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Community Empowerment in Improving the Welfare of Hiyung Chili Farmers Groups in Hiyung Village, Tapin District, Indonesia

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Abstract. This study aims to analyze the Community Empowerment of the Hiyung Chili Farmers Group in Hiyung Village, Tapin Tengah District, Tapin Regency, Indonesia. This research uses a descriptive research type which is analyzed using a qualitative approach. Research informants are the head of development and development of village economic enterprises, head of field horticulture, agricultural extension workers, heads of farmer groups, and members of farmer groups in the Tapin District. The results of this study show that the Community Empowerment of the Hiyung Chili Farmers Group in Hiyung Village, Tapin Tengah District, Tapin Regency is empowered, which is, seen in the indicators resource good enough. The socio-economic infrastructure is good, as can be seen from the construction of farm roads, chili processing houses, and the main road which has been repaired. In terms of natural resources, it has supported farming activities, namely fertile land, large areas of land, and sufficient water. Indicator Knowledge and skills farmer already Enough Good. The average farmer's formal education is elementary school graduates. Farmers often hold discussions related to chili farming problems. Farmers helping each other in solving problems is already good. Indicator Opportunity This is quite good as can be seen from the ability of farmer groups to collaborate with various parties so that they can open up opportunities to increase income. Farmers must further increase their knowledge and skills regarding agriculture and entrepreneurship through normal education such as attending various trainings held by the government and the private sector related to the world of agriculture and entrepreneurship.

Keywords. Community Empowerment, Group Welfare, Farmer Groups, Chili Hiyung

1. Introduction

Seeing the condition of the Indonesian people, most of whom are an agrarian society, the contribution that has the greatest potential for national development is in the agricultural sector, indicated by the fact that most of their income comes from agricultural products such as food crops, plantations, livestock, fisheries and forestry (Rahman, 2018). It is a fact that must be acknowledged that the agricultural sector in Indonesia is mostly built by farmers with a relatively small business scale (Anantanyu, 2011).

The phenomenon of farmers, generally living in rural areas, with a very modest level of knowledge and skills, very limited capital, and very layman's mastery of technology. This condition has implications for their main source of livelihood, namely agricultural activities. Limited knowledge, skills, capital, and technology cause their farming activities to be less efficient, resources are not utilized optimally and farming productivity is low. Therefore the government held a community empowerment program to develop and prosper the farming community (Saparyati, 2008).

According to Law Number 19 of 2013 article 1 paragraph 2 farmer empowerment is all efforts to increase the ability of farmers to carry out better farming activities through education and training, counseling and assistance, development of systems and marketing facilities for agricultural products, consolidation and guaranteeing the area of agricultural land, easy access to knowledge, information technology, as well as strengthening capacity and institutions (Astuti, 2015). Community empowerment activities are activities that have clear goals and must be achieved, therefore, in every implementation empowerment society needs to be based on a certain work strategy for its success in achieving the desired goals. Strategy is often interpreted as certain steps or actions carried out to achieve a desired goal.

In this connection, 5 (five) empowerment strategy programs, namely providing motivation, increasing awareness and capacity training, self-management, resource mobility, and building and developing networks (Arofah, 2022). Thus the empowerment of farmers is very important to do because it touches the majority of the Indonesian population. And indirectly this will improve the economy of the Indonesian people, especially farmers.

Hiyung Village is located in Tapin Tengah District, Tapin Regency. This village is where the Hiyung chili group's community empowerment was carried out, this empowerment has been carried out several years ago until now. The empowerment carried out by the government in this village is in the form of providing innovative training and new ideas to be able to process Hiyung chilies into ready-to-eat products that can be marketed in the Tapin area and the surrounding areas.

However, there are obstacles to the lack of human resources who have the ability in terms of administration (covering methods for recording inventory items, incoming and outgoing funds, and monthly reports), and the lack of capital (covering fertilizer and production costs) for the development of empowering groups of Hiyung chili farmers. Based on these problems, this study aims to determine the Community Empowerment of Hiyung Chili Farmers Groups in Hiyung Village, Tapin Tengah District, Tapin Regency.

2. Research Methods

This research uses a descriptive research type which is analyzed using a qualitative approach. Research informants are the head of development and development of village economic enterprises, head of field horticulture, agricultural extension workers, heads of farmer groups, and members of farmer groups in the Tapin District.

The location study which has been determined by researchers is in Hiyung Village, Tapin Tengah District, Tapin Regency, South Kalimantan, Indonesia. The reason for choosing the location was because there was a problem with a lack of human resources with administrative skills and a lack of capital for the development of Community Empowerment for Hiyung Chili Farmers Groups so it became a special attraction for researchers.

