricultural Extension Center Mrs. G stated that: “For the preparation of the Group Needs Definitive Plan we only socialize to farmer groups what requirements include farmers who are required to get subsidized fertilizer where one of the requirements must have agricultural land under 2 hectares but when collecting data on farmer groups there is no assistance from us extension workers and we only receive the data from farmer groups for us to input in e-RDCK but from the data that has been inputted through the e-RDCK application many farmers really need fertilizer but are not registered in the application because the KTP is not synchronized with civil record data.”

Furthermore, the results of an interview with one of the heads of the Kolagan Jaya farmer group, Mr. N in Mopolo village, stated that “At the time of the formation of my farmer group, there were 20 members but 12 people remained for a long time because there was no more seed assistance so that many did not plant and the formation of farmer groups was based on the wishes of each person without any assistance and socialization”.

Subsidized fertilizer is one of the government policies that aims to support the agricultural sector and ensure the welfare of farmers. This subsidy is provided in the form of a reduction in the selling price of fertilizer to farmers, so that they can access fertilizer at a more affordable price. The process of distributing subsidized fertilizers requires a structured and transparent mechanism to be well-targeted and effective (Riki et al., 2022) [8].

Socialization is an important factor that determines the success or failure of a program because the success of a program can be measured by how far the level of socialization is carried out (Rempas et al., 2023) [9]. The main focus of the socialization of subsidized fertilizers to the community is to provide farmers with a deep understanding of the transparent and accountable mechanism of subsidized fertilizer distribution. In addition, the socialization also highlighted the procedures for preparing e-RDCK which will be used as an effort to modernize agriculture.

Based on the decree of the Director General of Agricultural Infrastructure and Facilities Number 34.11/KPTS/RC.210/B/12/2023 concerning Technical Guidelines for the Management of Subsidized Fertilizers for Fiscal Year 2023, the officer of the Socialization of Subsidized Fertilizer Policy is the local government as an extension of the central government as a policy maker, namely agricultural extension workers (Amanda & Sasmita, 2024) [10].

Agricultural extension workers are individuals who provide knowledge and skills to farmers to increase agricultural productivity. Law No. 16/2006 on Agricultural, Fisheries and Forestry Extension System explains that agricultural extension workers are individual Indonesian citizens who carry out extension activities (Indonesia, 2006) [11]. Agricultural extension workers in this case have their duties and functions as assistants to farmer groups in preparing the Definitive Plan of Group Needs (RDCK). Agricultural extension workers are included in the communication link from farmers to the government. Agricultural extension officers take a role in assisting farmers to understand and understand the distribution of subsidized fertilizers using a new mechanism, namely by using a farmer card. Farmer cards as

a means of redeeming subsidized fertilizers for farmers are expected to facilitate the acquisition of fertilizers from the government (Kurniawan & Widarti, 2021) [12].

Agricultural extension officers play an active role in providing counseling and education in the agricultural sector. The assistance provided by agricultural extension workers aims to make the preparation of subsidized fertilizer allocations in accordance with the needs in the field. The preparation of the Definitive Plan of Group Needs (RDKK) of subsidized fertilizers aims to smooth the distribution of subsidized fertilizers in accordance with the principles of the right amount, right type, right quality, right time, right place and right price. Services provided by agricultural extension workers are in the form of counseling to farmers. The socialization given to farmers is in accordance with the needs in the field and also the extension program. Socialization of subsidized fertilizers, farmer cards to organic cards is carried out by extension workers for farmers in the hope that information can be conveyed clearly and in accordance with the objectives.

The results of this study show that the socialization of the Subsidized Fertilizer Policy has not been implemented properly. The government in this case is the agricultural extension agent as a technical implementer of the program run by the government in the distribution of subsidized fertilizers has not fully carried out its duties and functions. As a result, the government program in this case the distribution of subsidized fertilizers is not in accordance with the principles of the right amount, right type, right quality, right time, right place and right price.

