Participation of Gapoktan Sidomakmur Members in Purworation Village, Purwosari Subdistrict

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INTRODUCTION

Gapoktan has a broad role, acting as a place for the learning process, a facilitator of cooperation, a forum that provides facilities and means of production, a production unit, a place for processing and sales, and a provider of support services. Not only that, Gapoktan also functions as a tool to maintain social capital in the farming community. According to Anantayu (2011), farmer institutions in rural areas play a role in encouraging the acceleration of farmers’ socio-economic growth, providing access to agricultural information, facilitating access to capital,

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ABSTRACT

Community or member participation is one of the important aspects in the running of an institution or organisation. This research was conducted to analyse the participation of Gapoktan Sido Makmur members. It is a research that uses qualitative approach. Determination of informants was done by purposive sampling with key informants and snowball sampling techniques, a total of 12 informants. Data validity used triangulation as a method to validate the data. The discussion was conducted with reference to the theory of Totok Mardikanto and Subianto. The results show that the participation of Gapoktan Sidomakmur members is divided into four types, namely decision-making, implementation of activities, monitoring and evaluation of activities, and utilisation of development results. Participation in decision-making is still low due to lack of understanding, ineffective communication, and lack of awareness among members. In contrast, participation in the implementation of development activities is high due to members' commitment and awareness of the benefits. However, participation in monitoring and evaluation is still low due to a lack of understanding of the importance of these activities. On the other hand, participation in utilisation of development outcomes is high, indicating members' awareness and commitment to engage in economic and social activities resulting from development.
infrastructure, and markets, and encouraging the adoption of agricultural innovations. The existence of farmer institutions also makes it easier for the government and other interested parties to support and strengthen farmers through various facilities and reinforcement.

According to Kosasih et.al. (2014), Gapoktan can grow and develop among Indonesian farmers thanks to the spirit of gotong royong, cooperation and mutual care that characterises Indonesian society. However, not all Gapoktan are able to achieve the expected development, and some Gapoktan eventually become inactive or lose their existence. In looking at the level of capability of the Gapoktan, there are variations among the groups, with some remaining at a basic stage, while others are at a more advanced stage. This is a source of concern and challenge for all parties involved in agricultural sector development.

The progress of a Gapoktan is influenced by a number of factors, including the role and involvement of stakeholders, such as agricultural extension officers and village-related parties. Stakeholders include the village government, the head of the farmer group (poktan), and the head of the joint farmer group (gapoktan). The role and involvement of these stakeholders play a crucial role in determining whether a farmer group can develop or not.

Community or member participation is an important aspect in the running of an institution or organisation. This is in accordance with the opinion of Conyers (1994) who revealed the importance of community participation in development planning. The participation of Gapoktan Sidomakmur members so far is still not active enough. This can be proven from the level of attendance when there are activities or invitations, although many members attend but only as a formality. There is still no activity in terms of contributing ideas or conceptualising a programme. Ideally, Gapoktan should grow from the internal drive of farmer groups and farmers to work together in their agricultural businesses, with the aim of achieving optimal results.

CONCEPTUAL/THEORETICAL

Totok Mardikanto and Subianto (2015) argue that community participation in development activities consists of:

1) Participation in decision-making

In general, any community development programme (including local resource utilisation and budget allocation) is always determined by the central government, which in many cases reflects the needs of a small group of powerful elites and less the wants and needs of the community at large. Participation in decision-making itself can be measured by: a) Involvement in meetings or deliberations, b) Willingness to provide data and information, c) Involvement in decision-making.

2) Participation in the implementation of activities

Participation in implementation is often defined as the participation of many people (who are generally poorer) to voluntarily contribute their labour in implementation activities. Participation in the implementation of activities can be measured by a) Community activity in the implementation of activities, b) Willingness to contribute thoughts, expertise and skills, c) Willingness to contribute money, materials and development support materials.

3) Participation in development monitoring and evaluation
Monitoring and evaluation of development programmes and projects is essential. Not only so that the objectives can be achieved as expected, but also to obtain feedback on problems and obstacles that arise in the implementation of the development concerned. Based on this description, in order to measure the dimensions of community involvement in monitoring and evaluating development, including, first, the opportunity for the community to conduct supervision, second, activeness in conducting supervision, and third, providing criticism and suggestions from the community.

