

Strategy To Improve Young Generation Involvement In The Agricultural Sector In Kaligerman Village, Karanggeneng District, Kabung Regency Lamongan

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ABSTRAK

Studi ini dirancang secara komprehensif untuk mengeksplorasi secara mendalam dan menganalisis secara kritis signifikansi fundamental dari peran strategis generasi muda dalam memastikan keberlanjutan dan modernisasi sektor pertanian di Desa Kaligerman. Penelitian ini secara spesifik bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan mengevaluasi bentuk-bentuk intervensi inovatif yang dilakukan oleh kaum muda, tidak hanya dalam aspek menjaga ketahanan pangan lokal, tetapi juga dalam diversifikasi ekonomi pedesaan, adopsi teknologi pertanian presisi, dan regenerasi petani yang krusial bagi masa depan pertanian Desa. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode analisis kualitatif deskriptif. Data didominasi diperoleh dari data primer. sebagian besar mereka berasal dari penduduk setempat yang berusia 16-30 tahun dan bekerja sebagai petani dan non petani serta pamong pemerintah desa. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pembangunan pertanian Desa Kaligerman belum sepenuhnya bisa dikatakan berhasil, meskipun sudah banyak teknologi canggih untuk mengelola sawah. Sehingga kesejahteraan petani masih belum dirasakan oleh petani Desa Kaligerman. Peran yang dilakukan oleh generasi muda terhadap pertanian Desa Kaligerman belum maksimal karena minimnya kesadaran dan literasi generasi muda akan pentingnya mencintai produk dalam negeri.

ABSTRACT

This comprehensive study was designed to explore in depth and critically analyze the fundamental significance of the strategic role of the younger generation in ensuring the sustainability and modernization of the agricultural sector in Kaligerman Village. This study specifically aims to identify and evaluate innovative interventions carried out by young people, not only in the aspect of maintaining local food security, but also in the diversification of the rural economy, the adoption of precision agricultural technology, and farmer regeneration, which are crucial for the future of village agriculture. This study uses a descriptive qualitative analysis method. Data are predominantly obtained from primary data. Most of them come from local residents aged 16-30 years and work as farmers and non-farmers as well as village government officials. The results of this study indicate that the agricultural development of Kaligerman Village cannot be said to be fully successful, despite the existence of many advanced technologies for managing rice fields. As a result, farmers' welfare is still not felt by Kaligerman Village farmers. The role played by the younger generation in Kaligerman Village agriculture is not optimal due to the lack of awareness and literacy of the younger generation regarding the importance of loving domestic products.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Agricultural development is key to success in achieving food security because it contributes to the availability, access, and stability of food. Farmers as human resource have a very important role in food security, because farmers are the ones who directly carry out the food production process. According to (Silaban & Sugiharto, 2016) Agricultural development aims to increase farmers' incomes and living standards, expand employment and business opportunities, and advance agriculture, making it more efficient and resilient. This, in turn, improves harvest quality. Food security has become a neglected issue, despite its significant significance during times of crisis. Food security is no longer just a local topic but a global issue, requiring the participation of all citizens, especially young people, to address food issues through government-managed policies. As food security strengthens, so too does human life expectancy, driven by technological advancements.

The development of this sophisticated technology is closely related to the younger generation, especially in this study it is relevant that technology is close to Millennials or even Gen Z, who are young people in the agricultural sector. One example of improving the image of agriculture in the eyes of young people is through urban farming innovation. Based on the typical urban characteristics of having a narrow to very narrow land area, then developing urban plant cultivation can be through innovations in wall garden cultivation models, potted plant cultivation, vertical hydroponic and aquaponic system cultivation. Young people have an important role to improve agriculture in Indonesia. Currently, Indonesia is experiencing problems in the agricultural sector, namely the aging of farmers, therefore efforts are needed to attract the younger generation to be interested in entering the world of agriculture.

