

# Model Empowerment of Rural Poor Farmer Women through Agribusiness Base Entrepreneurship Development in the Regency of West Lombok

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**Abstract:** Purpose of this study is to: a). Identify the potentials of the rural poor farmer women that can be developed, b). Identify programs that can be done to develop the potentials of the rural poor farmer women, c) Study the agri-based entrepreneurship potentials that can be developed, d). Create a model farmer women empowerment through agribusiness-based entrepreneurship development. Results of the research can be summarized as follows: 1. The potentials of human and natural resources owned by the rural poor farmer women: a) low education and narrow tenure b) quite a lot of family members so that they can be used to generate / income, c) the lands they owned are less fertile and dry, but still improvable; 2. programs that can be developed based on the farmer women's potentials: a). developing the capacity and skills of the farmer women through training b). creating business fields c). creating joint activities, which is useful as learning media to make productive activities, and the subsequent impact will be an independent business, d) providing efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery for other rural poor people. e) empowering economic community through the help of capital without collateral and uptaking technology; 3. natural potentials owned by the respective village of the research is different, then the potential village for agri-based entrepreneurship that can be developed are as follows: a) Giri Tembesi Village develops agribusiness of cassava tubers, b) South Kuripan Village develops agribusiness of palm sugar to process the sugar water in the form of briquettes. In addition, in South Kuripan Village grow pandanus plant that could be processed into woven mats, c) Karang Bayan Village develops agribusiness of the ketak plants, 4. Agribusiness-based entrepreneurship model that can be developed in the research site is the model joint venture group accompanied by guidance from related agencies, granting revolving capital and technology uptake. This model will be a learning media for productive activities in making their own business, and finally it will be a good example for other poor villages.

**Keywords:** women empowerment, entrepreneurship, and agribusiness.

## 1. Introduction

Poverty is a major problem faced by many developing countries. As a multi-dimensional social phenomenon, poverty is not only related to the economic dimension, but also structural problems, psychological, cultural, ecological and other factors that cause poverty. The poor worldwide are generally women and children, and women generally have less access to education, recognition of land ownership, and in decision-making in the family or society.

Many women in the world are lack protection of their rights, less educated and economically vulnerable. In many countries women also face barriers to social and cultural progress, including discrimination of the need or desire to work outside home, and the biggest obstacle of all is education. Besides, it is also the targets of sexual exploitation, human trafficking and household violence [7].

Most of poor people are in rural areas and most of them are women. Women in rural areas with low education, low income, low health and nutrition, resulting low productivity. In addition, poor families usually owned very narrow farming land but having large number of household members, most are not educated and have no technological access, low economic opportunity.

Farmer women in poor rural areas, with all their limitations, always hope to improve the family economy. Therefore, the rural poor farmer women empowerment requires sensitive policy interventions, to address the underlying problem to obtain the best results for increasing the people prosperity.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Study on Empowerment

According to [5] that community empowerment is a concept that summarizes the economic development of social values. This concept reflects the new paradigm of development, that has characteristic of "people-centered, participatory, empowering, and sustainable".

Empowerment of women can be defined as a way in which women are encouraged to understand the problems and potential and are given the responsibility to decide which programs will be developed.

The role of women in the domestic sector much of the attention. The role of women in this sector substantially untouched. This means that the woman's role as a household master (host) and manager still maintain and at the same time to put the domestic sphere is legitimate women staying place for activity [8]. But until now there is still the assumption that men considered the main breadwinner of the family.

## 2.2 Some Aspects of Poverty

The problem of poverty is still a *chronic disease* from time to time, especially in developing countries, including Indonesia, so it is necessary to find a solution.

Poverty can be seen from the aspect [6], namely:

- a) Multi-dimensional aspects means that poverty is caused by many aspects. Judging from the general policy covers the primary aspects in the form of low assets, political and social organizations, skills, and knowledge, and the secondary aspect in the form of poor social network, financial and information resources.
- b) Poverty aspects related to each other, either directly or indirectly. This means that the progress and backward on one aspect can affect the progress and backward on other aspects.
- c) That the poor is human beings as both individually and collectively.

According to [9], there have been widely implemented programs to assist poor rural communities such as social safety nets, which intended to empower the community.

