

THE ROLE OF WOMEN FARMERS IN FAMILY FOOD SECURITY

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Abstract, *The role of women in the agricultural sector is an important factor in managing to farm. In the world of agriculture, especially food crop agriculture, the division of labor between men and women is very clearly visible, so that with the job specification between women and men it is often said that men work for activities that use muscles a lot and women work for activities that take a lot of time. Dual role as supporting the family economy as well as carrying out the function as a housewife. The purpose of this study was to determine the role of women farmers in family food security. The research method uses descriptive qualitative methods through literature studies and direct interviews with respondents at the research location, namely the village of Tanamawau Petirodongi. The result showed that women farmers in the village of Tanamawau Petirodongi play a dominant role in activities and are the main drivers of meeting the family's food needs.*

Keywords: women farmers, family food security

1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the main occupation for most of Indonesia's population, especially in rural areas. In addition to the many men who work as farmers, the presence of women is needed in advancing agriculture. Through agricultural development, women will be able to support welfare, especially in the smallest line, namely the family (Permana, 2020). The family as the smallest community in society plays an important role in supporting the achievement of national food security. National food security can be achieved if family food security is achieved. The achievement of family food security is largest determined by the presence of women. Most food crop farming is in rural areas where farmers are the main actors. Farming communities depend on farming for their lives so that it involves all family members including women. The real role of women in supporting family food security is a real contribution to supporting family food security so that women farmers are one of the pillars of food production. Women farmers are women who are directly involved in food crop farming.

The residents of the Tanamawau Petirodongi village are dominant farmers, in which some women farmers do work in the field and work as housewives. As housewives, women farmers are responsible for the availability of sufficient and quality food for their families. Especially in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, the role of women farmers is very important to determining family food security. Therefore, this study was conducted to determine the role of women farmers in family food security in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

1.1 The Role of women farmers

The meaning of the role comes from the word role means a player, a device of behavior that was expected to be owned by people who were domiciled in society. Roles in Indonesia Dictionary are actions taken by someone in an event. The role could be seen as the duties and obligations of a position that must be carried out. It is

through this role that individuals become members of society, namely by occupying a position of status in that society (Ervinawati *et al*, 2015). Faradiba *et al* (2020) add that role is a complex of human expectations for the way individuals should behave and act in certain situations based on their social status and function.

According to William (1987) in Hayati, *et al* (2015) from the aspect of gender role stereotypes that women farmers are people who are responsible for the implementation of social reproduction activities (family caretakers), competent and diligent housekeepers. The role of women in maintaining family food security is at least divided into three things: first, the ability to manage the family economy so that they can buy food needs. Second, women's creativity in diversifying food. Third, creativity to use vacant land as a place to grow food crops. The real role of women in supporting family food security is a real contribution to supporting national food security

2.2 Family Food Security

Government regulation number 68 of 2002 concerning food security states that food security is a condition of fulfilling food for households which is reflected in the availability of sufficient food, both in quantity and quality, safe, equitable, and affordable. Government regulations number 17 of 2015 concerning food security and nutrition explains that food diversification which one of them by optimizing the use of yardland

Based on the FAO's definition of food security, to achieve the condition of food security, four components must be met, namely :

- 1) Food availability
- 2) Food price stability
- 3) Food accessibility
- 4) Food safety used

Law number 18 of 2012 concerning food explains that the diversification of food consumption is directed at increasing awareness of community and cultivate food consumption patterns that are diverse, nutritionally balanced, safe, and by local potential and wisdom. According to Arida *et al* (2015), food security for households is influenced by many factors such as land ownership (physical) supported by an appropriate climate and human resources. The Factors thought to influence household food security were food availability, purchasing power, knowledge of food and nutrition

3. RESEARCH METHODS/METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted in the village of Tanamawau Petirodongi in June – July 2021. This village has a population of 138 heads of a family consisting of 95% of farmers. The implementation of this research was deliberately carried out while the covid-19 pandemic was still ongoing so that the data obtained supported the research objectives. The population of women farmers amounts to 90 people, so the determination of the research sample used the purposive sample method. The research is married women, productive age and also work as housewives.

This study used qualitative descriptive data to describe the role of women farmers in family food security. Primary data sources were respondents' answers to the questioner distributed and direct interviews. Secondary data comes from literature, the internet, journals, and articles that were relevant to the research material. Research data were collected through interviews based on questioner that had been prepared by researchers. The data that has been collected were grouped and made into tabulated data, then makes a percentage of each respondent's answer.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Profile of Research Location

Tanamawau Petirodongi village was one of the villages located in the ward of Petirodongi, District of North Pamona, Regency of Poso, Province of Central Sulawesi. This village was formed 16 years ago with 98% of the population from tanamawau

village, District of Western of Tojo, Regency of Tojo Una – una, Province of Central Sulawesi as local migrants. This village was divided into 2 neighborhood units that consist of 138 heads of the family. The population of this village was consist of the farmers 97% and the civil servants and the private sector employees 3%. The percentage of female farmers are 95% of all farmers in the research location

4.2 Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristics of Respondent of Tanamawau Petirodongi village are shown in table 1. below

