

# The Existence and Strategy Of Planting Bengawan Rice In Ecoleta Farmers, Detusoko District, Ende Regency

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## KEYWORDS

Development program planning, mutual trust, democratic agreement.

## ABSTRACT

This study intends to describe the development planning process at the grassroots level where the selected location is Kekasewa Village, Ndong District, Ende Regency, East Nusa Tenggara. Specifically, this research is aimed at describing the development planning process at the research location and identifying and explaining the supporting and inhibiting factors. Through qualitative descriptive research, it is described more accurately from observations made in full about a symptom or social situation including through observation and interviews. Some of the selected informants are government officials, community organizations and community members. The analysis was carried out by examining the data obtained from various sources and informants. The results obtained from this study indicate that (1) the application of participatory principles in the process of planning development programs in the village of Kekasewa can be said to be running even though it does not fully follow the principles of, by and for the community, (2) the process of planning development programs in the village Kekasewa has carried out a participatory development program planning process, the steps of which include: reviewing the situation or reviewing the situation, identifying future needs, identifying available resources and agreeing on a plan. In addition, the results that can be recorded from the field show that of the four main factors that influence the participatory planning process at the research location, two of these factors (the existence of mutual trust and democratic agreement) are proven to be supporting factors in the planning process of development programs/activities. As for the other two factors (professionalism of human resources and understanding of development issues themselves) in general they have not shown their role in supporting the "smooth" process of development program planning and have instead become obstacles to the planning process. Regarding the results of the research above, several important things that are recommended in this study are (1) maintaining the existing planning process because it essentially fulfills the principles of the community by the community and for the community. Even if there must be corrective steps, it is recommended to sharpen and reinforce the function and role of the Musbangdus and Musbangdes forums as a vehicle for screening/selection by applying a priority scale, (2) considering the function of the Musbangdus and Musbangdes as a means or medium of dissemination for existing proposed plans, whether those proposed by residents or sectoral plan proposals, (3) utilizing customary institutions through a joint agreement with the village government to instill relevant values to all members of the community to pay more attention to time issues, for example through "wora nau" (meaningful messages) conveyed by the mosalaki the day before the meeting, and (4) raising awareness through training regarding self-help surveys to identify potential or other forms of participatory rural appraisal (PRA).

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## INTRODUCTION

Specifically, through this research will be described how community participation, both at the hamlet level and at the village level in the planning process, how the stages are passed, and what things affect the planning process. As we all understand that in general development is a dynamic process carried out by humans with the aim of improving the standard of living so that people can live more decently (Dwijowijoto, 2003). Development has meaning and is very useful in human life because basically the essence of development is to bring changes towards a better life (Adi, 2018).

In its development, various development models have been introduced, but none of them have been able to answer the daily social problems faced by the community. Various problems such as poverty, ignorance, underdevelopment, and others, are still many and (even) more and more we see in the midst of people's lives (Arif, 2000).

It is not surprising if we see that the development carried out does not actually create prosperity, but on the contrary creates many problems (distortions) that befall society such as dependence, helplessness, non-independence, and so on (Hettne, 2001). The fact shows that the most popular social problems such as poverty are actually not only economic problems, but broader than that are problems of low participation and democracy, lack of access and freedom of opinion and so on in decision making. Armatya Sen (in the innovation forum Vol.II Year 2002: 15) stated that poverty is not just an economic problem, but (more than that) the neglect of the concepts of "freedom" and "democratic".

Given the complexity of the causes and consequences caused by social development problems (such as poverty for example) and the lack of success of development policies and programs, the efforts taken must be carried out as a whole, covering all dimensions both socio-political, and economic, through a development process that begins with good and steady planning. Strictly speaking, it can be said that in realizing the success of development goals, good and steady planning is needed (Schwaiger, 2001). That is, planning is made in such a way by taking into account the programs that are prepared starting from what is owned and existing in the community concerned, so that it can answer the problems faced and implemented flexibly to environmental situations and conditions. The planning process is one of the management functions that can be applied in the development process, in addition to other management functions, such as organizing, actuating and controlling. The planning process is something that is very important to achieve the goals of an organization. But in practice often planning activities cannot take place properly and effectively (Korten, 2001).