4) Participation in the utilisation of development results

Participation in the utilisation of development results is the most important element that is often forgotten. This is because the purpose of development is to improve the quality of life of many people so that equitable distribution of development results is the main goal. Besides that. Utilisation of development results will stimulate the willingness and voluntarism of the community to always participate in every future development programme. The dimensions of involvement in utilising development results include; a) Willingness to accept and utilise development results, b) Willingness to preserve development results, c) Willingness to develop development results.

METHODOLOGY

The research approach chosen was to use qualitative type to analyse the participation of Gapoktan Sido Makmur members. The selection of research locations was determined purposively or based on considerations and research objectives. According to Sugiyono (2013), a purposive approach is when the research location is selected based on certain considerations and selected in accordance with the research objectives.

Purwosari village was chosen because there is still potential that has not been maximised in the implementation of the food security programme. The reason for selecting the research location included the urgent need to increase local food production to fulfil the needs of the community in a sustainable manner. Informants were taken using purposive and snowball sampling methods totalling 12 people. The data analysis technique in this research uses the Qualitative Interactive analysis method, which involves several stages according to Miles and Huberman (2014). The first stage is data reduction, which includes simplifying, grouping core elements, and finding themes and patterns in the data. The researcher consolidates information from the field and focuses on important elements to identify themes and patterns. The second stage is data presentation, where the simplified data is structured and explained in narrative form based on information from observations, interviews, and documentation. The final stage is conclusion drawing and verification, where initial conclusions are formulated and verified through additional data collection if needed. The conclusions drawn should be tested to assess their veracity, robustness, and validity so that the resulting interpretations have clarity regarding truth and relevance (Miles, Huberman, & Saldana, 2014). Data validity uses triangulation as a method to validate the data.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The development of the agricultural sector requires contributions from various parties who participate in the implementation of programmes and activities. This also applies to the development of agricultural organisational structures in rural areas, as is the case with Gapoktan Sidomakmur. Effective cooperation between stakeholders and related parties, including farmers, is very important in achieving agricultural development goals. Active support from various elements of the community to participate in certain activities will have a positive impact on the development of Gapoktan Sidomakmur in Purwosari Village.

Community participation is important in development planning, this is in line with the opinion of Conyers (1994) in Wirawan and Nurpratiwi (2015). One of them states that public trust in development programmes will increase if they are involved in the preparation and planning process. With this involvement, the community will have a deeper understanding of the programme of activities, resulting in a sense of ownership.

According to Sidiq and Resnawaty (2017), the active involvement of the community in the entire development process is considered an aspect that has a major role. They put forward this view based on the belief that communities, with their knowledge, are the ones who best understand their own needs. Therefore, real participation is defined as community involvement that involves them in the planning stage up to the monitoring stage of village development programmes, thus covering all phases of development. Totok Mardikanto and Subianto (2015) suggest that community participation in development activities consists of 3 types, and the following are the types of participation of members of Gapoktan in the food security programme:

a. Participation in Decision Making

Gapoktan members are the main actors in the development of a Gapoktan. Member participation in a programme or activity will greatly affect the development of the Gapoktan itself. In the midst of increasingly complex agricultural advances, farmers are often faced with challenges that require making the right decisions and have an impact on the sustainability of their agricultural businesses. However, in many cases, the participation of Farmer Group Association (Gapoktan) members in the decision-making process has not reached the expected level. This can be seen from the informants' statements as follows:

"Most of our members attend when there are activities, they are also members of the farmer groups. However, when invited to deliberate on determining policies, we mostly just follow the government, they are the ones who are smarter and understand." (Transcript of interview 21 November 2023).

This was also expressed by other informants from the interviews that had been conducted.

"Gapoktan Sidomakmur and its members seem to be mediocre in terms of their involvement in decision and policy making. They mostly follow directions or options proposed by stakeholders." (Interview transcript 30 November 2023).

Gapoktan is a forum established to improve farmers' welfare through
empowerment and organisation. Gapoktan should be an inclusive forum for discussion and decision-making that involves all its members. However, the reality often shows that member participation in the decision-making process is still low.

Several factors may contribute to this low participation. Firstly, there is a lack of awareness of the importance of playing an active role in decision-making. Many Gapoktan members may not be fully aware that decisions taken by their organisation can have a direct impact on their lives and farming businesses. Secondly, a lack of understanding of the decision-making process and the structure of the Gapoktan organisation itself. For some members, these processes may feel complex or even non-transparent, making them uncomfortable to participate. Thirdly, there are also problems in communication between the Gapoktan organisers and their members. Information about meetings, discussions and decisions taken may not be conveyed effectively to all members, so they feel uninvolved. This can be seen from the informants' statements as follows:

"Deliberation guides the community, one of our mottos in providing assistance. We try to explore their ideas and ideas in meetings and decision-making. Unfortunately, they still seem reluctant to have an opinion. There is a kind of doubt that prevents them from being active in this matter. It could be their lack of confidence when dealing with stakeholders." (Transcript of interview 28 November 2023).

