

Education on Making Super Native Chicken Feed Based on Taro in the Manuk Amertha Native Chicken Group in Asahduren Village

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ABSTRACT

Production costs in super native chicken farming can be reduced by making alternative feed. Community service carried out at the Manuk Amertha Native Chicken Group has contributed in the form of an increase in partner knowledge in terms of formulating native chicken rations, especially with feed ingredients that are widely available in the surrounding environment, as well as increasing the ability of farmers to make alternative taro-based chicken feed. This activity was carried out on 6 May 2023 using explorative methods and active community participation. The tangible results of this service activity are that partners have good knowledge and understanding of the preparation of nutritional formulations of native chicken feed, and are able to make alternative feed based on taro so that it can reduce the business operational costs of each group member.

INTRODUCTION

Native chickens are closely associated with rural communities. Rural communities keep native chickens as a source of family food to fulfill the need for eggs and meat (Iskandar, 2010). The increase in the native chicken population is inseparable from the high public demand for this local poultry commodity. During the 2019-2021 period, the Central Bureau of Statistics of Bali Province (2021) stated that the largest population of native chickens was in 2021 at 2,901,748 heads followed by 2019 at 2,853,115 heads and decreased in 2022 with a total population of 2,817,231 heads. The increase in public demand has created business opportunities in native chicken farming. Native chickens have great opportunities in terms of agroecosystems and the environment, along with increasing income and public awareness of the importance of the quantity and quality of food that is nutritious and safe for consumption (Elizabeth and Rusdiana, 2012). The utilization of native chickens in Bali in addition to meat and egg-producing livestock is also used as a means of religious ceremony as a *caru* chicken. According to Ardika et al, (2015), there are several colors that can be categorized into *caru* chicken in Bali, namely chickens that have feathers with white, yellow, black, red, and *brumbun* colors.

Increasing the population of native chickens as an effort to meet people's needs for animal protein cannot be done unilaterally. It requires serious efforts from both the government and breeders. The government in this case is in charge of making rules/regulations, providing seeds and inputs, while farmers play a role in cultivation activities so that healthy and safe native chickens are produced for consumption by the community. In developing countries, local chicken farming has an important role in increasing community income because it mostly involves the poor in the farming activities (Sonaiya, 2007).

Asahduren Village is one of 8 (eight) villages in Pekutatan Sub-district, Jembrana Regency, Bali Province. The distance between the provincial capital and Asahduren Village is 75 km. The area of Asahduren Village is 6.13 km² or approximately 4.73% of the area of Pekutatan Sub-district and 0.73% of the total area of Jembrana Regency (Badan Pusat Statistik Kabupaten Jembrana, 2021). Most of the people in Asahduren Village earn their main livelihood as farmers. Almost all households have native chickens as livestock, with a traditional rearing system. The Manuk Amertha Livestock Group is the only local chicken group in the village. The high price of DOC and commercial feed has slowed down the rate of raising super-native chickens, which has automatically slowed down the population rate. So this is the cause of the constrained efforts to increase the population of native chickens in this area.

The most common problem complained about by group members is the high cost of commercial feed, which is the main feed for their super native chickens. This has hampered the increase in population and scale of the livestock business owned by the members of the Manuk Amertha Livestock Group. In addition, the members of the farmer group also do not have knowledge in terms of formulating village chicken rations, especially with feed ingredients that are widely available in the surrounding environment and making alternative animal feed made from taro.

The real contribution of community service carried out by the service team is the increase in partners' knowledge in terms of formulating native chicken rations, especially with feed ingredients that are widely available in the surrounding environment, as well as making alternative native chicken feed made from taro.

IMPLEMENTATION AND METHODS

This community service activity at the Manuk Amertha Native Chicken Group in Segah Hamlet, Asahduren Village, Pekutatan District, Jembrana Regency was carried out using exploratory methods and active community participation. The explorative method was conducted through a special dialog with partners to explore all the problems experienced and the basic needs that must be addressed immediately. This special observation and dialog were carried out to collect and identify problems as well as what was the desire and hope of the members of the Manuk Amertha Livestock Group. While the active participation of partners as the object of service is carried out by training in the formulation of village chicken rations, especially with feed ingredients that are widely available in the surrounding environment as well as assistance and training in making taro-based alternative animal feed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The community service activities carried out at the Manuk Amerta Group have run smoothly and successfully. Manuk Amerta Group members totaled 10 people, and all of them were present during the activity. Although the number of members is small, this group is very active and shows its seriousness in developing the village chicken farming business. Before starting the service activity, the Asahduren Village Head welcomed the service team at the Balai Tempek. After the Village Head opened the activity, the activity continued in the group meeting hall. The implementation of the activity was divided into two sessions. In the first session, group members were given education through extension with material on how to formulate village chicken rations, especially with feed ingredients that are widely available in the surrounding environment. In Asahduren Village, there are many natural feed ingredients for native chickens that have not been optimally utilized as native chicken feed. For example, banana stems, cassava, snails, and the most abundant is taro. Therefore, the team took the initiative to provide this material in accordance with the requests of group members in order to reduce the use of commercial feed whose prices tend to continue to increase.

Furthermore, in the second session, the team conducted a demonstration of making alternative native chicken feed made from taro while training members of the Manuk Amerta Group to be able to make the feed independently. High enthusiasm was shown by the group members starting from the preparation of the meeting place, session one, and session two activities. In session one, group members asked many questions about ration preparation. In this session, it was seen that farmers have been giving natural feed ingredients without paying attention to the needs and balance of nutrients

needed by native chickens. After completing the extension and discussion activities in session one, it was seen that the group members understood how to prepare the correct ratio with balanced nutrition for native chickens. While in the second session, the group members were excited and earnest in participating in the training. After the training activities on making taro-based alternative feed, it was seen that the group members were able to make the alternative feed well. From the two sessions passed, it can be seen that the target of this service activity has been achieved. Community service activities can be seen in the figure 1, 2, and 3 below.



Figure 1. Welcomed ceremony of the service team at the Balai Tempek by Asahduren Village Head



Figure 2. Session I (Extension Activities)



Figure 3. Session II (Hands-on Practice)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This community service activity was well received and expected to be sustained by the members of the Manuk Amerta Group. This activity contributed to increasing partner knowledge in terms of formulating native chicken rations, especially with feed ingredients that are widely available in the surrounding environment, and group members have been able to independently make alternative native chicken feed made from taro so that in the future they can reduce operational costs and increase business income.

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