Subsidized Fertilizer Distribution Mechanism

The distribution of subsidized fertilizers must be in accordance with existing regulations for several important reasons relating to fairness and efficiency. If the distribution mechanism is not in accordance with regulations, there is potential for waste or misuse of subsidies that should be well-targeted. By following existing regulations, the government can ensure that subsidies are used efficiently and reach farmers who really need them. For this reason, in the implementation of the subsidized fertilizer distribution mechanism, what are the policies underlying the distribution of subsidized fertilizers in South Minahasa Regency.

The results of interviews with informants that the distribution of subsidized fertilizers is based on the allocation issued by the Ministry of Agriculture as stipulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture Number 10 of 2022 and the distribution is in accordance with the Regulation of the Minister of Trade Number 04 of 2023 "For the Allocation of Subsidized Fertilizer Needs in South Minahasa Regency in 2023, it is determined based on Regent Decree Number 497 of 2022. The allocation is for 17 districts in South Minahasa"

The results of an interview with the Coordinator of the BPP of Ranoiaipo Subdistrict stated that "Ranoiaipo Subdistrict has 3 retailer kiosks, there is UD Stefans in Poopo which serves fertilizer purchases in 4 villages, namely West Poopo, Powalutan, Lompad, Pontak and UD Hengki Poopo Utara which serves 4 villages as well, namely Pontak one, Lompad Baru, Poopo Utara, Beringin and finally UD Anugerah Ranoiaipo which serves Mopolo, Mopolo Esa and Ranoiaipo Villages. and during the planting season many farmers are lazy to buy subsidized fertilizer because buying fertilizer has to travel a long distance through several villages and with expensive transport prices..redemption of subsidized fertilizers does not use farmer cards but only uses Ktp because the Edc machine is damaged."

Based on an interview with the owner of UD Anugerah Ranoiaipo that: "Our kiosk serves 3 villages namely Mopolo Village, Mopolo Esa and Ranoiaipo and the purchase of subsidized fertilizer..farmers only show their ID card". In the distribution of fertilizer in Line

III (Distributor) in South Minahasa, namely CV Yosien Mrs. D stated that “yes we are a distributor of fertilizer in South Minahasa and for retailer kiosks must register with us who are interested and meet the requirements may be a retailer of fertilizer and the quota set to retailers based on data from BPP and also the allocation set by the government each year.”. The mapping of distribution from retailers to farmers is determined by BPP Ranoiapu District and in principle every village can have a fertilizer retailer.”

The government continues to improve the management of subsidized fertilizers, trying various ways to make it easier for farmers to get subsidized fertilizers. With the 6T principle (right quality, right amount, right type, right price, right time and right place), it is expected that the availability of subsidized fertilizers can be distributed in a targeted, easy, fast, and accountable way.

The distribution of subsidized fertilizers is carried out in a closed manner in accordance with the Regulation of the Minister of Trade No. 04 of 2023 on the Procurement and Distribution of Subsidized Fertilizers for the Agricultural Sector, through producers (Line I and Line II) to distributors (distributors in Line III), then distributors distribute to Retailers (distributors in Line IV) until it reaches Farmer Groups/farmers. Fertilizer distribution to farmers is carried out by official retailers who have been appointed in their working area based on the allocation of subsidized fertilizers in their area. In the event that the distribution set must adjust the needs in the field due to shifts in the planting season, area development, special programs of the Ministry of Agriculture and other urgent matters, reallocation can be made between regions, and time according to the provisions in the MOA on the allocation and HET of subsidized fertilizers. Designated Line IV distributors (official retailers) are required to sell subsidized fertilizer to farmers registered in the e-Allocation system. The Highest Retail Price (HET) of Subsidized Fertilizers is stipulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and applies to purchases by farmers at Line IV (official retailers) in packaging in accordance with statutory provisions.

Subsidized fertilizer redemption using KTP is applied to Farmers who have never redeemed subsidized fertilizer using a Tani Card / Digital Farmer Card according to the list listed in the e-Verval application. E-Verval is an information system for reporting the results of verification and validation of subsidized fertilizer distribution. Where e-Verval is carried out by the Verval Team consisting of the District and Central levels that have been determined by the Regent/Mayor and Regional Apparatus carrying out affairs in the field of agriculture. In order for the distribution and payment of fertilizer subsidies to be more transparent and accountable, it is necessary to verify and validate the distribution of subsidized fertilizers by field officers.