3. Research Result

Knowing community empowerment in improving the welfare of Hiyung chili farmer groups in Hiyung Village, Tapin Tengah District, Tapin Regency, the authors chose community empowerment standards with 3 indicators namely Knowledge and Skills, Resources, and Opportunities (Oktiwanti, 2016). In the following, the researcher will describe the results of the research conducted based on the results of the interviews that the researchers conducted

Resource

Aspects that affect community empowerment in improving welfare resources. The resource itself is an element that cannot be separated from community empowerment because it will support the community in facilitating their needs (Sudarsana, 2015). In addition, family and social support, socio-economic infrastructure, and natural resources.

1. Family and Social Support

Family and social support are the attitudes, actions, and acceptance of the family towards its members or its environment. Family members view that supportive people are always ready to provide help and assistance if needed. Family and social support is a key to success at work, especially in jobs that are often associated with many people (Rahayu, & Ahyani, 2017).

Based on research results, supporting families from farmers is quite good because the average family in Hayung Village has a livelihood as a chili farmer. In addition, farming families also have the perception that support from the family can motivate the head of the family. Family support is very important in decision-making to determine the next steps to be taken by the group.

2. Socioeconomic Infrastructure

Social and economic infrastructure is a physical system that provides transportation, irrigation, drainage, buildings, and other public facilities, which are needed to meet basic human needs, both social and economic needs. (Warsilan & Noor, 2015).

Based on the research results, the infrastructure in Hiyung Village is quite good because several infrastructures have been built to support economic activities such as farm roads, production houses, and roads that have been repaired. There is a production house for the Hiyung Village Typical Shredded Chilli Production House as well as the Hiyung Chili Farming Infrastructure and the Hiyung Village Special Chili Processing Production House. Promotional attributes are also installed such as banners to attract the attention of people to visit and see the production of processed chilies typical of Hiyung Village. So far the infrastructure development in Hiyung village is quite good because several infrastructures have been built to support agricultural activities such as farm roads, production houses, and roads that have been repaired.

3. Natural Resources

Based on the results of the study, the natural resources in Hiyung support chili farming activities such as fertile, wide soil, and also sufficient water availability.

Knowledge and skill

Knowledge and skills are different things but support each other. Knowledge refers to information or awareness obtained through education or experience. Meanwhile, skill refers to the ability that a person has to do something well. Knowledge is obtained through education or

experience, while skills come through practice or practice. So that knowledge is in the form of theory, while skills include practical abilities that have been developed with the help of the knowledge that has been obtained.

Empowerment of Hiyung chili farmer groups in Hiyung Village, Tapin Tengah District, Tapin Regency, knowledge and skills are very important to increase self-capacity in determining the future, and to be able to participate and influence an opinion. The concept of empowerment emphasizes that people acquire sufficient knowledge, skills, and power to influence their lives and the lives of others they care about (Nurchayanti, 2011). The factors that cause society to be helpless are that helplessness in individuals or social groups is considered an inability to regulate emotions, *skill* (expertise and skills), knowledge (*knowledge*), and other material resources in the order of social values (Oktiwanti, 2016).

1. Education

Based on the characteristics of the people in Hiyung Village, Tapin Tengah District, Tapin Regency, education non-formal looked more appropriate to use to meet the learning needs of the community because of the educational approach non-formal based on community needs by exploring and using what is in the community to foster knowledge, attitudes, and skills towards independence. Therefore, non-formal education is closely related to the process of empowerment.

The empowerment approach through non-formal education is through a group approach. A group approach in implementing non-formal education will be more effective in the learning process or transfer of knowledge and skills. Wilson saw the use of group work as a change in the values of individuals and society as a whole. With group work, there is a process through which the meaning of group life is influenced by a worker who is directed to the process towards achieving democratic social goals.

Community empowerment through non-formal education is a group approach or social *group work*. One of the programs that existed in the early 1990s was the Gapoktan (Farmers Group Association) which was established in each village by using the principle of local self-sufficiency reached through principles of autonomy and empowerment (Amanah & Famayanti, 2014).

Currently, Gapoktan has a significant role, namely being a liaison institution for farmers in one village with other institutions on the outside. Gapoktan can serve as fulfillment capital, production facilities, marketing of agricultural products, and including for providing various information needed by farmers. The main objective of establishing and strengthening Gapoktan is to strengthen existing farmer institutions so that guidance by the government for farmers becomes more focused and on target.

Gapoktan Chili Hiyung is something *Social Group work* as a vehicle for empowerment and learning, with join in the Poktan members can be empowered by knowledge and skills in terms of technical agriculture, sharing experiences to solve problems in the field either through agricultural extension agents or spoken.

