



Farmers' Adaptation Strategy in Using Land During the Dry Season in Tappale Village, Bone Regency

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to determine the adaptive strategies of farming communities in dealing with the dry season in Tappale Village. Data collection techniques were carried out using observation, interviews and documentation methods. The results of field research show that: There are two adaptive strategies carried out by farming communities in facing economic difficulties caused by the cessation of agricultural activities when the dry season arrives, namely making savings, and looking for other work to increase income during the dry season

INTRODUCTION

A village is the smallest unit of society where most of the Indonesian population lives. People who live in villages generally earn their living in the agricultural sector. Rural areas and agriculture are inseparable things. Village communities are very synonymous with farming or agricultural activities (Sirajuddin, 2020). There are many reasons why rural communities prefer to work as farmers. Among them, in rural areas the agricultural land is quite extensive. The size of the land is certainly one of the basic reasons why most village people choose to use the land by working as farmers. Apart from that, another basic reason is that in rural areas there is very little work other than in the agricultural sector (Arham & Dai, 2020). So, to fulfill their daily needs, the village community uses agricultural activities as a job to earn income.

Working as a farmer is an alternative to being able to maintain life in the village, where this work is done without requiring high knowledge but relying on energy. For some poor farming communities, even though it feels like a heavy burden to meet the various necessities of life, with this simple job they can send their children to school with a small wage so that they can meet their needs for food, drink and clothing (Khairani et al., 2022). Agriculture can be said to be one aspect that is quite important in the survival of society in a country. Agriculture has a very strategic role, because it is in the agricultural sector that basic human needs such as rice, vegetables, fruit and various other plants are produced, which are then distributed to all levels of society for joint consumption (Nailufar et al., 2021).

In carrying out agricultural activities, water is a basic component that is needed by farmers (Achmad et al., 2022). Apart from being a very basic need for agricultural activities, water is also a need whose availability is uncertain. Water supply is very dependent on seasonal conditions (Salman et al., 2022). It is a general understanding that Indonesia is a country that has two seasons, namely the rainy season and the dry season (Akmalia, 2022). In this case, the rainy season certainly provides blessings to farming households because there is a lot of water available to irrigate their rice fields, making it possible to carry out agricultural activities. Meanwhile, when the dry season arrives, it will be a problem for their survival because of the lack of water available to carry out agricultural activities.

One of the regions in Indonesia that has quite extensive agricultural land is Bone Regency, which is located in South Sulawesi province. Bone Regency is one of the largest rice barns in this province. The majority of people in Bone Regency generally work as sharecroppers. As in one village, namely Tappale Village, most of the people depend on income from agricultural activities for their livelihood

Even though most of the people in Tappale Village work as farmers, the unequal distribution of land ownership in the lives of the people in this village means that many people have to work as sharecroppers. Of course, the income of sharecroppers will not be as much as farmers who work on their own land. So the lives of sharecroppers must always try to adapt to various things in order to remain able to survive in the face of problems.

As previously explained, water availability is a basic need for farmers to be able to carry out agricultural activities. So when the dry season arrives, agricultural activities in Tappale Village are threatened with not being carried

out due to the lack of water available to irrigate rice fields. The lack of adequate water storage is a particular problem for farmers in Tappale Village, making their agricultural activities very dependent on rainwater. So it is not surprising that when the dry season arrives, most farming communities in Tappale Village prefer to stop their agricultural activities.

The cessation of agricultural activities certainly has an impact on the lives of farmers. Considering that agricultural activities generate income to support their families, one of the most profound impacts felt by farming families is the economic impact on their households. Especially in the lives of sharecropper families who do not have as much income as farmers who work on their own land. So cultivating farmers must look for solutions to overcome threats or difficulties in facing the dry season in order to remain able to survive. This phenomenon is interesting to research so that the answer to the main problem will be found, namely how the sharecroppers' strategy is to survive in the dry season.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Adaptation Theory

In essence, strategy means things related to the ways and efforts of society or a nation to achieve its goals (Huda et al., 2020). Furthermore, Tjokroamidjoyo and Mustopadidjaya, interpret strategy as a calculation of a series of policies and implementation steps (Wakhid, 2016), but Wahyudi (1996) says that strategy is doing the right thing. Adaptation is an adjustment to one's environment. In general, adaptation refers more to self-adjustment in a physical, physiological and biological sense. Where society must be able to adapt itself to its environment and nature (Nanson & Huang, 2018). Life in the world cannot be separated from changes in the environment. Humans' physical, biological and social environments will always change from time to time. Due to these changes, humans and even all living organisms in the world need to make adjustments so that they can continue to survive, in the sense of the word they can still fulfill the life needs they need. So adapting to changes or groupings in the surrounding environment is an act of adaptation (Dewata & Danhas, 2023).