Table 1. Characteristics of the village of Tanamawau Petirodongi Respondents

Number.	Description	Categories	Percentage (%)
1.	Age	30-40	40
		41-50	30
		51-60	30
2.	Education	Elementary school	20
		Yunior High School	30
		Senior High School	50
3.	Children	Average number of children :	
		2	90
		3	10
		Level of children education :	
		Kindergarten	4,8
		Elementary school	14,3
		Yunior High School	28,6
		Senior High School	28,6
4.	Experience of farming	< 20 years	10
		21 – 30 years	50
		31 - 40 years	30
		41 - 50 year	10
		50 < years	0
		5.	Land
Own property	100		
Land of area (ha) :			
1,0 – 1,50	20		
1,51 – 2,0	70		
2,1 - 3,0	10		

Respondents who have aged 30 – 40 years old had the highest percentage, namely 40%. According to Effendi (2020) that the age range of 21 – 40 is relatively young, so the age of the respondents is included in the young categories. All respondents were housewives who were still active dan productively where 50% of them were graduated from senior high school. The experiences of learning up to high school greatly determine the respondent's ability to manage their household. According to Ervina et al (2015) women who have adequate competence make an important and productive contribution in dividing time between work as family breadwinners and housewives. In addition, it was supported by the number of children who on average had 2 children and were already in junior high school dan senior high school levels. As many as 50% of respondents had farming experience ranging from 21 – 30 years. It

was made the respondents carry out a double task in household and the fields as a farmer

4.3 Women Farmers and Family Foods

Respondents in this research location handle their household tasks such as tidying the house, washing clothes and cooking had helped by other family members. Respondents and their husbands doing and sharing tasks in their fields equally. The women handle the cultivation of the food crops and their husbands handle the cultivation of the annual crops. The analysis result showed that some of the roles played by respondents as women farmers from the aspect of family food security include :

1. As Family Food Provider

Respondents were doing their job in the field which sometimes helped by the other family members helped them (50%) and 20% of respondents doing the job in the field by themselves without the helping of other family members while respondents percentage those involving all family members or several family members were 10%. Other family members could help because teaching and learning activities in school were carried out online. The average area of the respondent's fields ranges from 1,51 to 2,0 hectares (70%) causing the need for additional labor from within the family at certain times. The respondent's job in the fields includes planting, plant caring, and harvesting food crops regularly. The result of the research by Bhasroni and Yayuk *et al* (2015) shown that the role of women was more dominant than men from the aspect of the activity. The dominant types of activities carried out by women are nursery, planting, replanting, weeding, pest control, and harvesting

Food crops planted in the fields were tuber crops, corn, vegetables, fruits, and spice plants. All plants were annuals crops. Thus, harvesting could be carried out periodically and field products in the form of food ingredients were sold to the market or purchased by the village communities.

2. As Household Budget manager

All respondents agreed (100%) that they help to farm activities in the fields to increase family income. This income was obtained by selling corn, tuber crops, and spice directly to the market every weekend. The distance between the settlement and the market was relatively close so that respondents get adequate profit to buy rice and other daily needs. Respondents who have planting areas in their yards also sold one part of their harvest product and the other one part for their own household needs. All respondents were chosen to meet the family's food needs consistently three times a day diet and the main food was rice (100%). Meanwhile, corn and tuber crops of food products were processed as usual by boiling or frying as an additional menu. Women farmers in Eastern culture select food ingredients, manage to process and provide them for household members as stated by Arumsari and Rini (2008) in Hayati *et al* (2015).

Respondents agreed that it was difficult to regulate the household budget for family food (80%) and 20 % of respondents disagreed. The condition of the research location in the pandemic session causes these difficulties. This causes 90% of respondents to state that they could not save compared to before the pandemic. Respondents tried to regulate the diet of family members with the intention that nutritional needs were met so that body resistance increases with food sources from their fields or yards. In the context of food security, women farmers were tasked with ensuring that they and all members of their household obtain quality food so that they could grow healthy and active (Hayati *et al*, 2015)

3. As Controller

This research was conducted when the covid-19 pandemic was still ongoing until the end of research so that family food security was influence by the respondent's initiative

to open access. Respondents instinctively tried hard to survive in all-limited conditions. The result showed that although income from the field decreased by approximately 20% compared to before the pandemic, 100% of respondents said they still consumed rice as their main food. Women farmers played a role in controlling the situation by making decisions as Hayati *et al* (2015) stated that women farmers had high motivation in their role as decision-makers. This was in line with the conclusion of the research by Syarif *et al* (2017) that the role of women farmers had shifted and expanded. Apart from being a farmer, acting in decision making and farming manager

As many as 40% of respondents cultivate their yard to grow vegetables, fruits, and spice crops, while 60% chosen to focus on cultivating food crops and spices in the field because their yards were limited for planting. The product of food crops from the house yard was used for household consumption of respondents and sometimes distributed to neighbors. Spice plants were used as herbal drinks if a family member was sick. Respondents added that during the pandemic their family members only suffering minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, so treatment was carried out at home by taking medicines purchased at pharmacies or drug stores.

5. CONCLUSION

The role of women farmers in the village of tanamawau petirodongi from the aspect of family food security is as a provider of family food, managing the household budget, and controlling the household

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