This was also supported by other informants in the results of the interview activities.

"In every deliberation we try to involve all parties, although some are only in the form of representatives. For the participation of Gapoktan in this case, they often follow the direction of the government. Actually, we want them to be more active in voicing their opinions and ideas, so that in the future our programmes can benefit them more." (Interview transcript 28 November 2023).

The participation of Gapoktan members in decision-making is still very low. Although their participation and involvement in deliberations is always there, the presence of Gapoktan is only limited to filling the invitation quota. Gapoktan members mostly wait for suggestions or follow input from the stakeholders present.

To address this issue, serious efforts are needed to increase member participation in decision-making in Gapoktan. This includes raising awareness through education and training, simplifying the decision-making process, improving transparency and accessibility of information, and strengthening communication between administrators and members. By improving member participation in decision-making, Gapoktan can become more effective in championing farmers' collective interests, optimising available resources, and achieving sustainable agricultural development goals.

b. Participation in Activity Implementation

The ability to actively participate is considered an essential condition for
the effective operation of public participation mechanisms, which in turn is strongly influenced by the behavioural attitudes and values held by members of the community (Jia et al., 2022). Sometimes the participation process may be focussed on general engagement within the community, while on the other hand the focus may be on the participation of a special-interest public. There are also situations where participation is designed to involve smaller groups, which represent the key stakeholders of a group or community (Ansel and Press, 2016).

In the dynamic world of agriculture, the role of Farmer Group Associations (Gapoktan) is not only limited to organising, but also extends to the implementation of development activities aimed at improving farmer welfare and overall agricultural progress. In many cases, the level of participation of Gapoktan members in the implementation of development activities has reached impressive levels. The participation of Gapoktan members in the implementation of development activities is very high, this is based on the results of interviews with informants as follows:

"Our members are active in carrying out development activities. Sometimes they come by themselves without being asked for help. There are even those who are willing to help and do not want to be paid. All this is done because they are so happy with the agricultural infrastructure development programme. " ( Transcript of interview 21 November 2023)

This was also expressed by other informants from the interviews that had been conducted.

"Roto-rotro konco pode senang Mas, when it's time to get up, even if you're not invited, there's always someone there to help. It's a habit of the people here, to work together." ( Transcript of interview 23 November 2023).

This high participation is key to the success of various government-initiated agricultural development programmes and activities. Gapoktan members are actively involved in ongoing development activities. They contribute in various ways, from providing labour, to contributing to accommodation and consumption. There are several factors that encourage the high participation of Gapoktan members in the implementation of development activities. First, there is an awareness of the benefits that will accrue from the success of the programme. Gapoktan members often realise that the implementation of development activities can improve their agricultural productivity, access to markets, and overall welfare. Second, there is a sense of ownership of the project. As development programmes are often designed to address the needs and challenges faced by Gapoktan members, they feel a sense of responsibility and direct involvement in its success. Third, there is support from other relevant stakeholders such as the government, donors, or development partners. This support can be in the form of technical assistance, funding, or facilitation in licensing and administrative processes.
The level of community participation in the implementation of development activities is very active. This is evidenced by the level of participation in assisting the development process. Self-help contributions of labour were very helpful in completing the activities. And it has an effect on increasing the volume of work, so that it has a positive impact on achieving maximum results. With the high participation of Gapoktan members in the implementation of development activities, various projects can be carried out more effectively and efficiently. In addition, this participation also creates stronger bonds between members of the Gapoktan, strengthening solidarity and cooperation in an effort to improve mutual welfare.

c. Participation in Activity Monitoring and Evaluation

Willingness to participate is a very important prerequisite for the effective implementation of community participation mechanisms. When individuals in a community feel a strong interest in the issues around them, and feel that their contributions and views are valued and needed in the decision-making process, they are more likely to be actively involved. This reflects a sense of ownership of the participation process and a belief that their participation has a real impact on the desired changes in the community. Willingness to participate is a prerequisite for the effective implementation of community participation mechanisms, it is largely influenced by the behavioural attitudes and perceived values of community members (Jia et al., 2022).

