
Training of Technology-Based Management For Karya Mentulik Multi-Purpose Cooperative (*Koperasi Serba Usaha Karya Mentulik*), Riau

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ABSTRACT

Farmer groups are forums for members to act together in agricultural business. In its management, Karya Mentulik Multi-Purpose Cooperative or in a short with *KSU-KM*, as a forum accomodating farmer groups in Mentulik, Kab. Kampar, Riau, requires good management to form an advanced *KSU-KM* cooperative that is able to achieve a shared vision and mission. Therefore, community service activities are carried out at the *KSU-KM* Mentulik by involving all 5 cooperative management. In this activity, the information system has been designed in the form of an accounting recording system, SMS Gateway and Cooperative Website. The information system was created with the aim that the technology could assist management in managing cooperative activities and that the existence of the *KSU-KM* could be known by the wider community to expand the cooperative partners of *KSU-KM*. Training is also given to all *KSU-KM* administrators to provide understanding and application of information systems. Through this activity, the evaluation results show that management has a good understanding and benefits from information systems that make it possible to make work effective and efficient.

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INTRODUCTION

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and the agricultural sector are characteristics of the sector and business sector in Indonesia. The combination of MSMEs and the agricultural sector is expected to further enhance the economy and employment opportunities. Agricultural Cooperatives are part of MSMEs engaged in the agricultural sector. Article 33 of the 1945 Constitution mandates that cooperatives are business entities which are expected to play an important role in the Indonesian economy. Small and medium-sized companies in the agricultural sector can join an organization by helping each other and working together to improve the bargaining position of farmers (Partomo & Soejoedono 2004). The role of the government in the development

of agricultural cooperatives became clear with the issuance of Presidential Instruction No.4 of 1984 concerning the establishment and development of Village Unit Cooperatives (KUD), which was originally known as Village Business Unit Development (BUUD). Changing the status of BUUD to KUD resulted in KUD no longer being an agricultural cooperative but becoming a multipurpose cooperative. This membership is open to all villagers whose business fields are very diverse. This is considered as the reason why it is difficult for KUD to become a professional economic organization, because generally professionalism requires specialization and not generalization (Yuwono 2011).

Mentulik is a village located in Kampar Kiri Hilir sub-district, Kampar district, Riau, Indonesia. Mentulik is located along the Kampar Kiri river. This condition causes the swamp area in this village to help the community to be able to develop the agriculture, plantation and fisheries sectors. The existence of the Kampar Kiri river also helps the surrounding community to utilize the marine wealth to meet their needs and also as a livelihood. One type of agriculture that is growing rapidly in Mentulik is oil palm farming.



Figure 1. Karya Mentulik Multi-Purpose Cooperative (KSU-KM) Office

Various limitations found in *KSU-KM* had caused several obstacles and problems in the process of managing *KSU-KM*. Some of these problems included: First, Error recording was found in the financial administration of the cooperatives. The bookkeeping system carried out by the management of *KSU Karya Mentulik* was still manual and many mistakes were found during the recording. In addition, the management of *KSU-KM* had insufficient ability and competence in carrying out bookkeeping such as recording of cash receipt and cash out reports, profit reports, balance sheet reports and making accountability reports. In accordance with the principle of cooperative in which its establishment is carried out for a common goal, a good cooperatives management must be transparent, so that the members believe in the existence of cooperatives, including that their work programs must be transparent so members can find them out. Even the most important is that the cooperative financial report must be correct and transparent (Skyrius et al., 2013). Thus, if these mistakes are allowed, it will disrupt the cooperative financial records and cause a lack of trust from the members of *KSU-KM*.

The second problem was the lack of communication facilities in which currently all communications among the management, farmer groups and the members *KSU-KM* were only through announcements posted in front of the *KSU-KM* office. This certainly slowed down the flow of information provided and became an obstacle in producing the quality effective and efficient communications. Sometimes, many farmer groups and members did not know the important information provided by the management, for example the information of salary taking of the members of farmer groups, the announcement of farmer group meetings, harvest rotation times, and other important announcements. This information delay was certainly an obstacle that should be solved as a solution to minimize the communication gap between the *KSU-KM* manager and farmer groups and also the members so that all information could be conveyed quickly. Based on the above problems, it was necessary to have a renewal in the technology-based *KSU-KM* cooperative management in order to improve the cooperative governance system to be more effective and efficient.

