



Planting Organic Rice Movement in the attempt of realizing the farmers' sovereignty in Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta

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Abstract

Farmers encounter many problems in farming sector, particularly the high farming management cost. This research aimed to explain the movement of planting organic rice in the attempt of realizing farmers' sovereignty in Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta. This study was a qualitative research using Anthony Giddens' theoretical reference. The informants were seven organic rice farmers in Sleman Regency of Yogyakarta, taken using purposive sampling based on education level. Techniques of collecting data used were observation, in-depth interview and documentation. Data validation was conducted using triangulation source and data analysis using interactive model. The result of research showed that organic rice farmer movement could realize the farmers' sovereignty in Sleman Regency of Yogyakarta.

Keywords: Planting Movement; Organic Rice; Farmers' Sovereignty

Introduction

Farmers as a majority profession in Indonesia still encounter many poverty problems. Indonesia known as an agrarian state does not automatically bring about the improvement of farmers' welfare. Data of Indonesian Central Statistic Bureau (BPS) shows that, according to agricultural census in 2003, there are 31.17 million farmer households. The figure decreases to 26.13 millions in 2013, followed with the increasingly narrow farmland the farmers master, about 0.3 hectare/ household (BPS., 2013).

The decreased number of farmer households indicates that farming sector begins to be abandoned because it is no longer dependable. The decreased number of farmer households is followed with the narrowing of farmland due to land conversion, leading to the high urbanization current and the high social gap (discrepancy). Wiradi (Khudori., 2004) says that the farmers' social-economic discrepancy is due to agrarian policy in new order period taking by-pass approach in the form of green revolution without agrarian reform.

This by-pass approach becomes a means of operating development strategy launched with the following main principles: relying on foreign help, loan, and investment, and betting on the strong. As a result, the mastery of agrarian affairs was not relieved but otherwise proliferated anywhere, in all sectors,

all areas, and involved more society classes. It occurs because development is practiced without social transition.

Green revolution agricultural development did not confirm the farmers' economics as the implementation of green revolution focuses on the attempt of improving the farming productivity. Thus, farming land exploitation through using industrial-made chemical fertilizer will gradually scrape the natural balance impacting on the growth of various diseases/pests attacking the farmers' plant. The farmers' unsolvable problems include the planting cost not balanced with the selling price the farmers receive. Not only uncertain season (weather/climate) but also fertilizer problems come to the farmers seasonally. Farmers have so many vulnerabilities that make them achieve their sovereignty difficultly.

The potency of organic rice becomes an alternative solution to the farmers' problem. Organic rice has better ability of absorbing the soil's nutrient than inorganic rice (Sunarminto., 2015). Thus, organic rice can be cultivated without industrial chemical fertilizers, making organic farming more environment-friendly, and reducing the farmers' dependency on industrial chemical fertilizer.

The movement of planting organic rice aims to realize the farmers' sovereignty that is lost so far due to green revolution program. Social Movement (Fadilah., 2006), according to Anthony Giddens, is a collective attempt of pursuing a collective interest or movement to achieve mutual objective through collective action beyond the well-established institution's scope. The movement of organic rice planting movement is a social movement with collective objective to realize the farmers' sovereignty. This research aimed to describe the organic rice planting movement process in the attempt of realizing the farmers' sovereignty in Nogotirto Village of Gamping Sub District of Sleman Regency of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta.

Methodology

This research was taken place in Nogotirto Village of Gamping Sub District of Sleman Regency of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta. Primary data was obtained from 7 informants consisting of 2 key informants, 3 main informants, and 2 supporting informants. This research employed case study approach (Milles et al., 2014; Yin., 2015). Data collection was conducted using purposive sampling technique, in which informants were selected or determined purposively by the author using certain criteria. And informants have characteristics similar to the characteristics of research subject (H.B. Sutopo., 2002).

