

EMPOWERMENT OF FARMER GROUPS BY THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION CENTER IN KALAPASAWIT VILLAGE LAKBOK DISTRICT CIAMIS REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

Research conducted concerning the implementation of Empowerment of Farmer Groups by the Agricultural Extension Center in Kalapasawit Village, Lakkok subdistrict, Ciamis regency started from a problem, lack of communication in providing direction for the improvement of farmer groups in empowerment activities, lack of agricultural extension in providing awareness of the importance of agriculture to farmer groups by giving appropriate recommendations in utilizing yard land to improve farming, and agricultural extensionists are less able to strengthen community participation for the development of farming that has not been optimal because of limited capital from the community. In this study the authors used qualitative research methods. The data collection techniques used by the authors in this study are observation techniques and interview techniques. As for the informant in this study as many as 7 (seven) people. Based on the results of the study can be known that empowerment by the Agricultural Extension Agency in Kalapsawit Village Lakkok District Ciamis district as a whole has been running but still not optimal, seen there are still indicators that are not appropriate in its implementation such as lack of cooperation, Lack of meetings to keep the relation, still lack of extension workers that cause a lack of focus in providing guidance and training, still a lack of awareness in terms of keeping farmer groups from falling into increasingly weak positions, lack of communication, lack of community participation in addressing the problems faced and lack of public awareness in utilizing the yard. The efforts in overcoming these obstacles are by improving human resources optimally, as well as developing information media and socialization or trainings provided directly by agricultural extensionists.

Keywords: Empowerment, Farmer Group, Agricultural, Extension, Village

Introduction

Community empowerment in development is an effort to improve the quality of life and life for the greatest

welfare of the community, especially to farmer groups. Therefore, in empowerment activities, Agricultural Extension as a forum to provide

solutions to the phenomena that occur in the community either by making programs or by conducting counseling and training activities to the community, especially farmer groups so that farmer groups can farm well and get sufficient results for their daily survival or provide capital assistance so that farmer groups can run according to their duties and functions.

Kalapasawit village has several farmer groups of 11 farmer groups. While the object of research is one of the farmer groups in Kalapasawit village, the farmer group that became the object of research is Sri Lestari farmer group with 24 members. Given that the majority of kalapasawit villagers are farmers' livelihoods, the empowerment of farmer groups by the Agricultural Extension Agency is indispensable. Here agricultural extensionists play a role to improve the quality and quantity of farmer groups, increase the empowerment of the main actors in increasing the production, income and welfare of farmers.

The effort of the Agricultural Extension Agency is to mobilize an existing farmer group to further improve the ability and independence of farmer groups by conducting counseling and training. With these activities can improve the ability to develop a farmer group work plan to be more advanced and independent, however, it has not run optimally. In this case, in fact due to the

lack of counseling and training by the Agricultural Extension Agency in every activity carried out, especially in empowerment.

Based on the research that the authors did it is known that the Empowerment of Farmer Groups by the Agricultural Extension Center in Kalapasawit Village, Lakbok District, Ciamis Regency has not been running optimally. This can be seen from some symptoms or indicators as, follows:

1. Lack of communication in providing direction for the improvement of farmer groups in agricultural activities.
2. Lack of Agricultural Extension in providing awareness of the importance of agriculture to farmer groups by giving appropriate recommendations in utilizing yard land to improve farming.
3. Agricultural extensionists are less able to strengthen community participation for the development of farming that has not been optimal because of limited capital from the community.

By looking at the explanation above related to the existence of several indicators of problems in the empowerment of farmer groups by the Agricultural Extension Center in Kalapasawit Village, it is certainly considered necessary to be handled so as not to lag behind the times in Kalapasawit Village, especially in the

empowerment of farmer groups, so as not to slow the community in achieving welfare. From the background of the problem can be formulated problems with the formulation of the problem: how is the empowerment of farmer groups by the Agricultural Extension Center in kalapsawit village, Lakbok District Ciamis?

