

THE LEVEL OF EMPOWERMENT OF RICE FARMERS IN PEGAYUT VILLAGE, OGAN ILIR DISTRICT

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the level of empowerment of rice farmers in Pegayut village, Ogan Ilir Regency. This type of research is descriptive research with a quantitative approach. Data collection techniques were carried out using questionnaires and documentation. The population in this study, namely rice farmers in Pegayut village as many as 162 people, using the calculation with the Slovin formula and obtained a sample of 62 respondents. Validity test with a significant level of 5%. The reliability test using the Cronbach Alpha formula obtained a value of 0.893 with very high reliability criteria. The results showed that the level of empowerment of rice farmers in Pegayut village was 76% with high category. This can be seen from the indicators of empowerment, namely 1) the fulfillment of basic needs of farmers by 76.55% in the high category, 2) the ability of farmers to manage agricultural information by 72.92% in the high category, 3) the ability of farmers to make decisions by 81.15% in the high category, is said to be high because farmers are able to meet their daily needs in terms of clothing, food and shelter and the educational needs of children, farmers are able to manage agricultural information very well and are able to make good decisions. Then, 4) the ability of farmers to market their products is 61.15% with sufficient category, and 5) the ability of farmers to apply agricultural technology is 69.64% with sufficient category, this is because most farmers store their agricultural products and sell them if there are buyers and some farmers still grow rice using the traditional way. As for suggestions for rice farmers to further improve their ability to market their products and build cooperation between communities in order to create farmer groups.

Keywords: Empowerment Level, Rice Farmers

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui tingkat keberdayaan petani padi di desa Pegayut Kabupaten Ogan Ilir. Jenis penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif dengan pendekatan kuantitatif. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan menggunakan angket dan dokumentasi. Populasi pada penelitian ini yaitu petani padi desa Pegayut sebanyak 162 orang, menggunakan perhitungan dengan rumus Slovin dan didapatkan sampel sebanyak 62 responden. Uji validitas dengan taraf signifikan 5%. Uji reliabilitas menggunakan rumus Cronbach Alpha diperoleh nilai sebesar 0,893 dengan kriteria reliabilitas sangat tinggi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tingkat keberdayaan petani padi di desa Pegayut adalah sebesar 76% dengan kategori tinggi. Hal itu dilihat dari indikator keberdayaan keberdayaan, yaitu 1) pemenuhan kebutuhan dasar petani sebesar 76,55% dengan kategori tinggi, 2) kemampuan petani dalam mengelola informasi pertanian sebesar 72,92% dengan kategori tinggi, 3) kemampuan petani dalam mengambil keputusan sebesar 81,15% dengan kategori tinggi, dikatakan tinggi karena petani mampu dalam memenuhi kebutuhan hidupnya dari segi sandang pangan dan papan serta kebutuhan pendidikan anak, petani mampu mengelola informasi pertanian dengan sangat baik dan mampu dalam mengambil keputusan dengan baik. Kemudian, 4) kemampuan petani dalam memasarkan hasil produksi sebesar 61,15% dengan kategori cukup, dan 5) kemampuan petani dalam menerapkan teknologi pertanian sebesar 69,64% dengan kategori cukup, hal ini karena sebagian besar petani menyimpan hasil produksi pertaniannya dan menjualnya apabila ada pembeli serta sebagian petani masih menanam padi menggunakan cara tradisional. Adapun saran untuk petani padi agar lebih meningkatkan kemampuan dalam memasarkan hasil produksi dan membangun kerjasama antar masyarakat agar terciptanya kelompok tani.

Kata kunci: Tingkat Keberdayaan, Petani Padi

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INTRODUCTION

Old South Sumatra is one of the provinces in Indonesia which has a fairly wide land resource. Based on this potential, it allows the area to develop into agricultural areas. These developments spur economic growth that aims to improve the welfare of the community, especially in rural communities, the majority of which work in the agricultural sector. Agriculture produces various kinds of commodities, one of which is rice.

Rice commodity is important because the product is produced as a staple food every day in supporting the need for fulfilling calories from the rice produced. Rice is a staple food for Indonesian people. This is based on data on energy consumption targets per food group (kcal/capita/day) in 2019, it is said that the food group derived from rice has a higher value, namely 1,147 kcal/capita/day, compared to the food group derived from tubers at 115 kcal./capita/day and vegetables and fruit 115 kcal/capita/day (BPS, 2019).