Adaptation by a population as a complete whole is more promising than the selection pressures of variation to which it is subject and from the varying degrees of resistance to adaptation for different purposes. Adaptation is not always linked to normative environmental confirmations, but in some cases to patterns of the environment or simply extreme conditions. Adaptation should be seen as a cultural response or process that is open to a process of modification in which coping with the conditions for life by selective reproduction and expansion occurs. Measures work based on the adaptation involved, and more importantly, on the hazards/risks to which the change is adaptive (Saharuddin, 2007). In this research, researchers want to know how rice farmers adapt or develop strategies to survive during the dry season. Because not all vegetable farmers continue agricultural activities during the dry season, adaptation or strategies are needed to survive.

According to Kaplan adaptation is one of two central concepts in cultural ecological theory. A characteristic of cultural ecology is attention to adaptation at two levels: first, in relation to the way a cultural system adapts to its total environment, second, as a systemic adaptive consequence, it is concerned with the way institutions in a culture adapt or adapt to each other (Daeng, 2012). The adaptation process is one part of the cultural evolution process, namely a process that includes a series of human efforts to adapt or respond to changes in the physical and social environment that occur temporally. Environmental changes that greatly influence human adaptation are environmental changes in the form of disasters, namely events that pose a threat to the survival of organisms, including humans (Manik, 2018).

Human adjustments are generally called adaptation. The ability to adapt has value for survival. The greater human adaptability, the more diverse habitats they can occupy. Adaptation is needed to see the relationship between humans and the environment. The concept of adaptation is a process that occupies humans as actors who strive to achieve goals and needs to face changing environments and social conditions in order to survive (Susilo et al., 2017). Meanwhile, in the adaptation process to achieve individual or group goals and needs, he can mobilize or utilize social, material, technological resources and the knowledge he has, both establishing social relationships with parties inside or outside his community (Pudja, 1989).

Adaptation, according to Bennett, is not just a question of how to get food from a particular area, but also includes the question of transforming local resources by following models and standards of general human consumption standards, as well as costs and prices or production modes at the national level. Adaptation has become very broad, it could even be said to cover almost all patterns of human behavior in everyday life (Sairin et al., 2002). Bennett also explained that only behavior related to achieving goals or solving problems can be said to be adaptive. More specifically, it is behavior to overcome difficult obstacles, which include limited or scarce resources in order to achieve certain goals or realize desired hopes. Based on the definition of adaptation put forward by Bennett, it can be seen that adaptation covers a wide range of things, it could even be said to cover almost all patterns of human behavior in everyday life. Adaptation strategies themselves are divided into the following sections, namely adaptive behavior, adaptive strategies, and adaptive processes (Putra, 2003).

Farmers and Agriculture

In the most general understanding, farming must be understood as a coproduction activity, namely the meeting between the social and natural worlds (Toledo 1990). Here, agriculture can be seen as a continuous interaction and reciprocal transformation between humans and nature. Humans and nature are indeed two different entities. But both are united in agricultural practice, involving appropriate balancing efforts to meet goals. Agricultural practice must provide adequate production (to enable farmers to live off the land). But agricultural practice also needs to produce nature, especially fertilizing, improving and diversifying it (Gunawan et al., 2020). According to (Arifin, 2013), farmers are those who temporarily or permanently control a plot of agricultural land, control a branch or several branches of farming and do it themselves, either

with their own labor or paid labor (Ahmadin, 2013b). Controlling a plot of land can also mean renting, profit sharing or owning it yourself. Apart from using his own labor, he can use temporary labor.

Traditional farmers generally plant rice only based on experience, because of limited knowledge, one type of rice is planted continuously on a piece of land. This planting pattern is not a good method, especially because of the high possibility of pest and disease attacks. The types of rice cultivated by farmers are: first, lowland rice, namely rice planted in rice fields, namely land that has sufficient water. Paddy rice at certain times requires standing water, including from the planting season until it starts to bear fruit. The second, Dry rice is a type of rice that does not require water like lowland rice. Even dry rice can grow only relying on rainfall (Marisa, 2023).

