

FARMER GROUP STRENGTHENING: ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HOME YARDS IN KRENGSENG HAMLET, HARGOREJO, KOKAP

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Abstract - *The agricultural sector is one of the sectors that makes an important contribution to rural communities, because most rural communities work as farmers. Many challenges are faced, in developing the agricultural sector itself. As is the case in Krengseng Hamlet, where the existence of large people's yards has not been utilized properly. In addition, the condition of two farmer groups that are less active because of the busyness of each member, also has an impact on agricultural development and efforts to utilize the yard. Therefore, the provision of socialization related to the strengthening of farmer groups and the utilization of vacant land into agricultural land is considered necessary. By holding this socialization, it is expected that the two farmer groups, namely the Ngudi Rejeki Women's Farmer Group and the Sido Makmur Men's Farmer Group, will be able to coordinate better so as to create synergy to jointly optimize the existing yard land. Meanwhile, the research method used is the CBR (Community Based Research) method which focuses on optimizing the potential that exists in a community or society to overcome existing problems. The result of this research is the implementation of socialization activities, where after the activity there was a development in the form of established communication between the two farmer groups through a question and answer forum and additional insight regarding the use of yard land and the use of waste into organic fertilizer for plants. The socialization activities held were considered successful in contributing, seeing from the enthusiasm of the participants during the socialization.*

Keywords: *Agriculture, Farmer Group, Home Yards*

1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is often the main foundation of hamlet life in Indonesia. Dusun, as a small administrative unit under the village, is often at the heart of local agricultural activities. This is because local agriculture in hamlet communities tends to influence the social and economic welfare of the community. In this case, agriculture in hamlets has an important role in maintaining food security, creating jobs, and maintaining a culture that has developed for a long time.

Indonesia is one of the agrarian countries where most of the population works in the agricultural sector (Sekretariat Kabinet Republik Indonesia, 2022). In many hamlets, farming is not just a profession, but a way of life that has been passed down from generations of ancestors. Farming in Indonesia has various systems, including subsistence farming, commercial farming, wetland farming, plantations, and organic farming. In addition, the crops raised also consist of various types. This reflects farmers' adaptation to soil conditions, weather or local market adjustments (Upland Organization, 2023).

The diversity of agriculture in the hamlet is not only an advantage. There are various challenges experienced by local farmers. These challenges can be both internal and external factors of the farmers themselves. Thus, there is a need for synergy in agriculture to develop the effectiveness of the land in the hamlet. Such is the case in Krengseng Hamlet, Hargorejo village, Kokap sub-district, Kulon progo.

Krengseng Hamlet is divided into 2 Rukun Warga (RW) and 7 Rukun Tetangga (RT). Consisting of, RW 27 and RW 28. While 7 Neighborhood Associations namely,

RT 95, RT 96, RT 97, RT 98, RT 99, RT 100, and RT 101. Based on data from the

Potential Profile of Krengseng Hamlet that has been recorded since the beginning of 2024, the population of Krengseng Hamlet consists of 582 people. The residents of Krengseng Hamlet have a variety of livelihoods, with most of them being farmers and laborers.

Krengseng Hamlet is located in a mountainous area with housing conditions that are far from each other. This causes a lot of empty land around the house. That is, every house in this hamlet has a large yard, which has not been utilized properly. Therefore, the formation of farmer groups, which are divided into two between men and women, is expected to be a means of utilizing the yard more optimally.

The farmer group in Krengseng Hamlet has been running for several years. This farmer group consists of men and women. However, they are divided into two, based on gender. The farmer group consisting of fathers is called Sido makmur. The farmer group consisting of women is called Ngudi Rejeki. Among the two farmer groups, Ngudi Rejeki is more active in activities and utilization of the yard. In fact, the members of the two farmer groups will not reap maximum results, if they do not work together. The realization of an optimally utilized home yard is inseparable from the mothers who painstakingly take care of the plants. And fathers who help in preparing all kinds of needs and equipment needed. The existence of cooperation that is intertwined, facilitates the realization of the utilization of the home yard that is aspired to.