Every year the interest of the younger generation is always decreasing to be invited to contribute to the agricultural sector. The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2008 stated that the decline in workers in the agricultural sector has the potential to affect national food production. The decline in national food production is caused by a lack of interest in becoming farmers even though the need for food continues to increase every year. This is very worrying because food production will continue to decline and there will be an economic decline in the agricultural sector. Therefore, farmer regeneration is needed to advance the agricultural economy and national food needs. Therefore, researchers are looking for what factors are inhibiting the younger generation from entering the agricultural sector so that the government can immediately address the problem of farmer regeneration. And it is hoped that the government can issue firm policies aimed at attracting the interest of the younger generation to enter the agricultural sector. Rising food prices have occurred in East Java Province, specifically in Lamongan Regency.

Lamongan Regency has great potential in the agricultural sector. Lamongan is a regency in East Java with an area of 181,280 hectares and has high commodity prices in several sectors, where land use is dominated by agricultural land. In 2021, the population of Lamongan Regency reached 1,344,165 people, with the average livelihood being farmers. The agricultural sector has many functions to play a role in increasing regional and national economic growth. The hope for the development of

the Lamongan region is to focus more on the agricultural sector. Because the agricultural sector contributes to GDP, provides jobs, and creates jobs.

Regional and national food business and provider. Figure 1. Rice Production in Lamongan Regency (in Tons). According to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Lamongan Regency From the graph in Figure 1, it can be concluded that rice commodities have increased every year. In 2020, Lamongan Regency's rice production reached 1,172,965 tons. While in 2019, rice production reached 1,112,534 tons. This shows an average increase in Lamongan Regency's rice production of 5.5% With a total area of 153,316 ha. Lamongan Regency was once the largest rice producer in East Java Province in 2017 with a rice production of 1,089,976 tons. In 2020, Lamongan Regency was named the largest rice producer with a total rice production of 1,172,965 tons of Dry Milled Grain (GKG). Lamongan Regency is even among the top five largest rice producers nationally with a rice surplus of 564,139 tons in 2020. Rice production will always be a priority to advance the national economy (BPS, 2020). The BPPSDMP (Agricultural Resources Extension and Development Agency) of the Ministry of Agriculture noted that in Indonesia there are approximately 2.7 million young farmers with an average age of 20-39. 90% of farmers in Indonesia are classified as elderly farmers, numbering approximately 333.4 million, and only 8% are young farmers. The millennial generation is still considered the main target for boosting the quality of human resources (HR) in the agricultural sector. In 2019, BPS noted that from the 2017-2018 period, the number of young farmers decreased by 415,789 people. Meanwhile, in 2021, according to a report by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), there were 3.95 million people or 21.9% of the total Indonesian farmers who were millennials.

As with the demographic structure of farmers in Kaligerman village. Many young people have succeeded in achieving higher education. The majority of them have no aspirations or interest in becoming farmers, even though most of their parents have quite extensive agricultural land. Even young village youths attend higher education with the aim of getting jobs outside the area. Office work, civil servants are jobs that they consider to have a promising future. Some are also interested in working abroad as migrant workers (TKW) or migrant workers (TKI) because they have a large salary. Number of Farmers in Kaligerman Village according to Age:

NO	AGE	AMOUNT
1.	16-30	50 People
2.	31-47	61 People
3.	47-63	125 People
4.	>63	170 People
Total :		406 People

Source: 2022 Kaligerman Village RKPDes.

Agricultural activities are the largest livelihood in Kaligerman Village, Lamongan Regency, and in this village they still follow traditional methods passed down from their parents. Along with the development of the times, advanced technology has emerged in Kaligerman Village to facilitate rice processing. Kaligerman Village has a total area of 612 ha and has a population of 725 people, with

406 people working as farmers. For Kaligerman District, the harvest area is 5,985 hectares and 305 hectares in Kaligerman Village with a total production of 17,080 tons of grain which produces 10,270 tons of rice. The agricultural land is still quite extensive, if no one is interested in cultivating it for future generations, then who will? This causes the shift of agricultural land into buildings if no one wants to manage agricultural land.

The environment of Kaligerman village must be considered because the increasing number of developments that do not pay attention to environmental aspects will be detrimental to agriculture in the village. Agricultural products from Kaligerman Village play a crucial role in meeting food needs in the region and also nationally. Agricultural land in Kaligerman Village will also continue to decrease with the increasing population growth, which will reduce the amount of food production. A village can be said to be advanced if the local community has extensive knowledge, a good mindset, adequate and fulfilled natural resources managed by a workforce with great potential with the aim of helping advance the rural economy. Research in Kaligerman Village in the field of agriculture, especially rice commodities, has several problems such as productivity, the majority of farmers' low education, farmer crises, and so on. However, what has been in the spotlight lately is the problem of the decreasing agricultural workforce which decreases every year.