By looking at the importance of planning aspects as illustrated above, planning activities must be an important factor and get serious attention in development activities, especially related to poverty reduction issues. The element of mutual trust among the parties involved in development (stakeholders) should receive their own attention in the process of preparing development plans. By developing mutual trust, good cooperation and harmonious communication will be created. With harmonious communication, further agreements will be built and agreements through a democratic process are expected (Li, 2002).

Especially in Kekasewa village, Ndonga District, Ende Regency, East Nusa Tenggara, the implementation of several desired development programs, both funded by the Ende Regency Regional Budget and purely non-governmental organizations, is often hit by problems of less "mature" planning, which is mostly caused by problems with limited human resource capacity. The reality is, of course, that people are powerless to access development programs, especially decisions that can actually prosper and improve their standard of living. Specifically, the next situation is worse when it is evident that these communities do not have the ability to formulate, set needs, and plan the steps and programs of development activities that they really need or the problems they face.

From the description above, it is considered necessary to conduct research related to what happens and is carried out by the community at the research location in connection with the planning process of the development program in its place. For this reason, this research was conducted with the title "Development Planning Process in Kekasewa Village, Ndonga District, Ende

Regency". It is hoped that empirically the results of this research can contribute to the achievement of development goals and processes in participatory rural areas, especially through improvements or refinement of steps in the planning process.

## **METHOD**

The approach taken in this study is a qualitative approach. The meaning contained in this qualitative approach is shown through implementation in the field by observing a symptom, both direct observation through information and by studying data to be able to answer research questions (Moleong, 2000). The type of research used is descriptive, aiming to describe a symptom or social situation in order to obtain a more accurate picture of the observations made in full. Data sources from this study are informants / respondents, namely those who are directly and deeply involved in the planning process of development programs and also those who know and know well the social and cultural systems of the local community and directly witness daily life, both for the purposes of analysis and non-analysis (Sugiyono, 2013). The data collection techniques in this study are, (a) literature studies, (b) in-depth interviews, (c) observation or direct observation in the field (Creswell, 2015). Data analysis is carried out by examining data obtained from various sources and informally with the following stages; (1) Classifying data, where the data is sorted based on existing categories according to interview guidelines, (2) organizing data, with the intention of being collected in one problem only, (3) in-depth interpretation of data from various sources, this intends to obtain further explanation of the data / information presented.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Mutual trust between development actors**

The first factor that influences the development planning process is mutual trust between development actors. By creating mutual trust among development actors, this will facilitate the process of harmonious cooperation in handling problems, determining development programs that are comprehensive and interrelated, and utilizing resources effectively and efficiently. Some of the findings from the following fields can be used as further analysis of the expression of high mutual trust (Supriatna, 2000). (1) Earnestness to listen to others. The atmosphere of togetherness greatly colors the course of the meeting and with the habit of listening to each other between them this creates mutual trust. (2) Do not force the will. There are hardly any situations that express an attempt to "force" the other party to accept. The most important thing is that the key word that is always brought up by them at the end of the meeting is that "the decision is up to the meeting participants" (c) the third person is respected. Caught in the impression on the ground, although there are nuances of mutual willingness to listen to others and the willingness not to impose the will in the presentation of proposals, there is one important thing that is the key to all of this, namely the "interference" of respected third people, especially when there are sharp differences of opinion, they are indigenous figures. In the context of social relations, related to its role as a center of influence, it is very beneficial to the cultural position of indigenous leaders as "guardians of values" and local socio-cultural systems inherited from ancestors (Ahmad, 2022a). For this reason, the important thing that traditional leaders (mosalaki) always do in this regard is to invite residents to consistently see "what is being discussed" and not "who is talking". This is what most determines the creation of mutual trust among citizens, especially when making decisions.

#### **1. A democratic agreement.**

For the situation of the development program planning process, the existence of this factor can be observed through three indicators, namely (a) High level of involvement of community elements, (b) respect for the opinions of others, (c) arrangement of places for deliberation (Berry, 1999).