2. METHOD

The method used in this research refers to the Community Based Research (CBR) method. The Community Based Research (CBR) method can be interpreted as a research method based on conditions found in the community or society in a particular area (Afandi & Laily, 2022). Therefore, it can be said that the application of this method has the aim of empowering the community, more precisely, increasing or developing an existing potential in order to solve problems related to the conditions contained in the community (Septiani, Sundari, & Indrawan, 2022).

In this research, the community conditions used as the basis are the conditions of the two farmer groups in Krengseng Hamlet, namely the Ngudi Rejeki Women's Farmer Group and the Sido Makmur Men's Farmer Group. The lack of maximum cooperation as well as coordination between that two farmer groups causes their activities to run individually so that the results obtained are less effective. In addition, the houses in Krengseng Hamlet also have large yards that tend to be left empty. The existence of a large yard is a potential that should be utilized by residents as agricultural land through cooperation between the two farmer groups.

Furthermore, data collection methods were carried out through observation and interviews. The data obtained from observations and interviews were then implemented in the Farmer Group Strengthening Program in the form of socialization activities by cooperating with presenters from the Environmental Service and Agriculture Service of Kulon Progo Regency. Meanwhile, the tools and materials and work procedures will be explained below.

A. TOOLS AND MATERIALS

The tools and materials needed include: a place to hold the event, projector, sound system, tables, stationery, plant seeds (eggplant, chili, and papaya) as reward for participants, and mats.

B. WORK PROCEDURES

The work procedure consists of four stages, including: observation, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

- a **Observation.** Implemented by observing condition in Krengseng Hamlet, especially in the agricultural sector. Besides the observation, interviews were also conducted with Bu Dukuh and Pak Dukuh as a means of gathering further information related to the Sido Makmur and Ngudi Rejeki's farmer groups.
- b **Planning.** Starting from preparing a rundown, creating a term of reference and proposals that will be submitted to the presenters, namely the Environmental Service and Agriculture Service of Kulon Progo Regency, distributing invitations to each RT in Krengseng Hamlet, and preparing the place that will be used to hold the event.

- c **Implementation.** The socialization of farmer group strengthening was held on July 31, 2024 at 08.00-11.30 WIB. The event was held at the Sekar Kanthil Early Childhood building and attended by peoples of Krengseng Hamlet, both those who have joined the farmer group and those who have not. The event began with the opening, singing the Indonesia Raya anthem, the delivery of remarks by Mr. Rusidi as the head of Krengseng Hamlet and Nail Mukmila Hiyar as the head of KKN group, presentation of material by speaker from the Environmental Service, presentation of material by speaker from the Agriculture Service, question and answer session, distribution of free plant seeds, and documentation.
- d **Evaluation.** The evaluation aims to determine the level of success of the socialization of farmer group strengthening that have been held.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

a. Overview of Krengseng Hamlet

Krengseng Hamlet, located in Hargorejo Village, Kokap District, Kulon Progo Regency, Yogyakarta Special Region, is an area located in the lowlands with an altitude of between 0 to 50 meters above sea level. The area is mostly dominated by dense teak and coconut forests and large yards, which create a beautiful natural scenery but also seem quiet. In addition, the distance between houses in the hamlet is relatively far from each other, creating a fairly large open space around their residence. However, behind the beauty of the forest with this large yard there is a big challenge faced by the local community, namely the utilization of yard land which is still not optimal. The condition of the land, which tends to be barren, hard and full of rocks, is the main factor that makes it difficult for these lands to be processed into productive agricultural land.

In fact, if managed properly, these vacant lands will have great potential to become a valuable resource for the people of Krengseng Hamlet. With proper land utilization, the community can cultivate their yards into vegetable or fruit gardens that can not only meet the family's food needs, but can also provide additional economic value through the sale of these crops. Therefore, a planned effort is needed from the community to overcome this challenge.

b. Farmer Groups in Krengseng Hamlet

To overcome the challenges in utilizing the yard land that is still not optimal in Krengseng Hamlet, the local community formed farmer groups as a form of effort to manage the existing potential more effectively. In this hamlet, some of the people earn a living as farmers. These farmers not only play an important role as food producers for their families, but also contribute to food security in the region.