The most important issue now is how to engage young village workers to contribute to agricultural development. To date, the government has focused solely on food availability, ignoring the source and source of that food. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to determine the importance of the younger generation in contributing to agricultural development in Kaligerman Village, Karanggeneng District, Lamongan Regency, to ensure the village's food needs are consistently met.

2. METHOD

This research approach uses a descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative is an attempt to describe the current phenomenon based on detailed and in-depth information about the object of the study. The analysis in this study is expected to be able to see socio-economic changes in the agricultural sector. The data obtained will later be collected and analyzed to produce new resources for villagers, especially in the agricultural sector. Research Data This research data is divided into two types: primary data and secondary data. Primary data is data obtained by researchers directly from the field with the aim of obtaining information directly from the research objectsources. This data is usually obtained from interviews, observations, and also supporting data from informants.

Meanwhile, in this study, the data was obtained from the Kaligerman Village Government, Karanggeneng District, Lamongan Regency, namely Sunardi and Khoirul Huda and 8 young farmers. The criteria used as informants with conditions such as first, Kaligerman village residents who work or help in the agricultural sector and are aged 16- 30 years. and second, the period of residence in Kaligerman village for approximately 5 years. The secondary data includes various references. Secondary data is supporting data obtained from the publication of the website of the Food Security and Agriculture Service, the Central Statistics Agency of Lamongan Regency, and the UPT of the Agriculture Service of the Lamongan Regency Government. With this data, researchers hope to easily solve the problems being studied by developing new research. Data Collection, Analysis and Validation In research, there is a

methodology that has the meaning of a general strategy by going through stages that are scientifically arranged in a study.

Observation This research is located in Kaligerman Village, Karanggeneng District, Lamongan Regency. The researcher observed the activities carried out by villagers who have various types of jobs. Supporting economic growth in this village itself is obtained through income from the agricultural sector. The researcher found several economic actors such as farmers, fertilizer traders, harvesting machine providers and agricultural land rentals. Economic actors in this village are around 8 residents of Kaligerman Village, Karanggeneng District, Lamongan Regency. This research has a research period of approximately 3 months. **Interviews** Interviews in this study were conducted within the government environment of Kaligerman Village, Karanggeneng District, Lamongan Regency, young farmers of Kaligerman Village, Karanggeneng District, Lamongan Regency.

The data collection for this interview took place starting in October 2022. Documents and Archives Documents and archives that will be used as data sources were taken from the 2022 BPS of Lamongan Regency and from the website publications of the Lamongan Regency Government Office and the Food Security and Agriculture Office. **Research Informants** The selection of informants needs to be considered because it greatly affects the performance of the research, therefore the selected informants must be able to provide their knowledge to researchers. Youth are important informants in this research.

The Youth Law states that youth are those aged 16-30, regardless of educational background. Some of the youth selected as research subjects or informants are farmers, while others have chosen to migrate to find work outside the Kaligerman village area. The majority of the youth in Kaligerman village do not yet own their own farmland; some still live with their parents, continuing their education. However, some already own their own farmland, given to them by their parents.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The majority of the residents of Kaligerman Village work as farmers. Their income is solely sufficient to meet their daily needs. The people of Kaligerman Village possess various skills, from the elderly to the young, according to their respective occupations. A village can be said to be successful if it experiences significant economic growth. In addition, the village is able to overcome economic problems such as poverty, unemployment, income inequality, and the increasing potential for crime. **Demographics and the agricultural economic climate in Kaligerman Village.** The irrigation system is also increasingly developing. Where previously it utilized river flows, now in rice fields there are wells to facilitate irrigation access, assisted only by hoses and diesel. The condition of the river then and now is different, the river is now starting to be polluted due to the lack of concern from the surrounding community for environmental cleanliness. Garbage dumped in the river causes river water pollution. If irrigation continues through the river, it will damage agricultural production. It is hoped that the Kaligerman Village government will be more assertive in dealing with fertilizer issues. Low use of chemical fertilizers will also have a positive impact on agricultural land. The use of manure or compost needs to be implemented in this village to maintain agricultural land. Although chemical fertilizers are considered more effective and efficient than manure or compost,

manure and compost themselves have their own benefits for agricultural soil, namely maintaining agricultural nutrients.

