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Farmer's Institution Performance Of Black Pepper Farmers

Fitriani and Sutarni

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Abstract

Lampung pepper productivity is lower than its potential productivity. These conditions also affect the export performance of Lampung pepper. Efforts to improve the performance of pepper production can not be separated from the pepper growers increase institutional performance itself. Institutional farmer has a central role in efforts to empower farmers. This study aims to analyze the performance of institutional pepper farmers. The study lasted for 4 months from May – August, 2014. The survey research method involving 40 farmers pepper as respondents in Kecamatan Abung Tinggi Kabupaten Lampung Utara, Lampung. Farmers are members of the farmer unions. Descriptive analysis is used to describe the institutional performance of farmers. The results showed that the farmers were identified institutional farmer groups and Gabunga Farmers Group (union). Institutional pepper farmers have a central role in the development of agribisnis pepper. Institutional performance pepper farmers reflected in the medium category (57%) and (28%) in both categories, namely Gapoktan Prosperous Farmer and Farmer Group Farmer Makmur.

Keywords: *Pepper, Farmers Institution, Institution Performance*

INTRODUCTION

Plantation commodities have important role to earn foreign exchange, income resources, labour availability, industrial material, and also to support agribusiness development in Lampung Province. It means that plantation commodities also serve as economic wheels in central producer region. Plantation commodities potential in Lampung are palm oil, rubber, coffee, black pepper, and so on. Lampung black pepper production is the highest in Indonesia which contributed to 46,22% of Sumatera production and to 26,40% Indonesia production (Lampung Plantation Office, 2010) [1]. Export of black pepper in Lampung has contributed in rank fourth to earn exchange after CPO (crude palm oil), rubber, and coffee.

Lampung black pepper production reached 22.311 in 2009 with the acreage 64.073 ha. The region which has the biggest acreage in Lampung is North Lampung Regency. North Lampung Regency has 37,69% acreage portion and the production attained to 48,22%. Black pepper centre production in North Lampung Regency spread in districts: Abung Tinggi, Tanjung Raja,

Bukit Kemuning, Abung Barat, Abung Tengah, Sungkai Barat, and Abung Kunang. Abung Tinggi District has the broadest black pepper acreage reaching 1.225 ha (Lampung Province Statistic Bureau, 2010). North Lampung black pepper has the highest productivity, attaining 450 kg/ha/year compared to Lampung average productivity which is 350 kg/ha/year. Eventhough the productivity of black pepper in North Lampung was high, but those productivity was still lower than optimal productivity to reach: 750 kg/ha/th in the third year production (Lampung Plantation Office, 2010). Those conditions were caused by 25.34% of pepper plantations performed on low level of productivity. Further impact is contributed to Lampung pepper exports. In 2009 Lampung pepper export value grew by only 3.3% from 2008. Similarly, the development of the pepper prices shows a tendency to decline. In 2007, the average price of black pepper was Rp 29,500, -/kg to only 22 215, -/kg in 2009 (Lampung Province Statistic Office, 2010).

Institution has central role in achieving the goals of community empowerment. It can improve the production and marketing of agricultural products. If farmers are organized in institutions, among others in the group of farmers, then farmers will achieve empowerment and strengthen their state of economic. An organized institution will allow farmers to achieve one or more objectives that can not be achieved by individual, including in handling production and marketing problems that lead to improved levels of income and welfare of farmers. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the performance of institutions of pepper farmers in Lampung province and the influence of farmer's institution toward production and income of farmers.

METHOD

The research was conducted in one of the pepper production centers in Abung Tinggi District of North Lampung regency. The location was purposively chosen based on the pepper production centers in which pepper crop acreage development in the Abung Tinggi District is the largest in North Lampung Regency. The study was conducted for 4 months (May-August 2012).