Literature Review

According to Rappaport, (Theresa, 2014:118) says that 'Empowerment is a way for people, communities, and organizations to be directed to be able to control or rule over their lives.' According to Suharto, (2014:68) the principles of community empowerment are collaborative. Therefore social workers and the community must work together as partners. Based on the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture No.237/Kpts/OT.160/4/2007 states that:

Farmer group is a group of farmers/farmers/planters formed on the basis of common interests, conditions, environment (social, economic, resources) and familiarity to improve and develop member businesses. Farmer groups will form communities in order to facilitate the procurement of agricultural production facilities.

Definition of counseling based on law No. 16 of 2016 on Agricultural, Fishery and Forestry Extension System:

Counseling is a learning process for the main actors and businesses

to be willing and able to organize in accessing market information, technology, capital and other resources in an effort to increase productivity, business efficiency, income and welfare and increase awareness in the preservation of environmental functions. Conventionally, the role of agricultural extensionists is limited only to their obligation to convey innovation and or influence the beneficiaries of empowerment through certain methods and techniques until they (beneficiaries) with their own kasadaran and ability to adopt the innovations presented. (Mardikanto and Soebiato, 2015:140).

In accordance with the role that must be played by each extension/facilitator as described above, Berlo (Mardikanto. 2015:143) presents 4 (four) qualifications that must be investigated by each extension or facilitator which includes:

1. Ability to communicate;
2. Extension/facilitator attitude;
3. Knowledge skills of extension/facilitator; and
4. Socio-cultural characteristics of extension/facilitator.

Method

The type of research used in this study is to use qualitative descriptive

research methods. The time and place of research was conducted in kalapasawit village, Lakkok subdistrict, Ciamis regency and the duration of research was planned for approximately six months. The informants in this study are 7 (seven) informants consisting of 1 (one) agricultural extension person, 1 (one) Village Head, 1 (one) head of welfare section 1 (one) farmer group chairman, and 3 (three) members of farmer groups, so that the data obtained is primary data that is data collected directly when the event occurred from people / actors involved in this study. Determination of informants in this study using purposive sampling techniques, i.e. only certain people or parties will be used as a source of information researchers.

Data collection techniques used are by conducting field studies, namely observation techniques (with direct observation to know the conditions that occur in the research site) and interview techniques conducted to obtain in-depth information with informants face-to-face, oral and spontaneous.

Then the technique of processing or data analysis in this study is by:

1. Reducing data is summarizing and making it easier for researchers to collect data.
2. Data presentation is done by compiling narrative data.
3. Verification/withdrawal of conclusions is done after all data

collected and then drawn the initial conclusions that are temporary.

Results and Discussion

Kalapasawit Village is the Expansion Village of Lakkok Village, according to folklore for generations that Lakkok was once a kingdom. The word Lakkok there is a sundanese origin that is "Melak teu ngalebok" which means menanan but can not eat the result, this may be in accordance with the state of this area which at that time consisted of quite large swamps.

Lakkok village was originally very wide, therefore there were village expansions, so in 1984 Lakkok Village which lived consisted of two hamlets namely Sukanagara Hamlet and Kalapasawit Hamlet was released again into two villages namely Sukanagara Village and Kalapasawit Village. The name Lakkok itself is the name of the sub-district whose capital is sukanagara village. Lakkok subdistrict is the most unique sub-district in Ciamis Regency, because it does not have the same village name as the sub-district name, there is no name of Lakkok Village since the expansion of the village in 1984.

Since its expansion in 1984, Kalapasawit Village has undergone several changes of leadership or village head either definitively with the democratic process or elections or conducted by village deliberations to appoint a Temporary Acting (PJS).

a. Main Duties of Agricultural Extension

Agricultural Counseling is a learning process for the Main Actors and Business Actors so that they are willing and able to help and organize themselves in accessing market information, technology, capital, and other resources, as an effort to increase productivity, business efficiency, income, and welfare, as well as raise awareness in the preservation of environmental functions.

Agricultural Extension is an Indonesian citizen who conducts Agricultural Extension activities, both civil servant extension, private extension, and self-help extension.