Based on the above problems, it is necessary to update the technology-based cooperative management of the KSU-KM to improve the cooperative management system to be more effective and efficient.

METHODS

The method of implementing this activity consisted of stages of design, training and guidance, implementation and evaluation.

Design stage

This stage consists of:

- a. **Designing Accounting Record System:** This financial application system is computerized. It was designed to optimize the work of *KSU-KM* administrators in reporting the finance, which was previously manual.
- b. **Designing SMS Gateway:** In this case, SMS Gateway was applied as a means to supervise and distribute the information from the management of *KSU-KM* to all members of the farmer groups.
- c. **Designing Cooperative Websites:** Websites were utilized to share information with the internal party of the cooperatives and the public. Through this website, *KSU-KM* presented a variety of important information, such as member lists, participant lists, price lists, galleries, payments, presentations, announcements, profiles, business sector property, news, contacts, and other important information.

Training and guidance stage

The training and socialization of the use of Cooperative Information System was conducted to all *KSU-KM* administrators.

1. Implementation stage

This stage consists of:

- a. Implementing the use of the Financial Administration System designed by the Proposal Team to be used in cooperative bookkeeping.
- b. Implementing SMS Gateway, in which all members of the farmer groups under *KSU-KM* Mentulik evenly received information via SMS. In addition, the information was also obtained through the website.

2. Evaluation stage

This stage refers to the process of measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the use of the financial administration system, SMS Gateway and *KSU-KM* Website. The measurements were made for all *KSU-KM* administrators and farmer group leaders by distributing the questionnaires.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Designing Needs of Information System

The design of the system intended to assist *KSU-KM* cooperative in facilitating the cooperative to manage included:

a. Cooperative Accounting Record System

Financial Information System is the information system that provides information for people or groups both inside and outside the company regarding financial issues and also the information about the flow of money for all users throughout the company (Esmeray 2016). The financial information system at *KSU-KM* was created through the design of desktop-based financial reporting application that aimed to make work more secure, accurate and efficient. This financial application system was made to optimize the work of *KSU-KM* management to make computerized financial reports. Previously, it was performed manually.