The data required for this research included primary data and secondary data. Efforts were made to obtain primary data through interviews with respondents based on the questionnaire. The respondents were pepper producers who are members of farmer groups and Gapoktan at Abung Tinggi. The methods of analysis used to answer the research purpose were descriptive qualitative and quantitative. Descriptive qualitative was used to identify and analyze the performance of farmer organization. Qualitative

analysis of the role of institutional was used to confirm the data using benchmarks of success/performance of the organization of farmer groups through the workings of the elements including: (1) institutional elements, (2) goals, (3) participants, (4) technology, and (5) environmental (natural, social, and economic).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Identification of Farmer Organization

Pepper plantation acreage development in the Abung Tinggi District is the largest in North Lampung regency reaching 1,225 ha, and spread in 7 villages, namely: Pulau Panggung, Sukamarga, Ulakrengas, Muara Dua, Skipi, Sukamaju, and Kebon Dalam. Two villages selected as the sample locations were the Pulau Panggung and Sukamarga. The *Tani Makmur* farmer association in Pulau Panggung Village consists of some farmer groups, namely: Tani Makmur, Harapan Makmur, Tunas Harapan Makmur, Cempaka, Mawar, Makmur Sejahtera, Trubus Terus, dan Primordia Prima. The Tani Makmur, Harapan Makmur, Tunas Harapan Makmur, and Mawar farmer groups were chosen as the respondents. From Sukamarga village were Bina Usaha, Sumber Rejeki, Sindang Sari, Sidorejo I, Sejahtera, Sejahtera I, Tunas Muda, Mekar Wangi, Karya Tani, Mekar Jaya, and Harapan Jaya. For this study, the institutions taken as the respondents were Bina Usaha, Sumber Rejeki, and Marga Makmur farmer associations.

General institution conditions include the name, the legal basis of establishment, authority, and property rights. The establishment of the legal basis of existing institutions in the study area was from the village, district, and the Ministry of Forestry (HPH). Tani Makmur farmer association had a complete institutional elements on good condition. Furthermore Petani Makmur and Tunas Harapan Makmur also complete with their institutional elements, but with limited ownership rights. Meanwhile Mawar and Marga Makmur farmer group did not have a legal basis. They were still in stages of establishment permit application.

The aspects of institutional objectives indicate that the existing institutions in the study area have both short term and long term goals, but still in general purpose and no indicators of achievement. The short-term goals stated in general were to increase the level of knowledge and familiarity resident farmers. Meanwhile, the long term institutional purposes were to improve the level of farmer welfare of its members. Mawar and Marga Makmur farmer groups did not even formulate their long-term goals.

The next element is the institutional structure. Institutional organization structure which has been formed generally consisted of a chairman, secretary, and treasurer, as well as the division of labor based on business areas. Institutional structure has been stated in the organizational structure of the image. Mechanisms determining the organizational structure and division of labor has been owned by the respective institution gradually done every 1-5 years. Decision-making mechanism is also done by deliberation and consensus. Basic rules (statutes/rules group) to regulate the obligations and rights in the organization are also owned by each institution. But there are institutions that have set a sanction for noncompliance (the Mawar, Tunas Harapan Makmur, and Usaha Maju).

Institutional element that have a central position was a participant (behavior). Agencies identified liveliness of involvement of each party, both administrators and members. Most of the officers and members involved in regular meetings every two weeks or a month. And they are active in asking questions, suggestions, and feedback needed to develop the institutions. Cooperation that exists between officers and members are also very good. New information received related to science and technology development board was also quickly delivered to its members. Members also actively pay dues and obligations that have been determined.

Generally, existing farmer institutions focus on the interests of the members which have not been on a mass scale. Members also get many benefits with its activity in the group, such as gaining additional knowledge, skills and control farm HPT as well as donation of seeds. Each agency also has the element of awareness for institutional maintenance activities performed periodically, such as mutual assistance in the garden, village, gathering, and recitation. In addition, the resource group was active and vibrant discipline, and proactive in communicating with departments agencies which were also important in maintaining the continuity of the existence of an institution. The main weaknesses still faced by most agencies was related to the poor management in managing their members.