1. Implementation of Poktan Growth
Implementation of Poktan Growth through the following stages:

- a) Poktan Growth Preparation
- b) Poktan Growth Process

b. Construction and Organizing

Development and institutional development of farmers, carried out through the creation of a conducive climate so that farmers are able to initiative and initiative with facilitated in the service of information and business certainty and legal certainty. Institutional development and development of farmers should be held at every level of government administration.

The organization of growth, development and development of Farmer Institutional is in the task force that carries out the task of counseling in the

sub-district, the task force that carries out the affairs of counseling in the district / city and province, and the task force that organizes the central counseling affairs in accordance with its authority.

c. Empowerment of Farmer Groups by the Agricultural Extension Center (BPP) in Kalapasawit Village, Lakkok District, Ciamis Regency

In the context of empowerment of farmer groups by the Agricultural Extension Agency (BPP) is done using the theory according to Dubois and Miley (Suharto, 2014:68) gives some more specific ways or techniques that can be done in community empowerment.

1. Building a Relationship of Help

By building a relationship of help, it can help the community to facilitate in obtaining more information in the field of agriculture and help agricultural extensionists to provide information and knowledge about agriculture to the community. Based on the observations can be known that in the dimension of building a relationship of help has been implemented quite well this is shown a good response, the appreciation given by the extension to the community, and how to appreciate dissent is done by deliberation. But there are still obstacles in cooperation, namely only a few farmer groups that have advanced good cooperation so that farmers groups that

are still not developed cooperation is still lacking because of the lack of meetings, lack of compact, lack of understanding provided by agricultural extensionists.

According to Sulistiyani, (2017:77-78) states that:

Community empowerment is: etymologically empowerment comes from the basic word "power" which means strength or ability. Contrary to this understanding, empowerment can be interpreted as a process to obtain power/strength/ability, and or the process of giving power/strength/ability from the party that has power to the less or empowered.

Based on the results of research and the expression of the theory above, it is important to do by fostering the spirit of the community in adding insight and knowledge in the field of agriculture more deeply. That with the community response an empowerment can run to the maximum, considering the empowerment here that is done by agricultural extensionists to the community to jointly implement existing directives, especially in carrying out counseling. In providing clear information, so that people are motivated to continuously improve their knowledge and improve the quality of their human resources. In order for them to digest and understand that dissent should not cause divisions but should be consulted

together. In order to carry out directives or tasks for the common purpose related to good cooperation, therefore there is cooperation between the community and agricultural extension. So that with good cooperation can provide cohesiveness to carry out its duties.

2. Building Communication

By building communication, it can help agricultural extensionists to provide information well so that communication can run well by mastering the material that will be conveyed first to the community. Based on the observations can be known that the dimensions of building communication is still not optimally done, this is shown the way to consider individual differences in the implementation of empowerment activities carried out by deliberation, in the welcoming of agricultural extensionists who are expected to glue friendship is still not optimal because agricultural extensionists have been conducting meetings but still rarely, in the presence of agricultural extensionists focused on providing guidance so that farmer groups are able to perform their role is still not optimal because of the lack of energy from extension workers, how to keep farmer groups from falling into a weaker position is still less optimal because there are still farmer groups that are still not able to take good care of their groups.

In the opinion of Person et.al (Suharto, 2014: 58-59) that:

Empowerment is a process by which people become strong enough to participate in, varying control over, and influencing, events and institutions that affect their lives. Empowerment emphasizes that people acquire enough skills, knowledge, and power to influence their lives and the lives of others of concern.

Based on the results of research and the expression of the above theory, by providing clear information to farmer groups, it can affect the lives and lives of others who are concerned in order to gain knowledge in counseling activities, but in the case of meetings between farmer groups and agricultural extensionists do not run to the maximum because it is rarely done. If the activity is carried out regularly and on schedule then considered with polite delivery and joint deliberation to help the community in making decisions that will be made to reduce the effect of obstacles that can occur in the activity. So with the extension of agriculture that focuses on providing guidance is considered good or not very dependent when the activity can be completed. As a process of developing and establishing farmer groups so as not to fall into an increasingly weak and marginalized position so that farmer groups can take care of the organization in the group.