#### **2. Professionalism of human resources.**

One indicator of human resource professionalism is "discipline" in occupying time. Lapaganan's findings conclude that awareness in occupying time according to the meeting

schedule is still low (Ahmad, 2022b). This indirectly indirectly inaccuracies in this time "harm" other participants because they have to wait a long time before the meeting starts and become a negative factor that can damage the values of competitiveness, trust, and so on.

### **3. Understanding of development issues.**

The last important factor in the development program planning process is the stakeholders' understanding of the problems faced. There are three important things covered, among others, (a) understanding of one's own needs. Understood together, what is most important (priority 1), what is more important (priority 2), what is not too important (priority 3), and what is not important (priority 4) is the last priority. (b) Understanding of ways to meet needs. Essentially, what is proposed as a plan by the community should have been calculated for its possibility to be implemented or fulfilled independently. It is this method that stimulates the growth of initiative. (c) Understanding of the potential of the resources owned. It can be understood that in principle in the development process there is development based on existing resources (resource-based development) (Suwarsono & Alvin, 2000).

In the field, empirically it seems that this problem is still lacking, in terms of there are still many potential resources that have not been explored, especially for intangible assets, such as the habit of working together, mutual respect and respect for each other, awareness to maintain togetherness, mutual giving and receiving and these are all the most important social capital in realizing development program plans (Tjokrowinoto, 2003).

## **CONCLUSION**

In accordance with the objectives of the study, the following conclusions are presented that answer these objectives.

1. Regarding the steps of the development program planning process.
  - a. The application of participatory principles in the process of planning development programs in Kekasewa village can be said to work even though it does not fully follow the principles of, by and for the community. Planning programs and activities that are self-help reflect a more participatory process because the involvement of development actors, especially the community, is more total, which includes determining what, why, when, where, who, for whom, and how.
  - b. In practice, the development program planning process in Kekasewa village has been carried out participatory development program planning process, which steps include; (1) situation review, (2) identification of future needs, (3) identification of resource availability, and (4) agreement on plans. Of the four steps of this participatory planning process, the main conclusions that deserve to be stated are (a) the forum used to agree on the plan is stratified, namely Musbangdus and Musbangdes, and (b) there is a tendency for the forum of planning meetings / meetings as an effort to "convince" in seeking support from other parties (hamlets). In addition, another important implication is that there is no 'selection' process in the submission of proposed development program plans by the community as long as the level of urgency has been presented in front of the Musbangdus and/or Musbangdes forums.
2. Regarding factors affecting the participatory planning process; Of the four main factors identified, namely mutual trust among development actors, democratic agreement, professionalism of human resources, and understanding of development problems themselves, not all support the development program planning process. In the field, of the four factors, the first two factors proved to be supporting factors in the development program planning process. For mutual trust, there are three sub-factors, namely (a) earnestness to listen to others, (b) desire not to force will, (c) the need for a respected third person. These three sub-factors play a very significant role in "smoothing" the process of agreeing on proposed plans. For the democratic agreement factor, there are three sub-factors, namely, (a) a high level of involvement of community elements, (b) respect for the opinions of others, and (c) arrangement of the place of

deliberation. These three sub-factors are very prominent in various meeting activities intended to agree on proposed plans. As for the last two factors, namely the professionalism of human resources and understanding of development problems themselves in general have not shown their role in supporting the "smooth" process of planning development programs.

3. Weaknesses in the professionalism of human resources and in understanding of development problems themselves actually become obstacles to the planning process.

For the professional factor of human resources in the field, the most prominent thing is in terms of "discipline" in keeping a predetermined time. Lack of discipline in terms of keeping time is often the initial "problem" of the whole process of agreeing on proposed weaving plans in the Musbangdus and Musbangdes forums which are often incomplete.

For the factor of understanding the development problem itself, there are three sub-factors, namely; (a) understanding of one's own needs, (b) understanding of ways to meet needs, and (c) understanding of the potential of resources owned. The three sub-factors above are substantially less visible on various occasions of deliberation, where participants have focused on (1) how the proposed plan is received, (2) how the proposed plan is realized by the government (APBD).

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