Result and Discussion

This research was taken place in Nogotirto Village of Gamping Sub District of Sleman Regency of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta. This kelurahan is ± 3.49 Km² wide. Nogotirto village consists of 8 hamlets, 39 RWs (citizens associations) and 117 RTs (neighborhood association). The main income source of most populations is service sector. Meanwhile, the proportion of farming household is 40% of total families and 20 families have members working as farming workers. The farmland in Nogotirto Village is not as wide as that in other farming village. However, the farmland in Nogotirto is still potentially used for planting well. Nogotirto Village's 349Ha width consists of 74Ha farmland with technical irrigation, 77Ha with non-technical irrigation, and 4Ha without irrigation. Meanwhile, the land for non-agricultural purpose is about 189 Ha.

Social Actor in the Movement of Planting Organic Rice in Yogyakarta

The existence of organic rice planting movement is inseparable from the social relation enclosing it. Organic rice planting movement is established by a structure composed of a set of actors interacting with each other due to social relation enclosing them. The social actor of organic rice planting movement in Nogotirto Village of Gamping Sub District of Sleman Regency of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta includes MPM Muhammadiyah conducting facilitation to the farmers in cultivating *menthik wangi* local variety of organic rice. Meanwhile, in marketing organic rice crop, the farmers establish a relationship with Muhammadiyah Youth of Economic Division of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta.

The procedure of Organic Rice Planting Movement in Yogyakarta

a. Organic Rice Planting

Organic rice type cultivated is *Menthik Wangi* local variety. This local variety is the one appropriate to the condition of farmland in Yogyakarta area. This rice has smooth and mellow characteristics and fragrant aroma when it is cooked.

The process of planting organic rice uses SRI (System of Rice Intensification method), a rice planting method emphasizing on soil cultivation pattern, planting management pattern, water utilization pattern, and organic fertilizer use. System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method is a rice cultivating technique applied to improve rice productivity with lower cost.

The selection of organic local rice aims to realize seed independence among organic farmer community. Through local seed cultivation, organic farmers will access the necessary farming production equipment more easily. The farmers will be no longer dependent on Seed Company selling its superior seed at higher price.

b. Organic Fertilizer Production

Organic fertilizer is the one coming from residual plants, animal, and human beings. Organic fertilizer can be solid and liquid that is used to improve physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil.

Organic rice farmers in Nogotirto Village of Gamping Sub District of Sleman Regency of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta produce organic fertilizers obtained from cattle manure existing in large volume in the village. Organic rice farmers construct cattle manure reservoir and the place where the organic fertilizer is produced using fermentation method all at once.

Organic rice farmers in Nogotirto produce organic fertilizer aiming to recover the soil's ecological function damaged by industrial chemical fertilizer. In addition, the materials to produce organic fertilizer are available widely around the village. Organic fertilizer can reduce the farming production cost and the farmers' dependence on the availability of industrial chemical fertilizer.

c. Marketing of Organic Rice Product

The marketing of organic rice in Nogotirto Village of Gamping Sub District of Sleman Regency of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta is conducted by organic rice farmers along with economic division of Muhammadiyah Youth of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta. Organic rice farmers establish cooperation in the

term of marketing organic rice crop. Thus, organic rice farmers affiliated with this movement get the productivity marketing certainty.

Cooperation of marketing organic rice product between farmers and Muhammadiyah Youth of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta aims to facilitate the marketing of organic rice harvest, because organic rice is still a commodity unknown widely to the public. Through this cooperation, organic rice product is expected to be acceptable to the public.

Conclusion

Organic rice planting movement in Nogotirto Village of Gamping Sub District of Sleman Regency of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta aims to realize the farmers' sovereignty. The farmers' sovereignty can be achieved through farmers' independence in the form of rice seed availability, fertilizer availability, and easiness of marketing organic rice. Through an organic rice farmer-oriented farming scheme, the farmers' sovereignty can be brought into reality.

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