Although Farmer Group Associations (Gapoktan) are often the pioneers in implementing various development activities at the local level, there are significant challenges related to monitoring and evaluating the success and impact of the activities implemented. Unfortunately, there is still low participation of Gapoktan members in monitoring and evaluating these activities. This was revealed by informants based on the following interview results:

"The food security programme to support agriculture is also beneficial for agricultural institutions, of course for Poktan and Gapoktan. Their participation in monitoring and evaluation is relatively ordinary." (Interview transcript 28 November 2023).

This was also expressed by other informants from the interviews that had been conducted.

"During formal meetings, we try to foster their level of participation in monitoring and evaluating activities. But as usual, they seem to be silent and rather shy. Likewise, during the evaluation of activities, they mostly just follow the direction of the event." (Interview transcript 05 December 2023).

Several reasons can explain why the participation of Gapoktan members in monitoring and evaluating activities is still low. Firstly, there is a lack of awareness of the importance of monitoring and evaluation in improving the performance and impact of activities. Many members may not understand that monitoring and evaluation is an integral part of the development cycle that can help
improve the effectiveness of their programmes. Secondly, there are knowledge and skills constraints related to monitoring and evaluation techniques. Gapoktan members may not have sufficient knowledge or skills in collecting data, analysing information, and making decisions based on evaluation results. Thirdly, there are logistical and resource constraints, such as limited time, funds, and manpower, which make it difficult for Gapoktan members to actively engage in monitoring and evaluation activities.

This lack of participation is a serious obstacle to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of agricultural development programmes. Without the active involvement of Gapoktan members in monitoring and evaluation, it is difficult to know the extent to which the activities undertaken have achieved the desired objectives or identify areas that require improvement. To address this low participation, targeted and sustained efforts are required. This includes raising members' awareness of the importance of monitoring and evaluation, providing training and mentoring to improve related knowledge and skills, and providing the necessary logistical support and resources.

Therefore, it is important for the government and relevant institutions to pay attention to building participatory attitudes and values among citizens as part of a broader strategy to strengthen community participation. By encouraging the formation of positive attitudes towards participation and values of mutual respect and openness in communication between the government and the community, more effective and sustainable community participation in the development process can be expected.

"Actually, we try to involve them in monitoring and evaluation. But it seems that they feel a bit awkward, and it seems that in this case it is the authority of us stakeholders." (Interview transcript 28 November 2023).

With increased participation of members of the Gapoktan in the monitoring and evaluation of activities, a more solid foundation for continuous improvement and enhanced performance of agricultural development programmes will be created. Through careful monitoring and rigorous evaluation, Gapoktan can precisely identify areas that require improvement and evaluate the effectiveness of strategies that have been implemented. Thus, the development process can become more responsive to the real needs and dynamics that occur in the field. Therefore, the participation of Gapoktan members in the monitoring and evaluation of activities not only impacts their own well-being, but also plays an important role in the overall progress and development of agriculture, both at the local and national levels.

d. Participation in the utilisation of development results

According to Irene (2015) in Kaehe et al., (2019) suggests that participation refers to the involvement of a person's thoughts and feelings in a group context that encourages them to support the achievement of group goals.
and take responsibility for the group. The purpose of this participation is to fulfil the needs desired by the community. Gapoktan has become an important milestone in advancing agriculture and farmers' welfare. One aspect that stands out is the high participation of Gapoktan members in the utilisation of development results. This is reflected in the many creative and diverse ways in which Gapoktan members actively utilise development outcomes to increase production, improve quality of life, and strengthen their economic independence.

This high participation signals a strong awareness of the importance of utilising development outcomes for collective progress. Gapoktan members not only see development as a series of projects or programmes, but also as an opportunity to improve their quality of life and the community as a whole. They are actively involved in a wide range of activities, from the application of modern agricultural technology, the development of irrigation infrastructure and roads, to training and education programmes.

"Alhamdulillah Mas, the development results of the food security programme that began in 2022 are slowly starting to be felt. Although some are still not functioning. Together, either during gotong royong or unofficial activities, we often carry out maintenance on these buildings." (Interview transcript 21 November 2023).

This was also expressed by other informants from the interviews that had been conducted.

"I'm happy because the government has built it and I can benefit from it. My friends, without being told, sometimes they realise that they have to take care of the building. For example, if the misrine is deadlocked, you tap the linete. Utowo nek bereme JUT meh jungkur yo uploadke weak tanggule." (Transcript of interview 23 November 2023).