Village governments are expected to conduct outreach activities to educate the public about the process of making and using manure or compost. Manure and compost are crucial for increasing agricultural production. Moving on to the fluctuations in rice demand, the annual increase in the village population has led to a corresponding increase in demand. Nationally, Indonesia, with its ever-increasing population, faces a precarious situation. If Indonesia continues to rely on imported food supplies, the best solution to maintain long-term food security is to increase rice production and the agricultural workforce. The government often relies on imported rice, even when the country is in the midst of a harvest. Rather than spending money on imported rice, it would be better to support domestic agricultural growth, especially in villages considered to be good rice producers. This will enable Indonesia to compete with other countries and reduce consumerism towards imports. An informant named Heru stated: There has never been a food crisis in Kaligerman village. However, if agricultural production continues to decline, a food crisis will inevitably occur.

Of course, this food need is not solely the responsibility of the government, which must immediately reduce rice imports. Local communities must be aware that the food needs of rural residents will always increase every year and that many roles are needed to help maintain food security so that food needs in the village are still met. This is in contrast to the review conveyed by other informants, who assume that the rice imports carried out by the government actually have a positive impact, namely that domestic food stocks will certainly increase and can be used as food reserves when food needs in the community increase. Judging from the positive impact, the government certainly has its own reasons for continuing to import rice, but it is also important to remember that the negative impact of continuous rice imports makes farmers feel unappreciated, causing farmers to be reluctant to produce rice again. And of course, the quality of local rice will be threatened by imported rice. The quality of local rice should be improved to have strong competitiveness with imported rice and can be "masters in their own country". For example, financial assistance/fertilizer from the government has not been felt by village farmers. The constantly increasing price of fertilizer and the limited amount of fertilizer sold makes it difficult for farmers to manage agricultural land. The government has never had a strong commitment to helping agricultural development. *The Urgency and Existence of the Young Generation for Regeneration in Agricultural Development.*

Agriculture in Kaligerman village is experiencing quite complex problems, One of these is experiencing farmer regeneration. The number of young farmers continues to decline. In the future, village food security must be maintained to ensure food needs in the village are met. Therefore, the younger generation needs to be encouraged to engage in agriculture to increase rice production and maintain village food security. As conveyed by the Kaligerman village official, the younger generation plays a crucial role in agricultural development. Kaligerman Village has extensive agricultural land, the majority of which produces rice. This presents a unique challenge for the younger generation due to the changing times. Today's young generation is required to be creative and innovative. Modern agricultural development has resulted in many activities being replaced by sophisticated technology, resulting in a decline in human

resources. If these developments are not accompanied by a productive attitude, they will be left behind.

The younger generation must be ready and willing to compete more creatively to ensure the success of agricultural development in Kaligerman village and prevent unemployment. The development of modern agriculture has attracted many young people to enter the agricultural sector. However, unlike Rio, the modernity of agriculture has not changed his interest in agriculture. Agricultural development in Kaligerman village requires a multifaceted role from all groups. Awareness of the importance of agricultural production has a significant impact. A significant contribution to national economic growth is still lacking among the younger generation of Kaligerman village. Analysis of the Causes of Young Generation's Reluctance to Work in Agriculture. Internal factors are factors influenced by the individual themselves.

Several factors were encountered in the field, such as economic factors and the informants' family farmland. Having a relatively small amount of farmland made Fajar uninterested in contributing to the agricultural sector. He also wanted to earn more profits by working in a factory, while the unstable income made Panji's interest in agriculture less attractive. Furthermore, Panji also sought work outside the city to meet his living expenses. Being unfamiliar with agriculture made Intan uninterested in becoming a farmer. Intan also has interests in other fields. However, she still has an interest in agriculture, albeit a small one. Having a feeling of love for domestic products by improving the quality of the agricultural sector is one internal factor that comes from the individual. The condition of farmers is concerning due to the large number of rice imports by Indonesia. From information obtained from informants, it can be concluded that internal factors influencing the younger generation's interest in agriculture include limited agricultural land area, low wages, unfamiliarity and lack of experience in the agricultural sector, and a lack of awareness of domestic products to increase agricultural yields. In addition to internal factors, there are also external factors.

