

Strengthening Institutional Counseling for Regeneration of Young Farmers in Cianjur Regency

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Abstract. The role of extension institutions in supporting agricultural youth regeneration programs is currently not producing results as expected, so efforts need to be made to strengthen extension institutions that are built and developed to help farmers create a conducive learning climate, especially in supporting agricultural regeneration programs. The aim of this research is to determine the extent of institutional capacity at the sub-district level in supporting agricultural youth regeneration programs. This research was conducted in Cianjur Regency, West Java Province, the target of this research was young farmers who were members of farmer groups and gapoktan in the sub-district area, namely 115 samples. The research results show that the dynamics of extension institutions have a high level of dynamism, so it is necessary to strengthen the characteristics of extension institutions that are integrated with technical services by increasing institutional management support. The extension institution as the central node for coordinating extension activities needs to be supported with programs that are tailored to needs, and place field leaders who master and understand extension, and maintain the values and goals to continue fighting for farmers to achieve prosperity. As an important learning platform, it is also equipped with educational infrastructure support and the preparation of standard operating procedures, so that young agricultural farmers have the motivation and enthusiasm to increase their capacity through the knowledge and skills provided.

Keywords: Extension Institution, Strengthening, Young Farmers.

1 Introduction

The role of extension institutions to support agricultural youth regeneration programs has currently not achieved the expected results. This can be seen from the different institutional conditions of extension in each district due to Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning regional government, one of which regulates extension institutions. During the New Order era, the emphasis of agricultural extension was on increasing productivity and production. A centralized approach, with financial support from the state, static and mechanical, linear communication patterns, tending to be instructional in nature, has made farmers the object of government development and made extension workers a tool for implementing government policy. Extension focuses more on technology transfer, not on the person or the learning process. This approach that does not prioritize people has actually resulted in high dependence of the community on the government. According to Robert Chambers and Gordon R. Conway the impact of the conventional paradigm is: (a) reducing farmers' creativity and fostering an attitude of dependence on government assistance; (b) the creativity and wisdom of local institutions is underdeveloped and many have even been lost; (c) agribusiness development programs are inefficient and ineffective due to relatively high government bureaucratic costs; and (d) centralized development programs are not suited to regional conditions, so local superior commodities are forced to choose from above or from the center [1]. As a result, the role of extension institutions is limited to conveying government messages to farmers and this has resulted in agriculture being considered less promising by the younger generation, as stated by Kartasmita community empowerment is an effort to increase the dignity of the layers of society who in their current condition are unable to escape the trap of poverty and development [2].

The young agricultural generation must have motivation for the agricultural sector, so that they can become the driving force of agriculture in Indonesia. The role of the young agricultural generation in agricultural development is very influential in efforts to improve the standard of living of village people, some of whom work as farmers. Apart from that, the young agricultural generation also plays a role in disseminating information to farmers and their families. Therefore, it is important to provide training on good and correct agricultural methods to the younger generation through extension institutions. The results of [3] research recommend that farmer participation can be inspired if there is a smallest institution that is able to partner as a driver of activities in rural areas, meaning the smallest institution in this research is the agricultural extension center or currently UPT-PTPH at the sub-district level.

According to Koentjaraningrat emphasized that institutions are a system that is patterned on humans and a system of norms that embodies a culture. Institutions also have cultural and structural aspects consisting of norms, values and social roles. Because the extension institution is a national culture that has taken root in Indonesian society, it would be ironic if it were lost due to changes in the existing order. The decline in the capacity of extension institutional strength is also felt by the reduction in reliable agricultural instructors who manage it due to the moratorium on appointments and other extension personnel problems and what is most felt is the loss of young men and women who are fully interested in working in the agricultural sector [4].

Facing these conditions, seriousness and attention should be paid to efforts to grow the young agricultural generation in order to maintain the continuity of agricultural production processes, farming and food availability in the long term. Therefore, an institutional extension system must be built and developed in an effort to assist the main actors in creating a conducive education/learning climate, so that in the end they are able to help themselves to improve family welfare. Stated that the success of linking the agricultural production system with the agribusiness chain is largely determined by the success of efforts to provide motivation to farmer-fishermen groups to develop into business Commented [U6]: Different format citation, recheck again Commented [U7]: Use references?? Commented [U8]: Recheck again citation format groups for certain agricultural commodities or combinations thereof. This development is only possible because of the wider business opportunities that can be created through the development of a network of agricultural extension institutions with a professional character [5].

The Food Crops, Horticulture and Plantation Agriculture Service as a district/city level institution has agricultural extension centers or UPT-PTPH at the sub-district level as operations for organizing empowerment activities for the younger generation of agriculture. In line with the Ministry of Agriculture's policy in 2015 and 2016 regarding food security and farmer regeneration programs, institutions at the subdistrict level have an important role in making the program a success.