Another important element is the technology. So far, the members learned such technology as IPM (integrated pest management), cuttings seeds, planting techniques, cultivation, and harvesting and handling post harvest. Most of the farmer groups and gapoktan in the study area have the opportunity to obtain information about the pepper cultivation from the field extension workers (PPL). However, the intensity and duration of extension and advisory activities are still not running. It is important to empower farmers through the adoption and adaptation of technologies in farming.

Sucihatningsih and Wardi (2010) conducted a study model of strengthening the institutional capacity of agricultural extension in improving farm performance with the respondents' perceptions of farmers on the performance of agricultural extension for soybean (Grobogan) and rice (Klaten) which were moderate. This condition is also a reflection that the performance of agricultural extension workers in their duty contribute positively to the increase in production and productivity of farming.

Agriculture Research and Development Agency has produced many pepper cultivation technologies, ranging from improved varieties, pole climbing, low fertilization, pest and disease prevention methods, tools dryers, peeler and thresher to the suitability of land and climate, but this has not been implemented and applied intensively by pepper growers. Socialization efforts should be developed so that the rate of adoption and the possession of technology by farmers can be implemented on a wider scale (MOA Research Agency, 2012).

Empirical fact is the successful operation of the agricultural development agenda the adoption and adaptation of the green revolution in the 70-80 decades. Arifin (2009) states that innovation activity at the beginning of the Green Revolution technologies relies more on traditional breeding, by doing a few times a cross between the varieties that have superior properties particular to increase food productivity occurred almost evenly in food production centers. However, the process of adoption and adaptation of agricultural innovation at that time followed the institutional innovations, changes in the value system, the level of efficiency, additional revenues, and significant farmer. Journey of institutional innovations that are still there are some weaknesses, especially the hegemonic power of the state and the market, however, has shown synergy works on institutional strengthening agricultural development of rural agriculture.

External institutional elements include the natural environment, social, and economic. The natural environment is very supportive in the development of pepper cultivation, including climatic conditions, rainfall, altitude, and fertile land. Social environment is also very supportive of the community and the start of the apparatus hamlet, village, and so on.

INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE

Farmer's institution

Two villages selected as location were the Pulau Pangung and Sukamarga. Gapoktan Tani Makmur in Pulau Pangung village have 8 farmer groups ,

namely: Tani Makmur, Harapan Makmur, Tunas Harapan Makmur, Cempaka, Mawar, Makmur Sejahtera, Trubus Terus, and Primordia Prima. Farmer groups sampled respondents from Pulau Panggung village were Tani Makmur, Harapan Makmur, Tunas Harapan Makmur, and Mawar.

Sukamarga village has Gapoktan which were combination of farmer groups include: Bina Usaha, Sumber Rejeki, Sindang Sari, Sidorejo I, Sejahtera, Sejahtera I, Tunas Muda, Mekar Wangi, Karya Tani, Mekar Jaya, and Harapan Jaya. Institutional respondents were farmers group Bina Usaha, Sumber Rejeki, and Gapoktan Marga Makmur. Institutions at the farm level in the form of pepper farmer groups and farmer groups combined (union) at the village level instrumental in achieving the organization's goals is to improve production, increase farmers' income and welfare. Indicators of institutional success can be seen through the farmer organization performance. Performance of institutional performance is determined by the operation of the elements which include : (1) institutional elements, (2) goals, (3) participants , (4) technology, and (5) environment (natural, social , and economic). Recap show of performance assessment calculations based institutional elements can be seen in the following table .

Table 1. Recap of performance appraisal performance based elements of institutional

Institution Name	Institution Goal		Institution Structure		Behavior		Technology		Total Scor
	Skor	(%)	Skor	(%)	Skor	(%)	Skor	(%)	
GAPOKTAN									
Desa Pulau Panggung/Tani									
Makmur	17	77.27	20	83.33	32	76.19	9	75.00	78
Poktan Mawar	7	31.82	15	62.50	31	73.81	9	75.00	62
Poktan Petani Makmur	15	68.18	20	83.33	33	78.57	9	75.00	77
Poktan Tunas Harapan Makmur	15	68.18	17	70.83	32	76.19	9	75.00	73
Poktan Sumber Rezeki	13	59.09	20	83.33	32	76.19	9	75.00	74
Poktan Marga Makmur	8	36.36	17	70.83	31	73.81	6	50.00	62
Poktan Bina Usaha	14	63.64	17	70.83	19	45.24	8	66.67	58
Highest scor total	22	100.00	24	100.00	42	100.00	12	100.00	100
Average		63.07		78.13		75.00		73.96	73