The results showed that the distribution mechanism of subsidized fertilizers in South Minahasa Regency, especially in Ranoiapu District, was not in accordance with the applicable provisions in the Regulation of the Minister of Trade Number 04 of 2023 concerning Procurement and Distribution of Subsidized Fertilizers for the Agricultural Sector. In general, at fertilizer kiosks there is misappropriation of distribution, a gap between availability and needs, so that fertilizer subsidies have not been able to increase the expected agricultural production due to the uneven distribution of subsidized fertilizers both at the regional distributor level and at the farmer level. In its application, some farmers claim that they have not been able to access the convenience and benefits of the farmer card as promised by the government. This is because the tani card cannot be fully used as a transaction tool to redeem subsidized fertilizer. The owner of the tani card is the cultivator or owner of the rice field. While the means of implementing priorities such as farmer cards as the main tool for redeeming subsidized fertilizers, official retailer kiosks as the party selling subsidized fertilizers, EDC (Electronic

Data Capture), and fertilizers. And infrastructure as a supporting factor in supporting the farmer card program is not all there, starting from farmer cards that have not been distributed or divided as a whole, and the allocation of subsidized fertilizers is very lacking when adjusted to the amount of subsidized fertilizer allocation in e-RDKK.

Implementing Apparatus

The role of the implementing apparatus in the subsidized fertilizer policy is very important both from the Regional Government and the subsidized fertilizer distributors so that the subsidized fertilizer distribution policy runs well and provides benefits to the agricultural sector and especially farmers and prevents the misuse of subsidized fertilizers (Nirwana & Izharasyah, 2022) [13].

The results of the interview with the Coordinator of the Agricultural Extension Center stated that "Evaluation meetings related to the distribution of subsidized fertilizers were carried out by the Agriculture Office but in 2023 there were none, we were invited to the meeting as well as submitting our reports and the obstacles experienced in the field but for this year there were none". Interview with Mrs. AS UD Stefans Owner stated that: "Monitoring from the relevant Office has never been done but directly from the District Extension Officer but for guidance and supervision by the team never."

The role of the Implementing Apparatus in the implementation of subsidized fertilizer policy is very important where the implementing apparatus of subsidized fertilizer distribution policy has a very heavy task, starting from managing data on subsidy recipients, coordinating with distributors, to monitoring distribution so that it reaches the right farmers. At the central level, the Ministry of Agriculture has the task of setting general policies and allocating subsidized fertilizer quotas. At the regional level, officials at the Agriculture Office play a role in registering farmers and supervising the distribution of fertilizer. At the field level, directly involved officers, such as agricultural extension officers and village heads, play a key role in ensuring that fertilizer reaches the right farmers. They also serve as mediators between farmers and government officials.

The management of subsidized fertilizers involves various related agencies based on the Decree of the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Number 305 of 2019 on the Subsidized Fertilizer Policy Working Group.

The results of this study indicate that the government as an implementing apparatus and policy maker has not fully carried out its duties and functions properly. Monitoring subsidized fertilizers is one of the government's duties so that the distribution process, the availability of fertilizers and their administration can run well and provide benefits to farmers according to the 6 T principle, namely the right quality, right amount, right type, right price, right time and right place.

Technology Mastery Ability

The ability to master technology to improve, accelerate, and facilitate the distribution of subsidized fertilizers to farmers is needed and mastery of technology in this case includes various aspects, such as information systems, digital platforms, and automated devices that can support the fertilizer distribution process to be more efficient, targeted, and transparent (Wulandari et al., 2023) [14].

The Tani Card is a physical or electronic/digital banking service access facility that functions as a means of subsidized fertilizer redemption transactions at authorized retailers while the Electronic Data Capture (EDC) machine is a machine that functions as a means of

providing subsidized fertilizer redemption transactions by inserting or swiping the Tani Card at authorized retailers (Ashari & Hariani, 2019) [15].