The agricultural food sector is still very potential in Indonesia, rice production in 2020 amounted to 55.16 million tons of GKG, an increase of 556.51 thousand tons or 1.02% compared to production in 2019 which was 54.60 million tons of GKG (BPS, 2020). One of the areas in South Sumatra that has developed its regional development potential in the agricultural sector is Ogan Ilir (OI) district, there were 67 thousand tons of rice produced by Ogan Ilir district in 2020 (BPS South Sumatra Province, 2020).

One of the centers of rice farming in Indonesia, especially in South Sumatra, whose livelihood is from rice farming, is Pegayut Village, Pemulutan District, Ogan Ilir Regency. Rice is an agricultural commodity that occupies an important position because most of the people make rice farming a livelihood which is in great demand by the people in Pegayut Village. The agricultural area of Pegayut village consists of deep lebak and embankments, farmer activities are carried out once a year because they still use the tidal system. Ecosystems that are in the environment are very supportive starting from the temperature conditions of the soil texture needed by plants so as to make rice growth more developed.

The obstacles that quite affect the reason this village has not developed intensively in terms of agriculture, especially rice producers are due to the mental attitude of the rice farming community who are not fully aware that agricultural land can be used as their main livelihood. And the level of education of farmers on the importance of developing the entrepreneurial aspect has not grown significantly. The low level of education of Pegayut village farmers, the majority of whom are junior high school graduates, so it is not surprising that agricultural production is not highly competitive (interview E, 2021).

In addition, the institutional role of LPM (community empowerment institution) in Pegayut village has not been able to run properly. Village LPM as one of the supporters in accessing various information including the learning process to get new ideas. These various problems are enough to affect the empowerment of the rice farming community. Empowerment is considered important in improving the standard of living, level of welfare, and economic growth of the community. From the background of the problem, it is interesting to study this problem by conducting research in a thesis entitled Levels of Empowerment of Rice Farmers in Pegayut Village, Ogan Ilir Regency.

METHOD

This study uses a quantitative approach with a descriptive type. The location of the research on the level of empowerment of rice farmers was carried out in Pegayut village, Pemulutan sub-district, Ogan Ilir district. In this study, primary data were obtained from questionnaires distributed directly to rice farmers in Pegayut village, Ogan Ilir district. The secondary sources that support the primary data that have been obtained are from library materials, previous research, books, and archives of the Pegayut village government. In this study, the questionnaire method was used to obtain an overview of the level of empowerment of rice farmers in Pegayut village.

The variable in this study uses a single variable or there is only one variable that is the center of research and does not seek the influence or relationship of other variables but intends to describe the level of empowerment of rice farmers in Pegayut village, Ogan Ilir district. The indicators of this research include: 1) Fulfillment of farmers' basic needs, 2) Farmers' ability to manage information, 3) Farmers' ability to make decisions, 4) Farmers' ability to market their products, and 5) Farmers' ability to apply technology. The population in this study were 162 rice farmers in Pegayut village. This research was analyzed and processed by scoring and using frequency distribution and tabulation (percentage). Furthermore, the collected data is processed using a Likert scale technique, and using the TCR (Respondent Achievement Level) scale technique to analyze the data that has been collected. In this study, the instrument trial was conducted on June 6, 2022, testing was carried out on 30 respondents who were not respondents in the research sample. The statement items are 30 items, calculation and processing of research data using SPSS version 23.0 application. The calculation results show that item number 20 and 23 are declared invalid and have been revised. Based on the analysis that has been carried out on 30 items seen from the Cronbach's Alpha value, the data reliability value is 0.893. Based on the interpretation table of the reliability of the test questions, it can be concluded that the questions meet the criteria for use in research with very high reliability criteria.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the analysis that has been obtained from data collection that has been carried out, the discussion of this research is based on five indicators of the level of empowerment of rice farmers.

Table 1. Percentage of Diversity Level of Rice Farmers in Pegayut Village

No	Indicator	Percentage	Category
1	Fulfilling the basic needs of farmers	76.55%	High
2	Farmers' ability to manage information	72.92%	High
3	Farmers' ability to make decisions	81.15%	High
4	The ability of farmers to market their products	61.15%	Sufficient
5	Farmers' ability to apply agricultural technology	69.64%	Sufficient
Overall Percentage		76%	High

Source: Results of data processing (2022)

Based on the table above, the results of the calculation of the overall percentage are 76% with a high category which means that the level of empowerment of rice farmers in Pegayut village is classified as good.