Based on the results of the research in general the education level of farmers is still low because many only graduate from elementary school, but one's knowledge and skills are not only obtained through formal education. But also by non-formal like studying self-taught or through training provided by the government. based on the results of the interviews there were at least 14 more trainings that had been received by farmer groups starting from 2011 to 2020.

An adequate level of education can support the absorption of information and knowledge. Education is the main factor that plays a role in increasing one's information and knowledge and generally the higher one's education the more easy to receive information.

This is also related to the adoption of agricultural innovations, if the farmer's education is low, the information conveyed by agricultural extension workers will be hampered. It is also supported that a high level of education will easily adopt an innovation that will expedite the development process. Conversely, people who have a low level of education will find it difficult to adopt an innovation, which in this case will complicate development.

However, based on the results of interviews with the level of public education specifically Hiyung chili farmers on average still graduate from elementary school (SD), but informally it is sufficient so that it can affect the absorption of knowledge, information, and the adoption of the innovation itself, so that it can increase farming productivity. The following are some of the non-formal education that has been received by farmer groups in Hiyung Village, especially the Karya Baru Chili Farmers group.

It can be seen that the community members who have joined are quite adequate, although, in terms of education levels, the average varies, some only graduate from elementary, junior high, and high school. Then the knowledge and skills of farming, especially growing chili peppers, are obtained self-taught, down hereditary from parents. One's knowledge is not only obtained through formal education but also non-formal such as training, experience, sharing experiences, and so on. In addition, the level of education that is still relatively low does not decrease spirit and motivation, as well as the curiosity of the farmers to continue learning and increase their knowledge and skills in particular in the field of agricultural innovation. Chili.

2. Utilization of Electronic Media

Technology can play an important role in agricultural development. One of them is information and communication technology or the internet. Through the internet, it is hoped that farmers can find all the information needed and can also be used to improve welfare by being connected to other people or companies in various parts of the world (Fauzi et al, 2023). The use of this technology makes information from the internet can be used to follow up on problems that occur in the field. Information sources on the internet can be in the form of government policies, research results from various disciplines, farmer experiences, and the latest information on market prospects (Guritno & Rahardja, 2011).

Meanwhile, based on the results of interviews with several informants, there were several obstacles found such as lack of mastery of technology, slow internet network, and there were still people who still used *cell phones* who can't get internet. However, information about agriculture is not limited to the internet, in Hiyung Village, conventional electronic media such as television (TV) is still the mass media audiovisual that interests society. However, the weakness of television is the information given is only limited to what is displayed, the public cannot choose or find the right or appropriate agricultural information problem currently experiencing. In addition, there is no interaction or feedback which will lead to discussions on agricultural issues.

Based on the results of the study electronic media is less effective for use means of communication and information sharing because the average farmer does not have such facilities as *cellphones* which support fast internet networks. In addition, in Hiyung Village there is no fast internet access so it does not support using electronic media to share information. There are only a few people who have the facility and understand how to use it *smartphone* and

usually, that person will later convey to other farmers if there is information on activities or meetings. Farmers still use television to get information related to agriculture which can later be used as material for discussions with extension workers or fellow farmers.

Based on the interview results above, it is known that there is still a lack of fast internet access and mastery of information technology which is proven by some farmers still using their *cellphones* who can't get internet. But the limited information is minimized by communication directly by way of agricultural extension workers coming directly to the farmers to provide information or news related to extension activities. Apart from that, with the presence of television, of course, it helps provide information, even though the material provided is not complete, at least it can be material for discussion between extension agents and farmers. nor fellow farmers.

3. Discuss with Extension

The discussion between agricultural extension workers and farmers is a social interaction. This social interaction is very influential on the harmony of communication between extension workers and the farmers concerned. With discussions between extension agents and farmers, values will grow in the form of cooperation, mutual respect, respect, and mutual assistance (*gotong royong*). This social system will later facilitate conditions where the goals of the community or government can be achieved (Abdullah, 2020). The purpose of discussing with extension workers is to obtain information, knowledge, and guidance in empowerment.

The Karya Baru Farmers Group is a forum formed by the Hiyung village government so that it can get examples from other farmers. The role of farmer extension workers is as a teacher who motivates farmers, especially the farmer groups themselves, to improve their economic level and welfare by increasing their production and business income. Extension officers usually guide the Karya Baru Farmer Group through meetings, and interaction carried out by agricultural extension workers with extension agents is quite good. That is the awareness of the farmers about the importance of counseling to get information, knowledge, and skills.