Furthermore, (Wolf, 1983) differentiates between farmers, namely (1) owner farmers, namely farmers who own land and give it to other people to cultivate, (2) sharecroppers, namely farmers who cultivate or work on other people's land. So, between farmer owners and cultivators, there is an agreement or interaction that forms a social relationship. Carrying out agricultural activities cannot be separated from farming. Farming is the entire process of organizing factors of production, namely nature, labor, capital and management which are carried out by individuals or groups of people to produce output that can meet the needs of the family or other people as well as being motivated by seeking profit. In general, the characteristics of farming in Indonesia are small land areas, relatively small capital, limited farmer knowledge, lack of dynamism, resulting in low farming income (Rahardjo, 1999).

According to (Soekartawi, 2013) farming is a science that studies how a person allocates existing resources effectively and efficiently for the purpose of obtaining high profits at a certain time. Apart from that, farming is also defined as a collection of natural resources in agriculture such as land and water, improvements made to land and water, improvements made to the land, sunlight, buildings erected on it. the land and so on (Mosher, 1978).

Limited capital is often the reason why farmers cannot afford technology. So farming activities are usually carried out using technology owned by farmers. The goals of each farmer in carrying out their farming business are different. If the motivation is to meet the needs of the family either through or without the circulation of money, then such a farming business is called a farming business that meets family needs (Subsistence Farm). Meanwhile, if the motivation that drives it is to seek profit, it is called a commercial farming business. Factors that influence farming consist of internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include technology, use of inputs, and farming techniques. Meanwhile, external factors consist of climate, weather, pests and disease (Yuliati & Purnomo, 2003)

METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative approach using phenomenological research. The reason we as researchers chose this approach is because the qualitative approach has a non-linear research design. A qualitative approach can be said to be research that does not use mathematical and statistical methods (Rahman, 2022) The research process begins by compiling the basic assumptions that will

be used in the research. Then these assumptions are applied in data collection and data processing to provide explanations (Ahmadin, 2013a). Then, with this type of phenomenological research, the researcher wants to reveal or describe the subject's experience of farmer behavior, especially regarding the adaptation strategies of sharecroppers in Tappale Village in meeting household needs during the dry season. The research data is then analyzed by comparing it with relevant research results, then conclusions are drawn and ends with the presentation of the research data in the form of a narrative so that it can be used for the development of science.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of the Farming Community in Tappale Village

Farming communities who work on other people's land or work as sharecroppers. Researchers took informants from among sharecroppers because initial observations in the field found that sharecroppers felt the impact of the cessation of agricultural activities more than the farming community who had their own land. From the results of field observations, it was also found that the majority of farming communities in Tappale Village work on other people's land using a profit sharing system. The profit sharing system implemented at this research location is that the harvest is divided in half. Half for sharecroppers, half for land owners. Meanwhile, some of the financing for carrying out agricultural activities is borne by the cultivating farmers alone and some is borne jointly. As for the things you cover yourself, such as pesticides, seeds and so on. Meanwhile, things that are shared together include fertilizer and transportation costs for the harvested rice.

From the results of observations at the research location, it was also found that a quite striking characteristic in the life of the farming community in Tappale Village is that farmers have each livestock in the form of a cow in their house which functions as a savings account, which in certain conditions, such as during the dry season, this cow will sell it to increase living funds.

Working as a sharecropper, of course you also have to always approach the land owner so that the owner continues to employ their land to them. According to one of the informants who was interviewed, these sharecroppers will really maintain their relationship with the land owner, such as by always staying in touch, helping when the land owner is holding a party, and drying the land owner's harvest when the harvest arrives and then delivering it to him. his residence. More precisely, there is a Patron-Client relationship between the two. The land owner is the patron and the sharecroppers are the clients.

In the lives of farmers, there are many problems experienced in carrying out their agricultural activities. From the results of interviews with informants, it was found that currently agricultural activities experience various problems such as fertilizers that are slow, the emergence of new pests that are difficult to overcome, and it is very easy for traders to manipulate prices when the harvest arrives. This is certainly a problem in the lives of farmers' households because the price of purchasing equipment needed to carry out agricultural activities increases every year, while the price of rice when the harvest arrives does not increase. In other

words, there is no balance between the expenditure used to carry out agricultural activities and the price of the harvest.

Especially when the dry season arrives, it will also cause problems in the lives of farming families. The most profound difficulty felt by farmers is economic difficulties, which as we all know, during the dry season, farmers do not carry out their agricultural activities due to a lack of water supply for their land. The cessation of agricultural activities has resulted in a lack of financial income in farming households. So when the dry season arrives, farming families will really feel the economic pressure in their household.