One important aspect of this high participation is the creativity and innovation shown by Gapoktan members in the utilisation of development outcomes. They do not just passively accept assistance or facilities, but also turn them into opportunities for growth. For example, they use new agricultural technologies to increase productivity and efficiency, or utilise newly built infrastructure to develop local agribusiness ventures. In addition, the participation of Gapoktan members in the utilisation of development outcomes also creates stronger bonds within the community. They support each other and share knowledge and experiences, strengthening solidarity and cooperation among farmers. This not only improves their individual economic welfare, but also strengthens agricultural resilience and sustainability at the local level.

"In terms of utilising development results, the people in our village are quite enthusiastic. For example, when I invite them to work together to clean the canal and JUT, the attendance and response rate is very good. Even without being ordered, they voluntarily carry out maintenance on existing buildings,
all of which is part of the culture of care in our village.” (Interview transcript 28 November 2023).

This was also expressed by other informants from the interviews that have been conducted.

"I see that their participation in utilising the development results is very good. The existing buildings are utilised as well as possible to support agricultural activities. The pleasure of owning the infrastructure encourages them to consciously play an active role in maintaining it.” (Interview transcript 30 November 2023).

With adequate infrastructure such as irrigation, waterways and road networks, Gapoktan members can optimise the use of their farmland. They can increase farm productivity, reduce the risk of drought or flooding, and increase efficiency in the distribution of agricultural products. Thus, the high participation of Gapoktan members in the utilisation of development outcomes not only reflects the effectiveness of development programmes, but also creates a positive and sustainable impact on farmers' welfare and agricultural development as a whole. This shows how important it is to strengthen the role and involvement of community members in every stage of development, from planning to implementation and utilisation of the results.

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Type of Participation</th>
<th>Participation Level</th>
<th>Causal Factors</th>
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| 1   | Participation in decision-making | Low               | • lack of awareness of the importance of an active role in decision-making.  
• Lack of understanding of the decision-making process and the organisational structure of the Gapoktan itself.  
• Problems in communication between Gapoktan organisers and their members |
| 2   | Participation in the implementation of activities | High              | • There is an awareness of the benefits that will accrue from the success of the programme.  
• A sense of ownership of the project.  
• Support from other relevant stakeholders such as the government, donors, or development partners. |
| 3   | Participation in monitoring and evaluation of activities | Low               | • Lack of awareness of the importance of monitoring and evaluation in improving the performance and impact of activities.  
• There are knowledge and skills constraints related to monitoring and evaluation techniques. |
POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To increase participation in decision-making, relevant stakeholders should adopt a more inclusive and interactive communication approach. As well as conduct counselling and training that can improve members' understanding of the importance of the decision-making process. As for increasing active participation in terms of monitoring and evaluating activities, further efforts are needed to increase members' awareness and provide a better understanding of how monitoring and evaluation can improve the effectiveness of activities and the achievement of organisational goals. Also by involving Gapoktan members directly in collecting data, analysing results, and formulating recommendations for improvement.

CONCLUSION

The participation of Gapoktan Sidomakmur members can be categorised into 4 types, namely: participation in decision-making, participation in the implementation of activities, participation in monitoring and evaluation of activities and participation in the utilisation of development results. The low participation of Gapoktan Sidomakmur members in decision-making activities is that the lack of active involvement of members in the decision-making process can be an obstacle to the progress of the organisation. This may be due to a lack of understanding of the importance of participation, a lack of effective communication from administrators to members, and a lack of awareness of the decision-making process. The participation of Gapoktan Sidomakmur members in the implementation of development activities has achieved active involvement of its members. Gapoktan Sidomakmur managed to achieve a high level of participation in various development activities. This high participation can be attributed to the commitment of members in promoting local development activities, an awareness of the benefits that can be obtained from active participation in development activities.

The participation of Gapoktan Sidomakmur members in monitoring and evaluation activities is that there are challenges that need to be overcome to increase members' involvement in the process. The lack of participation in monitoring and evaluation activities is due to a lack of understanding of the importance of such activities. As well as a lack of awareness of the benefits that can be gained from actively engaging in the process. The participation of Gapoktan Sidomakmur members in the utilisation of development outcomes is that through the active involvement of its members, Gapoktan Sidomakmur has managed to...
achieve a high level of participation in utilising local development outcomes. This high participation is reflected in members' awareness of the importance of making the most of development outcomes, as well as their commitment to taking part in economic and social activities resulting from development.

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