The results of an interview with one of the Extension Officers Mrs. O stated that "The farmer group already has a farmer card but currently it cannot be used because there are problems with the EDC machine". While the interview with the Owner of UD Stefans stated that: "The EDC machine has been issued twice but it was not used so it was withdrawn so farmers buy fertilizer with their ID cards and currently fertilizer sales are decreasing because many farmers do not plant rice and corn..now they plant patchouli because the results are very promising."

The government continues to encourage improvement and refinement of subsidized fertilizer policy governance. This effort is carried out by improving the management of farmer data, land data and fertilizer doses, and integrating the digitalization system for subsidized fertilizer distribution.

One example of digitalization integration is by utilizing a digital system. This digital system has the aim of facilitating farmers' activities both in accessing and redeeming subsidized fertilizer needs. This digitalization system is claimed to improve service quality, facilitate farmers' access to subsidized fertilizer products, and make it easier for farmers to meet their fertilizer needs.

. The current management of subsidized fertilizers begins with compiling or entering data on farmers' fertilizer needs into the Group Needs Definitive Plan (RDKK) of each farmer who is a member of a farmer group (Poktan). Data entry starts from the sub-district level to the provincial level with the final allocation determined by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The results of this study show that in general farmers have not been able to fully understand the application of technology in order to have access to subsidized fertilizers. This has an impact on the productivity of agricultural products that are not maximized. The role of extension workers is very important in providing information and knowledge about the distribution of subsidized fertilizers using the new mechanism.

The results of this study are not much different from those conducted by Hajan Karundeng with the research title Implementation of Subsidized Fertilizer Distribution Policy in Pohuwatu Regency. Using Edward III's policy theory, the results of his research show that the subsidized fertilizer distribution mechanism has not been running effectively, this is due to several factors, namely: 1) Communication factor: Communication between Extension Workers and Farmers has not been well established, so that the delivery of information about the subsidized fertilizer distribution process; 2) Resource Factors: Human Resources of retailers are still lacking in mastering information technology (IT), so it is not optimal in operating the application in the subsidized fertilizer distribution process, and also the Budget Resources owned by retailers are still limited, so it is not optimal in redeeming subsidized fertilizers to distributors; 3) Disposition Factors: There is no additional incentive for field extension officers (PPL), thus affecting work motivation; and 4) Bureaucratic Structure Factor: The bureaucratic structure in the distribution of subsidized fertilizers is in accordance with the SOP (Standard Operational Procedure), but there is fragmentation of cooperative relationships between several related agencies/stakeholders, not yet carried out optimally.

D. Conclusion

Based on the description of the research results and discussion above, this research can be concluded as follows:

1) The socialization of subsidized fertilizer distribution activities in South Minahasa Regency, especially in Ranoiaipo District, has not been running optimally. The active role of the government, in this case agricultural extension workers, is to assist farmer groups in preparing the Definitive Plan of Group Needs (RDKK). Agricultural extension workers are included in the communication link from farmers to the government.

2) The mechanism of subsidized fertilizer distribution in South Minahasa Regency, especially in Ranoiaipo District, was not implemented in accordance with the decision of the Director General of Agricultural Infrastructure and Facilities Number 34.11/KPTS/RC.210/B/12/2023 concerning Technical Guidelines for the Management of Subsidized Fertilizers for Fiscal Year 2023.

3) The local government as the implementing apparatus and policy maker in the distribution of subsidized fertilizers does not play an active role in carrying out its duties and functions. Implementation of monitoring and evaluation from the government as one of the factors that must be done to answer the various obstacles faced in the field.

4) Farmers as subsidized fertilizer users do not fully understand and grasp the use of technology, in this case the farmer card which is one of the products of the government program to record and compile farmers' needs for fertilizer and as a means of redeeming subsidized fertilizer at kiosks or official retailers. Agricultural extension workers play an important role in assisting farmers to understand and understand the distribution of subsidized fertilizers using a new mechanism, namely by using a tani card.

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