Source: compilation data, 2012

General institutional conditions include: the name, the legal basis of the establishment, authority, and property rights. Establishment of the legal basis of existing institutions in the study area from the village, sub-district, and up from the Ministry of Forestry (HPH). Based on the table above, Gapoktan Tani Makmur has a complete institutional elements on good level. Furthermore Poktan Petani Makmur and Tunas Harapan Makmur have a good completeness institutional elements , but with still limited ownership rights, which merely have administrative requirements. Meanwhile Poktan Mawar and Marga Makmur, do not have the legal basis of the establishment, as it is still in its early stages of establishment permit application .

Based on the general condition of further institutional elements of assessment objectives of the institution. Aspects of institutional objectives indicate that the existing institutions have a goal, both short term goals and long term, still in general purpose with no indicators of achievement. Short-term objectives of existing institutions in general are increasing the level of knowledge and familiarity resident farmer . Meanwhile, the long number of institutional purpose is to increase the level of farmer welfare of its members. Poktan Mawar dan Marga Makmur do not even formulate a clear long-term goals.

The next element is the institutional structure. Institutional organizational structure has been formed which is generally composed of a chairman, secretary , and treasurer, as well as the division of labor based on business areas. Institutional structure has been stated in the image of organizational structure. Pricing mechanisms and organizational structure of the division of labor has been owned by the respective institution of gradual done once every 1-5 years. Decision-making mechanism is also done by deliberation and consensus. Likewise in decision-making. Basic rules (statutes/rules group) set obligations and rights in the organization also has become an important rules of the game and held by each institution. But there are institutions that have not set penalties for noncompliance.

Farmer's Institution Performance

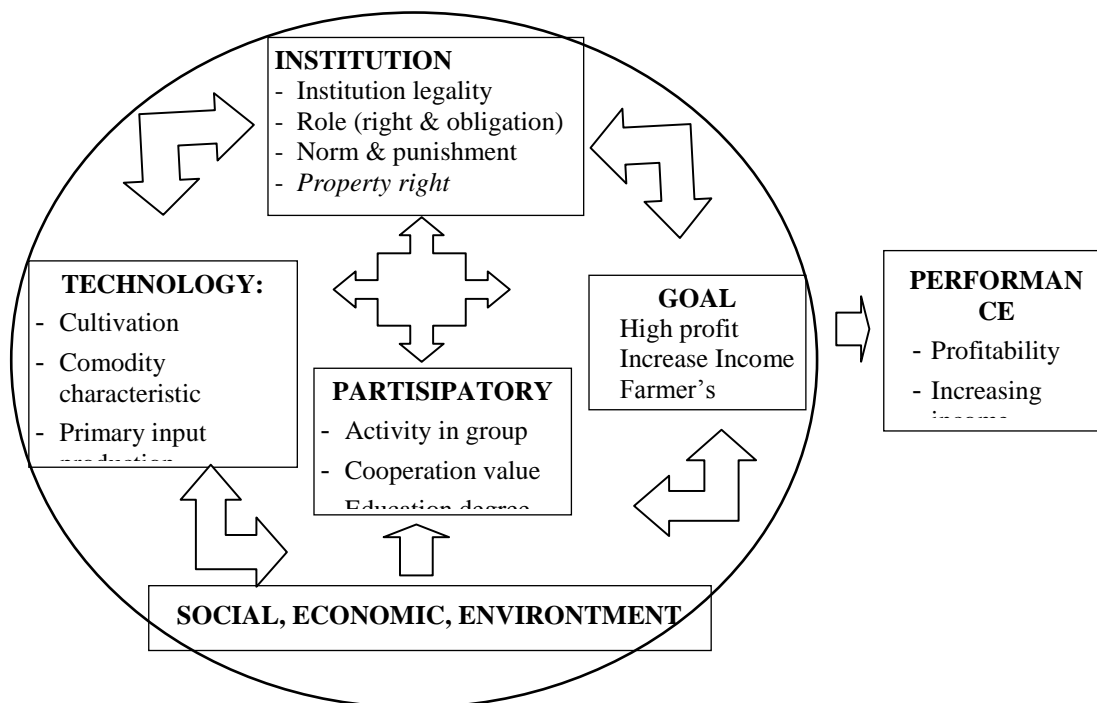
Performance of the organization/institution will optimally contribute positively in solving agricultural problems facing the complexity of its members. Also in the achievement of the main goal is to empower farmers as institutional economic actors. Empowered economically, means farmers have strong access to capital, farm management, and had equivalent levels of income and wellbeing and equitable with other economic actors.