Adaptive Strategy of Farming Communities in Facing the Dry Season

The cessation of agricultural activities due to a lack of water supplies during the dry season will certainly force farmers in Tappale Village to find solutions to overcome their household economic problems. This solution is what the researchers intended as an adaptive strategy for farming communities in facing the dry season. How then do these farmers deal with the difficulties that come their way. From the results of interviews with informants, it was found that there were several steps taken by farmers in their efforts to adapt to existing conditions. When the dry season arrives, all members of the farming household will maximize their labor assets starting from Father, Mother and Children to look for side jobs that can increase their household income.

Several steps taken by farmers are: First, save money by limiting expenses. When the dry season arrives, farming households will limit their spending as an effort to save money in getting through the dry season. At this time, farming households will only spend money on basic needs such as staple food, children's school fees and so on. Apart from that, any needs that are not deemed too urgent will be postponed until the harvest arrives. When the dry season arrives, cultivating farmers must have intelligence in prioritizing urgent needs. One concrete form of this is to save so that their income can be used enough to meet the family's needs until the next harvest season. The economic pressure caused by the cessation of agricultural activities in farming households in Salokaraja Village during the dry season means that they have to save money by limiting their spending to only the basic needs of their family. This functions for the survival of farmers or in other words so that they can survive through these difficult times.

The second strategy is to look for side jobs that can help them increase their income to support their families. In this effort, there are various jobs that farming families try to do. As previously explained, when the dry season arrives, farming households will maximize all the labor assets they have to earn income during the dry season. Such as being a construction worker, carpenter, selling cakes and maximizing their livestock. Work as a construction worker involves joining one of your relatives to become a construction worker who will receive a daily salary. Farmers who work as construction workers are usually paid a daily salary of IDR 80,000. When the husband goes to work as a construction worker or carpenter, the wife does not sit idly by at home, but also actively seeks additional income by making cakes and selling them at the market or selling them around the village.

Even though they depend on the agricultural sector, farmers in Tappale Village also have assets in the form of livestock in their homes. So it is not surprising that when the dry season arrives, farmers in this village will maximize their livestock. In farming families, livestock functions as an alternative reserve that can be sold when economic difficulties become more difficult. So when agricultural activities stop, these farmers will graze cows on the agricultural land around their homes. This grazing activity lasts for about three months, so that when three months have passed and agricultural activities are about to be carried out, the cows are returned to their respective homes. These three months will certainly make the farmers' livestock fertile enough so that they can be sold at a fairly high price. So at that time most farmers sell cattle to increase income during the dry season

The findings of this research are in line with the subsistence ethics theory put forward by James C. Scott in his analysis of the moral economy of farmers in Southeast Asia. The subsistence ethic emerged as a result of the concerns of the farming community to survive in overcoming minimal conditions, in this case the hunger outbreak, causing farmers to be able to carry out strategies in dealing with the lives of their families rather than getting maximum results (Scott, 1983).

There are several strategies used by farmers to get around their minimum conditions, the first is the strategy of tying the belt tighter or you could say the strategy of self-limitation. In this case, farmers use a strategy by eating once a day. This is in line with what farmers in Tappale Village do when the dry season arrives, they save money by limiting their spending to their basic needs.

The second strategy is an alternative subsistence strategy, which is related to an alternative strategy where farmers and farming families carry out part-time businesses by selling small businesses, or becoming freelancers. This is in line with what farmers in Salokaraja Village do when the dry season arrives, they look for side jobs such as being carpenters, construction workers and so on in order to earn income to support their families.

Then the last one is the relationship building strategy, where farmers build many networks with institutions outside the family environment. If they are in trouble, this network can be used to overcome various existing problems, such as building relationships with relatives, village friends, or influential people in the village (Sy, 2010). This is in accordance with what farming families in Tappale Village do when the dry season arrives, they maximize all networks to help them get through difficult times when the dry season arrives by taking out loans or mortgaging the assets they own.

CONCLUSIONS

The adaptive strategies carried out by the farming community in Tappale Village when facing the dry season consist of three, namely first, saving money, secondly looking for work outside of agriculture, and the last one is taking out loans or pawning their jewelry. The implications of adaptive strategies for the economy of farming communities depend on the adaptive strategies adopted by farmers. In this case, each adaptive strategy has its own impact on the economy of the farming community. Of the three adaptive strategies adopted by each farming community, it has helped them to overcome economic difficulties during the dry season.

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