3. Engage in troubleshooting

By being involved in problem solving, it can help agricultural extensionists to know the problems faced by farmer groups. Based on the observations can be known that the dimensions involved in problem solving is still not optimal this is shown in how to strengthen the partisipasi in solving problems faced between agricultural extensionists and farmer groups is still not optimal because there are still farmer groups that have not been able to fully solve the problems faced in the group such as lack of communication, in how to respect the rights of agricultural extensionists through education programs and training routinely on agriculture to farmer groups has been implemented with optimal, in challenges as an opportunity to learn from agricultural extension to farmer groups in the empowerment program has been implemented quite optimally because as a learning opportunity deeper in the field of agriculture, and in the evaluation of the capacity of farmer groups have been done quite well karena to know the development of farmer groups.

Theresia's opinion, (2014:94) suggests that "empowerment is an effort to build power itself, by encouraging, motivating and raising awareness of its potential and seeking to develop it."

Based on the results of the research and the expression of the theory above, it is important to do to increase awareness

of the group in order to have the ability to solve problems faced, can establish good communication and mutual openness in every meeting. Not only that, data and information are the most important part in determining a policy (Irfan, 2021).

In order to generate the ability of farmer groups through regular education and training programs, so that with the program farmers groups can appreciate the rights of agricultural extension workers if done regularly. Must be able to provide information in a learning opportunity to be able to improve the understanding of farmer groups by providing learning opportunities challenges such as how to plant with modern technology according to the directions given by agricultural extensionists. In order to know the capacity of farmer groups whether there is progress or there is a decrease in the group every year, so that agricultural extensionists can assess which farmer groups are independent and which have not been so that farmer groups that are still developing or even experiencing decline can be built better.

4. Reflecting the attitudes and values of the social work profession

With the attitude and value of the social work profession, it can help agricultural extensionists to improve the quality of their human resources by empowering the community to be more empowered. Based on the observations

can be known that the dimension reflects the attitude and value of the profession of work is still not optimal this is shown in the obedience of farmer groups in the process of counseling conducted by agricultural extensionists is still not optimal because the habits of the community and human resources are still low and also the farmer group is mostly the old and the young sometimes reluctant because they see the results are not worth it or still less with what ya ng needed, in the involvement of agricultural extensionists in helping farmer groups to optimize the yard for farming is still not optimal because most of them reasoned with busy and no time, in the translation of agricultural extension in conducting counseling to farmer groups about the correct agricultural land management procedures are still not optimal because of some they only at first glance know for example oh this yes using techniques “*tanam jejer legowo*” turned out to be good but not applied in their crops, and in the existence of harmony and balance that allows each farmer group to get the opportunity to try farmers is quite optimal because it is encouraged with their own will.

The opinion of Subejo and Narimo (Theresia, 2014:121) defines the process of community empowerment, namely:

Deliberate efforts to facilitate local communities in planning, deciding and managing local resources are

owned through collection action and networking so that ultimately they have the ability and independence economically, ecologically, and socially.

Based on the results of the research and the expression of the above theory, it should be directed to appreciate and obey the provision of information from agricultural extensionists. Then it can change its habits little by little to get to know modern technologies such as the management of horned plants in which there are technologies such as legowo jajar. In order to grow farmer groups / communities in optimizing the yard to be more useful, by planting such as vegetables and so on that are useful. Until it fosters one's desire to apply what the extension has given to farmer groups/communities. In order to improve their agriculture in order to achieve what is expected. And agricultural extensionists can provide skills such as making artificial fertilizers for better agricultural products.

Conclusion

The empowerment of farmer groups by the Agricultural Extension Agency (BPP) in Kalapasawit Village, Lakbok District, Ciamis Regency has been largely implemented quite well. This is shown by the lack of meetings, there are some cooperations that are lacking but only farmer groups that have advanced the cooperation is good, and

lack of awareness to be able to optimize the yard as a learning opportunity.

The efforts made by agricultural extensionists to overcome obstacles that occur in community empowerment, namely: with frequent regular meetings, prioritizing deliberations related to the empowerment process, including if there are counseling activities by attending and appreciating the existence of such activities, making a schedule of regular meetings and the formation of group structures so that the group can develop for the better.

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