Based on the research results, farmers often hold discussions about chili farming, starting from chili diseases, how to get capital, how to process chilies, and also marketing them. the discussion does not only occur during counseling activities but also outside the event because the discussion is lighter or relaxed. Not only discussions, but farmers also help each other in various activities. This can be seen from the participation of farmers in preparing work plans. Through these activities, besides farmers getting knowledge, they also understand the flow of managing something, especially for the sake of farmers' well-being farmer (Zulpaldi, 2022).

It can be seen that the existence of interaction social media in the form of extensive discussions with Hiyung chili farmers can influence the motivation of farmers so that extension workers can easily transfer knowledge, information, and skills that will later be useful for fostering independence such as entrepreneurship to increase income and economic level. If associated with the theory from Oktiwanti, the indicators of discussing with the extension workers who have been studied have been met.

4. Helping Each Other in Solving Problems

Usually, social groups will have a social concern, the attitude of helping each other and caring for each other. The relationship that occurs later will tend to exchange kindness. This mutual helping relationship grows on trust between members of one another so that they work together to achieve common goals or interests (Sari, 2021). For example, if one of the farmers

in the farmer group owns plow equipment for the benefit of the group, the farmer can use the plow equipment rent for other purposes, this can reduce fixed costs (*fixed cost*). So by helping each other members of the farmer group can make a goal more easily achieved.

In agricultural extension activities, it is very necessary to cooperate and help each other for the success of the goals of extension, such as planning and preparing activities, making agreements together with discussions, solving problems in the field, and carrying out various activities. (Romadi & Warnaen, 2021). Based on the results of the study, chili farmers felt that the formation of farmer groups could be a place to help each other and work together in solving problems related to chili farming. The existence of farmer groups (poktan) will become the target of programs from the government such as extension programs, besides that with institutionalized poktan it can be easier to collaborate with companies and the government.

Opportunity

In Indonesia, there is already a GAPOKTAN (Farmers Group Association) program. Gapoktan is an association of several farmer groups that join and cooperate to increase efficiency. With GAPOKTAN the community will be empowered by increasing the potential of the community to develop (*enabling*), strengthening potential and power. Reinforcement includes concrete steps and involves input inventory and open access to various opportunities which will make the community more empowered (Erma, 2023). In the context of empowerment, the most basic efforts are increasing the level of education, health status, and access to sources of economic progress such as capital, technology, information, employment, and markets.

Opportunities can come from anywhere but broadly related to empowerment Hiyung chili farmers are divided into three. The first comes from the government, the second comes from information obtained by farmers and the third comes from family or relatives. However, based on research results in the field there are only two opportunities that are more influential in helping empower chili farmers, namely from the government and information obtained by farmers.

Based on the results of the study that chili farmers joining farmer groups will increase the opportunity to be more empowered, because joining farmer groups will make it easier for government programs or assistance to be more targeted, in addition to joining farmer groups it will be easier to establish partnerships with several other farmer groups, or various other parties. Currently, in Hiyung village there is only 1 Karya Baru farmer group, but it has been very developed because it already has partners such as YDBA, KPP, PAMA, BI, and the Bank of South Kalimantan. The results of this collaboration will certainly increase the opportunities for farmers to be more prosperous and independent.

4. Conclusion

Based on the results of the research and discussion, it can be concluded that the empowerment carried out for farmer groups in Hiyung Village is empowered, that is, seen from the indicators resource namely family support is good, this is because on average the people in Hiyung village work as chili farmers. In terms of socio-economic infrastructure, it is already good, as can be seen from the construction of farm roads, chili processing production houses, and the main roads that have been repaired. In terms of natural resources, it has supported farming activities such as fertile soil and large areas of land, then the availability of sufficient water. *Knowledge and skills consist* in terms of formal education, the average farmer's education is only elementary school graduates, but in terms of non-formal education, it is very good because training has been given from agricultural extension workers. On media utilization,

electronics are still constrained by the network infrastructure and mastery of technology, but farmers still get information through television and also through agricultural extension. Farmers also often hold discussions related to chili farming problems, this will later result in the transfer of knowledge from extension agents to farmers or vice versa information from farmers to extension workers can be material for determining work plans. Then in terms of farmers helping each other in solving problems, it has been well seen from the farmers' ownership awareness and a sense of responsibility makes them always work together and help each other, besides that, the form of farmer assistance is always active in activities and designing work plans for programs empowerment chili farmers. *Opportunity* already consists of the ability of farmer groups to collaborate with various parties so that they can open up opportunities to increase income, and ultimately improve the welfare of chili farming families in Hiyung Village.

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