## 2.3 People's Economic Empowerment

Many residents or rural farmers, due to the penetration of the modernization of agriculture becomes increasingly desperate and even had to get out of the agricultural sector to find work. The process of impoverishment is more pronounced impact by women compared to men. To eliminate experienced poverty pressure, either voluntarily or forced, women involved in non-agricultural jobs to earn additional family income. Seeing the potential of women as a workforce large enough then the economic empowerment through productivity increase (more specifically its income) will help to overcome this problem.

## 3. Research Method

This research is a *descriptive* study which theoretically can be classified into the *subject-matters of research* [4], South Kuripan village in District of Kuripan, Karang Bayan village in District of Lingsar, Giri Tembesi village in District of Gerung of West Lombok Regency in "*porposive sampling*" with the consideration that on the basis of geographical, social and economic, resident potentials, and the data from the Rural Development Office categorized them as poor villages.

This study used a qualitative approach that is gender, which showed a level of analyzing issues of social, economic, political, legal, and cultural psychology to understand how the differences of men or women influence and influenced by policies and practices.

The samples are *porposive* or called *criterion-based selection*, here the researchers choose respondents were deemed to know the issues examined. Information required based on certain characteristics include: village officials, community and female figures. Besides, in order to the obtained data valid it is added by 20 housewives for sample, bringing the total number of all respondents as many as 69 people.

Data collection technique used in this study is: in-depth interviews and direct observation [10], and also used FGD (*Focus Group Discussion*) method for identified potential programs that could be implemented to empower women in poor rural and identified agribusiness based entrepreneurial potentials that could be developed.

The analysis method used in this study is more *descriptive* and *explanatory* in form of qualitative explanation in accordance with the existing data and information, and then made the tables and described in the narrative subject to the objectives to achieve.

## 4. Result And Discussion

### 4.1 Farmer Women Potentials of the Poor Rural in the Research Location

In the study the problems faced by poor rural farmer women extremely diverse, both internally and externally. Internal problems is a problem faced individually by the farmer women, while the external problem is from outside but affects their socio-economic conditions. The result showed that the problems faced by the farmer women are as follows:

1) Internal problems include:

- a. Lack of education. 65 percent of respondents have low education; even 6.67 percent never had education. Low education would result the weak adoption of innovation in agribusiness.
- b. Low skills, as a result of low educational owned.
- c. Ownership of natural resources (limited/narrow wetland, upland and agricultural lands), so it can not increase the farming productivity.
- d. Productive economic activities is low, so a lot of waste time for the people.

2). External problems include:

- a. Hard to get water. It is difficult to get water considering that 84% of respondents farmer women using river water, and the rest use well water. In the Giri Tembesi village and some areas in the village of South Kuripan have dry and less fertile soil, making it difficult to increase farm productivity. If the river dries naturally, it is very difficult to get water to meet the needs of the family.
- b. Lack means of economic such as market, stalls are still rare
- c. Roads and transportation already exists but still being hardened and dirty, especially in Giri Tembesi and South Kuripan villages, so people's ability to transport the products is limited.

In terms of potentials of human and natural resources owned by the rural farmer women are as follows:

- a. Passion to produce something to earn a living is still very high, despite having a low education. It is based on the most respondents are productive age, so they are still able to make a living.
- b. A lot of family members, 3.7 to 4 people, in each family, so this is useful to obtain revenue.
- c. Still having farm land although in small wide, so it is still able to improve productivity.
- d. The three villages of sample area have different nature potentials, thus affecting the resulting product, such as Giri Tembesi village produces cassava, Soth Kuripan village produces pandanus and palm trees, and Karang Bayan village produces *ketak* plants.

### 4.2 Developing Program

Empower farmer women means creating opportunities for

poor rural communities to determine their needs, plan and implement their activities, which ultimately creates a permanent self-sufficiency in the life of society itself.

Community Empowerment Program aimed to improve the ability and the income of the poor with the characteristics of program activities that are participatory approach based on community needs, strengthening the capacity of community institutions, and the implementation of activities by the public. The target group is poor households. This program priority operationally directed to improve the ability of the poor communities to play an active role in addressing both poverty and the gap in economic, social, cultural, or other services of physical infrastructure access.

Programs that can be developed based on the potential of the rural poor farmer women in the research sites are as follows:

1. Development of the capacity and skills of farmer women through training, so that they have skills to support productive activities and family economic development
2. Creation of agribusiness field to benefit their much time to do productive activities, or by working in other villages.
3. Creation of joint activities, which is useful as learning media to make productive activities, and the subsequent impact will be an independent business.
4. Providing efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery for other rural poor people, such as a water supply system was built together, so that the community can utilize together, beside the improvement of facilities and infrastructures by the government such as road repair, market building and others.
5. Community economic empowerment through capital grant and uptaking technology.