Institutional performance based criteria (low, medium, and good) table can be seen below:

Table 2. Performance of institution based on the category (low, moderate, good)

Institution element	Achievement in average (%)	Assessment criteria		
		Low (<60)	Moderate (60-74)	Good (>=75)
The Goal	63,07	3	1	3
Institutional Structure	78,18	0	4	3
Behavior	75,00	1	2	4
Technology	73,96	1	1	5
Institution Performance	73			2
		1 (14%)	4 (57%)	(28%)

The average of institutional research in the area has a moderate performance criteria (57%). There is an institutional (14%) included in the low category (Bina Usaha farmer group). Two (28%) institutions that have met the performance criteria of a good institutional (Tani Makmur farmers association and Petani Makmur). Institution performance synergy work as indicated in the picture below.



Picture 1. Blackpaper farmer's institution synergy

Based on research and Rachmat Hendayana Elizabeth (2003) on the Role of Opportunity SL-IPM commodity in influencing cognitive pepper small holders pepper in Lampung province showed that some of the problems have been identified as a factor inhibiting the implementation of IPM can be grouped into technical and non-technical factors (economic). Non-technical factors played a large role include project management, especially for the implementation of the IPM FFS. Farmers themselves find it difficult to change the habits of pepper cultivation since ancient times that have been patterned in such a way as to follow the pattern of introduction of IPM, especially in the case of excessive use of fertilizers and synthetic chemicals, which have become part of farming procedures performed pepper farmers.

Juraemi (2004) conducted a study on the performance of institutional ties between the variability in the agribusiness system nucleus oil palm plantation companies indicate that the institutional performance variability agribusiness system has a very significant relationship at the level of 95%. Yuhono (2007) explains that the role of institutions at the farm level is still very limited both at the farm level is still very limited both in the village and sub-district levels. Institutional has role in the fight for a decent price. Institutions pepper exporters association (AELI) is also less attention on aspects of the provision of agricultural inputs. Means of agricultural production is critical in determining the success of the production and productivity.

Dillon (1994) mentions that in the agribusiness absolutely necessary institutional (institutional building) to avoid the resource allocation process which does not encourage the welfare of farmers. Mubyarto (1985) states that the institutional aspects playing an important role in the success of agricultural development. This is due to the empowerment and strengthening the capacity of rice farmers have to walk in synergy with all the pre-conditions for agricultural development. Terms agricultural development formulated by Mosher (1991) includes the principal terms and conditions facilitated the development of agriculture is still very relevant to apply in preparing the rice farming and improving infrastructure.

Conclusions

The conclusions of this research are: (1) Identifiable institution of pepper farmers are farmer groups and Farmers Association (Gapoktan). Institutional pepper farmers play an important role in the development of agribusiness pepper; and (2) Institutional performance is reflected as a

pepper farmer institutional performance with the moderate performance criteria of (57%) and (28%) shown a good institutional performance by namely Tani Makmur Gapoktan Farmers and Petani Makmur farmer groups.

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