Fulfillment of Farmers' Basic Needs

According to Munir (2018), empowered farmers are farmers who have the strength or ability to fulfill their basic needs so that they have freedom (freedom), means free to express opinions, free from hunger, free from ignorance, and pain. Rice farmers in Pegayut village in the indicator of meeting the basic needs of farmers get a final percentage value of (76.55%) with the "high" category, which means that some rice farmers in Pegayut village feel that their basic needs have been met, rice farmers are able to meet their needs. the need for food (food), the need for clothing (clothing), the need for vehicles and electronic devices, the need for children's education and lack of anxiety about the needs of basic commodities.

Likewise, the needs for children's education and tertiary needs such as vehicles and electronic equipment for rice farmers in Pegayut village are said to be fulfilled. This is in line with Munir & Cahyati (2018) which states that empowered farmers are farmers who have the strength or ability to fulfill their basic needs so that they have the freedom to express their opinions, are free from hunger, free from ignorance, and pain. The fulfillment of the basic needs of farmers in Pegayut Village based on economic conditions is fulfilled and the basic needs of rice farmers are fulfilled quite well. Although there are also some farmers whose basic needs have not been fulfilled or fulfilled. So this also affects the respondent's statement about sometimes being anxious about the need for basic commodities, namely more respondents who agree.

Farmers' Ability in Managing Agricultural Information.

Managing information is a job that consists of seeking information, obtaining, producing it and using it for oneself and distributing it to other parties. Information is sought and obtained and then distributed to other parties. Here, the process of sharing information is then managed and then used together after reaching a mutual understanding. According to Munir (2017) the job of managing information is a job that must be supported by the level of knowledge possessed and the level of skill in distributing information to other parties and oneself. Pegayut village rice farmers in the indicator of farmers' ability to manage agricultural information get the final percentage value of (72.92%) with the "High" category, meaning that the ability of farmers to manage agricultural information is high based on The statement items that have been answered by respondents include understanding the correct and appropriate methods of rice farming, knowing the development of seed and fertilizer prices and understanding well how to control plant pests and diseases, most of the farmers agree.

According to Rogers (in Sarwoprasodjo, 2017) describes the process of seeking information to obtain and use consisting of several stages, namely the stage of knowledge, persuasion, decision making, implementation and confirmation stage. Pegayut village rice farmers understand well the correct and appropriate farming methods, this is because the work as rice farmers has been done for many years, so farmers are reliable in undergoing the agricultural process. This is not in line with the findings of Sarwoprasojdo (2017) which states that farmers in managing information are included in the low category because farmers are less enthusiastic in seeking agricultural information. Pegayut village rice farmers agree that knowledge must be possessed in order to know how to farm properly and correctly. Rice farmers in Pegayut village always know the development of seed and fertilizer prices, this is due to the cooperation that is established between communities who share information about agriculture. Pegayut village rice farmers are also able to understand well how to control plant pests and diseases. On the

indicator of the ability of farmers to manage agricultural information, some farmers do not agree about print or electronic media helping in learning about agriculture, this is because farmers assume that the information received about learning about agriculture is obtained by being passed down by parents from generation to generation.

Farmers' Ability to Make Decisions

Farmers in making decisions related to agricultural business there are several factors that influence decision making, namely knowledge, motives and attitudes. According to Rahmat (2013), farmers in making decisions mean involvement in making household decisions, being able to make decisions individually or together (husband/wife) regarding family decisions, for example regarding household needs, work, and family needs. It is known rice farmers in Pegayut village in the indicator of the ability of farmers to make decisions get the final percentage value of (81.15%) with the "high" category. This means that the majority of rice farmers in Pegayut village believe that there is motivation from the family so that it influences the decision to become a farmer. However, the decision to become a rice farmer is also influenced by the social status that exists in the community, because the majority of the people in Pegayut village work as rice farmers, which are supported by the large area of rice fields in the village.

Pegayut village rice farmers agree that being a rice farmer is a demand to meet their daily needs, most farmers believe that their basic needs (primary, secondary and tertiary) are sufficient. Likewise, when making the decision to become a rice farmer, farmers know and are ready to face the risks. In line with the findings, Sarwoprasodjo (2017) stated that some farmers are capable of making decisions related to farming, because farmers are willing to take risks and if the decisions taken are not appropriate. Pegayut village rice farmers in making decisions regarding the motivation of the family, social status in the community and knowing and ready to face the risks. According to Sadono (2012), there are several personal factors that influence decision making, namely knowledge, motives and attitudes. The ability of farmers to make decisions is categorized as high because farmers have strong motives and attitudes about the success of their farming business. The motive factor is related to land tenure by farmers as owners, tenants and cultivators. Supported by being a farmer is influenced by the social status that exists in the community and the motivation from the family so that it influences the decision to become a rice farmer.