#### 4.3 Agri-based entrepreneurial potential that can be developed

Each community, including farmer women, has potentials to be developed, meaning there is no society at all without power. Empowerment is an effort to build the power, by encouraging and motivating awareness of their potential and strive to develop it.

Considering the different potential of nature possessed by each of the sample village, the agro-based entrepreneurship that can be developed are as follows:

- a. Giri Tembesi Village develops agribusiness of cassava tubers, but the constraint is when the harvest season comes, the price is low, so it needs to be processed into a product that can generate added value.
- b. South Kuripan Village develops agribusiness of palm sugar to process the sugar water in the form of briquettes. During this time, the people only sell the sugar water of palm tree. Price of palm tree is Rp. 750.000- 1000.000 / tree producing for two years. In order to obtain higher yields still can be developed into palm sugar in the form of briquettes. In addition, in South Kuripan Village grow pandanus plant that could be processed into woven mats.
- c. Karang Bayan Village develops agribusiness of the *ketak* plants. The number of *ketak* plants should be processed into value-added webbing.

#### 4.2 Empowerment Model of Farmer Women through Agribusiness Based Entrepreneurship Development

Empowering farmer women means creating opportunities for poor rural communities to determine their needs, plan and

implement activities, which ultimately create self-sufficiency in the life of society itself.

In addition, the empowerment of women is as a way in which women are encouraged to understand the problems and potential and given the responsibility to decide which programs will be developed.

By looking at the potential or power possessed by the farmer women, needs concrete steps, and involves the provision of various inputs, and the opening of access to the various opportunities that will make farmer women become increasingly powerful.

Related to the model of farmer women empowerment through agribusiness based entrepreneurship development is the joint efforts model. The groups are guided by relevant agencies. This model will be a learning media for productive activities in making their own business, and finally it will be a good example for other poor villages.

## 5. Conclusion and Suggestion

### A. Conclusion

Based on the research findings can be concluded as follows:

1. The potentials of human and natural resources owned by the rural farmer women are as follows:
  - a. Passion to produce something to earn a living is still very high, despite having a low education. It is based on the most respondents are productive age, so they are still able to make a living.
  - b. A lot of family members, 3.7 to 4 people, in each family, so this is useful to obtain revenue.
  - c. Still having farm land although in small wide, so it is still able to improve productivity.
2. The potential of women in the village as a sizeable workforce, the economic empowerment through increasing productivity is expected to reduce poverty.
3. Programs that can be developed based on the potential of the rural poor farmer women in the research sites are as follows:
  - a. Development of the capacity and skills of farmer women through training, so that they have skills to support productive activities and family economic development.
  - b. Creation of agribusiness field to benefit their much time to do productive activities, or by working in other villages.
  - c. Creation of joint activities, which is useful as learning media to make productive activities, and the subsequent impact will be an independent business.
  - d. Providing efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery for other rural poor people, such as a water supply system was built together, so that the community can utilize together, beside the improvement of facilities and infrastructures by the government such as road repair, market building and others.
  - e. Community economic empowerment through capital grant and uptaking technology.
4. Considering the different potential of nature possessed by each of the sample village, the agro-based entrepreneurship that can be developed are as follows:
  - a. Giri Tembesi Village develops agribusiness of cassava tubers, but the constraint is when the harvest season comes, the price is low, so it needs to be

processed into a product that can generate added value.

- b. South Kuripan Village develops agribusiness of palm sugar to process the sugar water in the form of briquettes. In addition, in South Kuripan Village grow pandanus plant that could be processed into woven mats.
  - c. Karang Bayan Village develops agribusiness of the *ketak* plants. The number of *ketak* plants should be processed into value-added webbing.
5. Agribusiness-based entrepreneurship model that can be developed in the research site is the model joint venture group accompanied by guidance from related agencies, granting revolving capital and technology uptake. This model will be a learning media for productive activities in making their own business, and finally it will be a good example for other poor villages.

### Suggestion

1. Program for community empowerment should be designed in such a way not generalize from one group with other groups, and empower farmer women means creating opportunities for poor rural communities to determine their needs, plan and implement, which ultimately creates a permanent self-sufficiency in the life of society itself.
2. The empowerment of women means the family welfare required the involvement of women, thus creating the higher level of people welfare distribution.

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