Modern developments have driven the transition from manual to technologically advanced tools, but in Kaligerman village, not everyone can use this sophisticated technology. Some still use manual harvesting tools because the cost of renting machinery is too high. That's what Rio, a young villager, said. Education is one factor influencing the interests of the younger generation, and education itself falls into the external category. The majority of high school and college graduates prefer to seek work outside the area or other employment. That's what the deputy village head of Kaligerman said. Farming families in Kaligerman village strive to provide higher education for their children, hoping that their children will have a prosperous future with a steady salary. This phenomenon is indeed a real occurrence in Kaligerman village. Eventually, the village's rice fields are sold because no one is capable of managing them. According to the head of the Kaligerman village farmers' group, the workforce in agriculture is declining among the younger generation. Just as the village head stated, solutions to this low youth interest in agricultural development are always sought. However, jobs in the agricultural sector need to be rejuvenated by the younger generation. From this explanation, it can be concluded that the external factors that influence the younger generation not wanting to become farmers are the slow development of agriculture, lack of support from parents and educational factors

4. CONCLUSION

The agricultural development of Kaligerman village cannot be considered successful. Despite the availability of advanced technology to facilitate rice field management, such as rotary tillers, combi tillers, and sprayers, food security in the village is always sufficient, even though Kaligerman village is able to ship rice to various regions, and the environment in Kaligerman village is of good quality. However, the welfare of farmers here is not yet felt because the price of fertilizer is not commensurate with farmers' income. Fertilizer has recently been difficult to find, and even when available, it is sold at a very high price. To date, there is still no fertilizer assistance from the local government. The role of the younger generation in agricultural development is crucial. Modern agricultural development has resulted in many activities being replaced by advanced technology, resulting in a decline in human resources. If these developments are not accompanied by a productive attitude, they will be left behind. The younger generation must be ready and willing to compete more creatively to ensure the success of Kaligerman village's agricultural development.

There are internal and external factors that cause the younger generation to be reluctant to become farmers. Internal factors originate from the individual themselves, such as the belief that being a farmer does not have a promising future, low wages, unfamiliarity and lack of experience in the agricultural sector, and a lack of awareness of domestic products to increase agricultural yields. Meanwhile, external factors originate from outside the individual, such as slow agricultural development, lack of parental support, and educational factors. In addition to the conclusions, relevant suggestions related to the research results need to be conveyed. First, the younger generation is expected to have creative, active, and innovative thinking. Strive to love and appreciate domestic products. Because to increase sustainable rice production, one of the problems that must be resolved is how to increase the number of young farmers. Because old farmers will not work as farmers forever, there will be a time when old farmers will stop managing rice fields. Therefore, the number of young farmers needs to be increased. Second, For the entire Kaligerman village community to fully support the interests of the younger generation. For parents who are farmers, it is hoped that they will support their children to become successful farmers in the future. Third, The government is also expected to fully support the interest of the younger generation in agricultural development in the village.

It is hoped that the government can help attract the interest of the younger generation, for example, by establishing communities or business groups for young farmers. Farming is like a business; it's not just about managing ancestral land passed down through generations with minimal technology. Farming can also develop like non-agricultural businesses. Therefore, the government needs to create communities or groups aimed at attracting young people and providing them with the necessary training before entering the agricultural world. Furthermore, the government can also innovate to foster economic growth, such as providing new technology, pest control, fertilizer assistance, increasing crop prices, and using agricultural cultivation methods to improve farmer welfare. The government must understand the characteristics of young people, who differ from those of the older generation. Young people grew up in a different era, focused on instant gratification, emulating, and not wanting to put in the effort. Furthermore, This is a challenge for the government: to

guide and set a concrete example that agriculture is a promising sector for the future, thereby establishing a positive image among young people.

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