Farmers' Capability in Marketing their Production

Marketing of agricultural products is an activity related to marketing business products at competitive prices, being able to obtain market price information, and being able to access market opportunities. According to Kotler and Armstrong (in Sarwoprasodjo 2017), the core concepts of marketing are needs, wants, demands, production and service, value satisfaction and quality, exchange, transactions, marketing and market relationships. Rice farmers in Pegayut village in the indicator of the ability of farmers to market their products get the final percentage value (61.15%) in the "enough" category. This means that the rice farmers in Pegayut village are quite capable in marketing their agricultural products. Most of the rice farmers in Pegayut village are satisfied with the rice harvest every year, this shows that in carrying out their agricultural business they do not lose or are stable and sometimes experience an increase in production. Pegayut village rice farmers in marketing their agricultural products are different, there are farmers whose production has been ordered by rice factories around, some have joined other farmers to sell their agricultural products together and need help from middlemen to market their agricultural products. . In line with the findings of Sarwoprasodjo (2017) which states that farmers in marketing their products have an extensive marketing

network, they also have a better bargaining position and easy access to market prices.

Pegayut village rice farmers are quite capable in marketing their products, as seen from the number of farmers who agree that the results of rice agricultural production have been ordered by the rice factory and not a few are satisfied with the results of agricultural production obtained. According to Rahmat (2013), in marketing production, one must have the ability to market business results at competitive prices, be able to obtain market price information, and be able to access market opportunities. Like Pegayut village farmers, they have the ability to join with other farmers in order to collectively obtain market price information so that they are able to access market opportunities properly.

Farmers' Ability in Applying Agricultural Technology.

Farming innovation technologies reflected in the measurement instruments are soil tillage, selection of superior seeds, determination of cropping systems, balanced fertilization, intermittent irrigation, pest eradication and post-harvest implementation. According to Sadri (2020) information on agricultural innovation technology is related to the selection and determination of superior seeds, planting systems, balanced fertilization, land irrigation machines and post-harvest technology. In this case, Pegayut village rice farmers in the indicator of the ability of farmers to apply agricultural technology get the final percentage value (69.64%) with the "Enough" category. Some of the rice farmers in Pegayut village have used tractors to plow the fields, although almost all farmers rent tractors not as ownership, but in this case the farmers are able to apply agricultural technology well even though there are some farmers who still plow the fields using animal power such as cows and buffalo. In line with the findings of Sarwoprasojdo (2017) which states that farmers apply agricultural information technology in the high category, it is not in line with the findings of Sadri et al (2020) which states that the ability of farmers to apply agricultural technology is in the low category.

Pegayut village rice farmers in planting rice still use traditional methods, for example during the hoeing process using agricultural tools such as hoes and in the process of planting seeds they still use their hands. Farmers have not been able to use a modern rice planter (rice transplanter) to plant rice. The agricultural system in Pegayut village still relies on a tidal system which can only be carried out once a year for agricultural activities, this is due to soil factors that do not allow using an irrigation agricultural system. Pegayut village rice farmers in their agriculture have used water suction machines to irrigate agricultural land when the land is dry or when the dry season arrives, in harvesting rice almost some farmers use combine machines or modern tools for the rice harvesting process, only a few farmers still use other methods. Traditionally in harvesting rice, for example, such as using sabi / sickle. Pegayut village farmers agree that using modern tools (combine) is more profitable because it is considered more effective and efficient in harvesting rice. Likewise in the process of milling rice into rice, only a few farmers still use traditional tools such as ranges, rice farmers in Pegayut village have used modern tools, such as (rice milling) to grind rice.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research on the level of empowerment of rice farmers, Pegayut village, Ogan Ilir district, is in the high category with a percentage of 76%. This can be seen from the level of empowerment of rice farmers in accordance with the five indicators. Three indicators of farmer empowerment level are classified as high, namely the fulfillment of basic needs by 76.55%, the ability to manage information by 72.92%, and the ability to make decisions by 81.15%. Furthermore, two indicators that are classified as sufficient are the ability to market their products by 61.15% and the ability to apply technology by 69.64%. This causes the three

indicators to be classified as high because farmers are able to meet their basic needs, such as primary, secondary and tertiary needs, children's educational needs, farmers are also able to manage information well and make decisions related to rice farming. And what makes the other two indicators quite adequate is because some farmers are still difficult to market their agricultural products and some farmers still have not fully implemented agricultural technology, such as tractors, combine machines and so on.

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