The role of agricultural instructors is to help farmers form healthy opinions and make good decisions by communicating and providing the information farmers need. Apart from that, agricultural extension workers also play a role in helping farmers improve their farming. Extension agents are the spearhead who have direct contact with farmers. The position as the spearhead illustrates that agricultural instructors have various abilities that can support their duties and functions in advancing farmers. This is mainly because the problems faced by agricultural instructors in the field do not only involve farming issues, but also various issues including cultural, social issues, the level of knowledge and trust of the farming community. Based on this description, to find out the extent of sub-district level institutional capacity in supporting the agricultural youth regeneration program, it is necessary to study this research[6].

2 Research Method

Research on strengthening institutional support for sub-district level extension for the regeneration of young farmers in Cianjur district is quantitative research [7]. With this research, it is hoped that we will be able to find out the extent of institutional capacity at the sub-district level in supporting the agricultural youth regeneration program. This research uses a survey approach [8]. Data collection was carried out using a professional method, namely direct interviews using questionnaires with respondents [9], followed by secondary data collection. This was further strengthened by direct observation through interviews with informants, with a total sample of 115 samples in this research.

3 Finding and Discussion

Extension institutions experience ups and downs due to constantly changing regulations. The dynamics of this change also indirectly influence efforts to renew the farming generation, which tends to be slow in this country. The results of Pradiana's research (2016) show that the value of the existence of extension institutions in Sukabumi Regency is relatively good. However, it turns out that in this research all aspects that characterize extension institutions are in the medium category. This is due to changes in the nomenclature of extension institutions and structural arrangements that occurred at the end of 2016. As a result, extension institutions became part of technical institutions that tend to focus on regional government project activities[10].

3.1 General Description of Research Locations

Cianjur Regency is in the West Java Province region with a distance of 64.12 km or 39.75 miles from the capital of West Java Province (Bandung) and 109.60 km or 67.95 miles from the National Capital (Jakarta). Cianjur City is an enclave surrounded by several sub-districts in Cianjur Regency.

3.2 Characteristics of Respondents

In general, the research respondents were 115 people with an age distribution ranging from 17 - 39 years. At this age, usually someone is in a relatively productive condition at work and is looking for opportunities or information that is profitable for activities related to improving welfare and seeking self-prestige.

Characteristics are part of a person and are inherent in a person. These characteristics underlie a person's behavior in work situations and other situations [11]. Personal characteristics are described as individual characteristics. individual or personal characteristics are factors related to all aspects of life and the environment [12]. The results of the analysis of the characteristics of young farmers show that the level of formal and non-formal education and type of business are relatively almost the same. The average level of education is around 12 years, meaning the level of formal education that young farmers have attended is graduating from Senior High School (SMA), so young farmers tend to have a more modern mindset, are open to technology and are able to read and write.

3.3 Dynamics of sub-district level extension institutions as a node of activities to attract young agricultural actors.

The results of observations in the field, the joining of extension institutions to technical services has both positive and negative things. The positive thing is that coordination between agricultural extension workers as implementers in the field is relatively better because it is one way (instructions) because it cuts through bureaucratic channels which during the presence of extension institutions have become separate sectoral egos. Meanwhile, the negative thing is that extension activities tend not to be a priority for increasing farmer capacity but rather for carrying out official activities. However, with these conditions, it is hoped that whatever happens to the current extension institution, it will remain a forum for efforts to rejuvenate our farmers and provide a special attraction for young farmers to take further part in the agricultural sector [13].

This change in nomenclature is not the first time this has happened, according to historical records, this condition has occurred several times. In general, extension institutions in Indonesia since Pelita I until now have experienced several changes. First, in 1970-1990, institutionally extension workers were part of the Mass Guidance Program (BIMAS) which was responsible for increasing basic commodities to meet maximum production targets. Second, in 1991 the extension institution was re-set up, so that the management of the agricultural extension institution which was originally in Bima's was handed over to the agricultural technical services. This period was marked by the emergence of BPP and PPL for Food Crops, BPP for Plantations, BPP for Fisheries, BPP for Livestock. PPL is monovalent. Third, in 1996-2000, extension institutions at the Regency/City level were united in a new forum with the Agricultural Extension Information Center (BIPP) nomenclature and at the sub-district level the BPP was re-functioned as the home base for all Agricultural Extension Officers serving in the sub-district.