As a concrete step in overcoming land use constraints and improving community welfare, two farmer groups were formed in Krengseng Hamlet, namely the Ngudi Rejeki Women's Farmer Group and the Sido Makmur Men's Farmer Group which is attended by men. These two farmer groups serve as a

forum for sharing skills in cultivating vacant land around Krengseng people's house, so that previously unproductive land can be maximally utilized. This effort is an important step in maximizing the potential of the land in Krengseng Hamlet and improving the welfare of the local community.

c. Implementation of Farmer Group Strengthening Socialization.

In addition to maximizing land potential and improving community welfare, the implementation of the farmer group strengthening socialization is carried out to bring together the people of Krengseng Hamlet to reactivate the Ngudi Rejeki Women's Farmer Group and the Sido Makmur Men's Farmer Group, which had previously been on hiatus due to the busy activities of each of its members. The socialization event was attended by 38 participants, including members of the Ngudi Rejeki Women's Farmer Group, members of the Sido Makmur Men's Farmer Group, and residents of Krengseng Hamlet who have not yet joined either of the farmer groups. The socialization event took place at the Sekar Kanthil Early Childhood Education Center (PAUD) building on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, from 08:00 to 11:30 AM WIB. The event began with an opening, the singing of the Indonesia Raya anthem, and remarks delivered by the Head of Krengseng Hamlet and the head of KKN group. Afterward, the first presentation was delivered by Mrs. Rin Dwari, S.T a representative from the Kulon Progo Regency Environmental Service, followed by the second presentation by Mr. Jumaryanto, a representative from the Kulon Progo Regency Agriculture Service.

The first topic presented was about collaborating between the utilization of the yard and waste management. Household waste is a common problem in both rural and urban areas. Household waste becomes a widespread issue in communities due to its underutilization. Therefore, the utilization of home yard, supported by the optimal use of household waste (e.g. vegetable scraps), is expected to function collectively. Household waste management can provide fertilizer that can be used by plants in the yard.

The second presentation discusses optimizing the agricultural sector. With the effectiveness of agricultural practitioners, it is hoped that the sector can be maximized. Looking at soil conditions and plant care are also crucial in this optimization. Regular fertilization, pest control, and other plant care activities must be carried out effectively. Thus, it is expected that farmer groups, consisting of both men and women, can produce nutritious food from the agricultural sector to meet their family's needs. Because, the fulfillment of family nutritional needs is one way to preventions of stunting and is able to welcome family intelligence (Nasriyah, Rusnoto, & Supriyanto, 2022).

Based on the number of participants present, it can be said that the residents of Krengseng Hamlet are interested in the socialization program that was held. This is also evident from the many questions asked during the Q&A session. At the end of the event, participants were given seedlings as a reward, including vegetable seeds (chili and eggplant) and fruit seeds (papaya). The socialization went smoothly and in an orderly manner according to the planned agenda.

4. CONCLUSION

Krengseng Hamlet, located in Hargorejo Village, Kokap District, Kulon Progo Regency, has significant potential for utilizing its extensive but underused land. This area is characterized by teak and coconut forests, as well as large yards, but the arid and rocky soil presents a major challenge for productive agricultural management. The local community has formed two farmer groups Ngudi Rejeki Women's Farmer Group and Sido Makmur Men's Farmer Group to address these challenges. However, the lack of coordination and cooperation between the two groups has led to less effective results. An empowerment program for these farmer groups has been implemented through socialization activities with support from the Kulon Progo Environmental Service and the Kulon Progo Agriculture Service, aiming to improve land utilization effectiveness and community welfare. With proper land management, the community can transform their yards into vegetable or fruit gardens that not only meet family food needs but also provide additional economic value.

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