In the first to third institutional models, the determination and management of extension is carried out using a centralized system. Fourth, in 2001-2005, extension institutions were handed over to regional governments. This era was the beginning of the implementation of decentralized extension programs. However, many areas are not ready so that counseling becomes "suspended". Fifth, in 2006-present, agricultural extension was revitalized where extension institutions at the district and sub-district levels were revived as outlined in Law No. 16 of 2006 concerning Agricultural, Fisheries and Marine Extension Systems (SP3K), institutions in the District Extension Implementing Agency (BAPELLUH) and in BPP sub-district. This is confirmed by the Letter of the Minister of Agriculture No. 157 which states that reconcentration funds from the Center will only be given to districts/cities that have established Agricultural Extension Institutions. Agricultural extension institutions are one of the organizational platforms within the agricultural service. The main function of agricultural extension institutions is as a forum and organization for developing agricultural human resources and providing extension services.

3.4 Factors that influence the capacity of sub-district level extension institutions in supporting agricultural youth regeneration programs

The various changes experienced by farmers have urged extension institutions to continue to improve. Not only limited to revitalization in the human resources sector which must follow the globalization of information, but extension institutions must also adapt to the new competitive climate. According to Van Den Ban and Hawkins, extension institutions must change their structure and culture in order to adapt to the massive changes in time. In this way, extension institutions will be able to adapt to face changing times and be able to meet the needs of farmers as clients [14].

Facts on the ground show that when there is a lack of extension institutions, the farmers' learning process becomes less developed and results in young farmers not receiving the proper guidance from agricultural extension workers. Based on this, the following are the results of the analysis of factors that influence institutional capacity in growing young farmers which were processed using SPSS to obtain the R² (R square) and ρ (Standardized Coefficients/path coefficients) values [15].

Model $Y_1 = 0.230X_1 + 0.272X_2 + \varepsilon_1$ is significant because the p-value is smaller than α , which means that the hypothesis regarding institutional characteristics and institutional support simultaneously has a significant effect on the institution's capacity to provide guidance to young farmers. This provides an explanation that the institutional capacity of extension can actually be one of the nodes in mobilizing and developing young farmers if it is supported by other factors such as leadership, the existence of a clear program, having competent assistant staff and supported by adequate infrastructure.

The results of this research strengthen the research results of Susmiyati who stated that to create a creative and innovative extension agency, agricultural officials are needed who are tough, professional, independent, innovative, creative and have a global perspective, so that they get an extension agent who functions as a facilitator, motivator and regulator. So, it can create change for farmers and farmer regeneration can run well. Next, to see how much influence institutional characteristics, institutional support and institutional capacity have on young farmers [16].

Model $Y_2 = 0.457X_1 + 0.181X_2 + 0.262Y_1 + \varepsilon_2$ is significant. These results show that the strength of each institutional characteristic, institutional support and capacity of extension institutions can have a direct impact on changes in the behavior of young farmers in managing their farming businesses. This emphasizes that the behavior of young farmers can be developed optimally if extension institutions at the district and sub-district levels have synergy despite the variety of names and technical functions of the institutions that oversee extension activities. It's just that the main requirements such as leadership, extension infrastructure, clear programs and competent assistant/extension staff must be met first.

Overall, the influence of each independent variable has an influence of more than 50%, so that the path analysis model that has been tested previously can be used as a formula model for developing appropriate strategies in developing the behavior of young farmers through the role of extension institutions at the district level which is synergized with implementation at the sub-district level.

3.5 Sub-district level extension institutional strategy in supporting the agricultural youth regeneration program

One of the basic efforts to avoid the "nightmare" of agricultural development is to develop institutional building efforts. Institutions or institutions are rules which are the product of values, which are expected to continue to evolve and become part of culture. This is a necessary condition (necessary condition) to become the "opening key" for competitive, democratic and just agribusiness development [17].

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The strategy that can be used to change the behavior of young farmers to remain committed to developing the agricultural sector, especially in Cianjur Regency with the existing institutional conditions, is to strengthen the characteristics of extension institutions that are integrated with technical services, namely placing field leaders who understand extension, complementing them with appropriate programs. with the needs of young farmers, maintaining values and goals to continue to fight for farmers to achieve their prosperity and increasing the capacity of resources (agricultural extension workers) as the spearhead of technology transfer innovation. The next step is to increase institutional management support by completing extension infrastructure and developing standard operational procedures to guide measurable work achievements, and creating programs that provide added value to young farmers and are different from before according to the needs of young farmers.

4 Conclusion

The dynamics of extension institutions have a high level of dynamism, so it is necessary to strengthen the characteristics of extension institutions that are integrated with technical services by increasing institutional management support, because the research results show that the characteristics of extension institutions, the support of extension institutions simultaneously has a direct influence on the capacity of extension institutions and also has direct influence on changes in the behavior of young farmers. The extension institution as the central node for coordinating extension activities needs to be supported by programs that are tailored to needs, and place field leaders who master and understand extension, and maintain the values and goals to continue fighting for farmers to achieve their prosperity. As an important learning platform, it is also equipped with support for educational infrastructure and the preparation of standard operational procedures, so that young agricultural farmers have the motivation and enthusiasm to increase their capacity through the knowledge and skills provided.

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