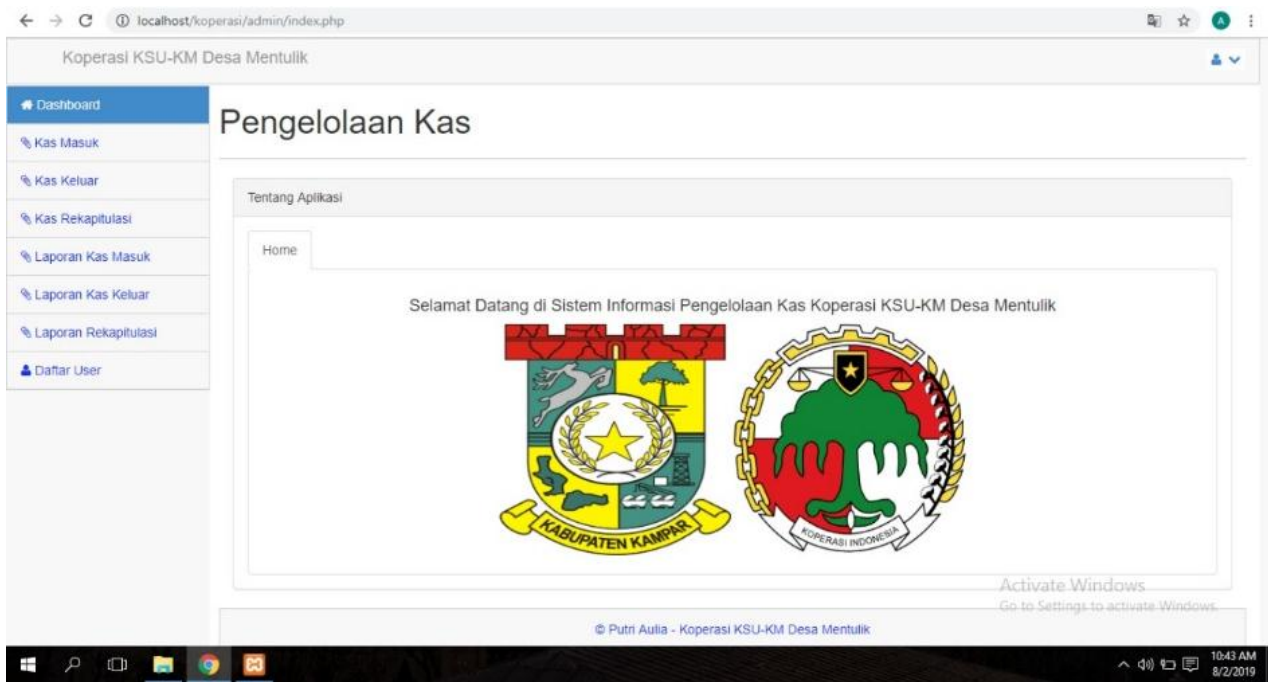


Figure 2. Accounting Record System

b. SMS Gateway

SMS Gateway was utilized as a means to monitor and distribute information from *KSU-KM* Mentulik administrators to all members of the farmer groups. SMS Gateway is a technology of sending, receiving and even processing SMS via computers and computerized systems (software). Through SMS gateways, distance issues are no longer an obstacle in communication (Jimoh et al., 2013). Utilizing SMS Gateway at *KSU-KM* facilitated the communication in which all important announcements between administrators and farmer groups could be obtained quickly. In addition, SMS Gateway also helped the cooperative managers to shared messages to hundreds of numbers automatically and quickly, which were directly connected to the database of cellphone numbers without having to type hundreds of numbers and messages on the cellphone. The resulting SMS Gateway system can be seen in the following picture:

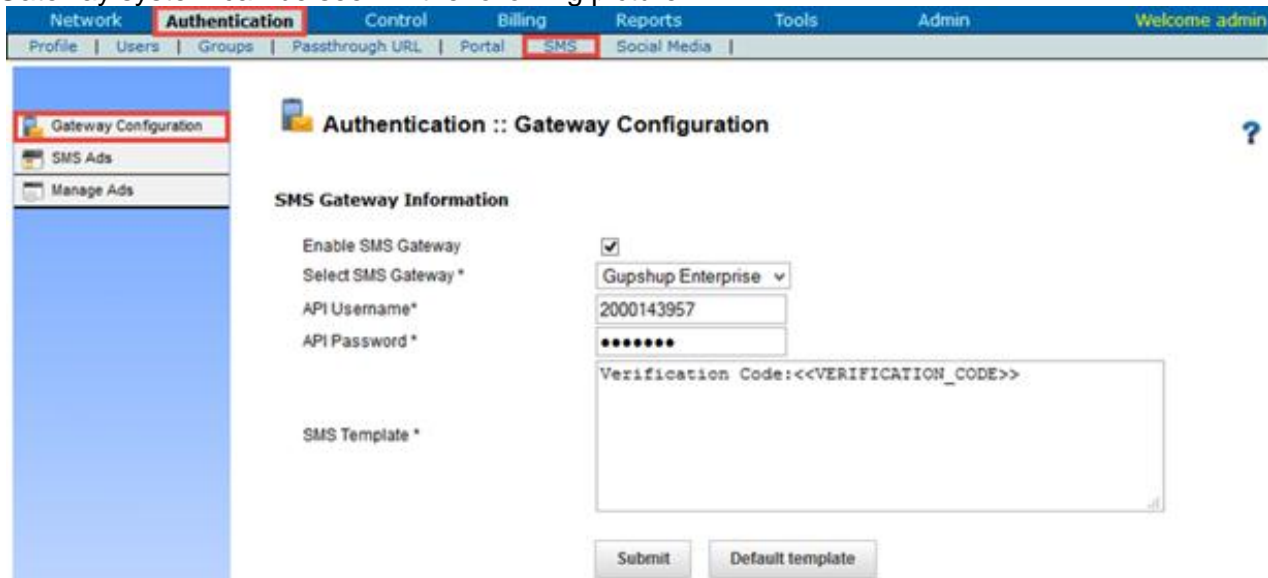


Figure 3. SMS Gateway

c. Website

Through this website, *KSU-KM* presented a variety of important information such as member lists, participant lists, price lists, galleries, payments, presentations, announcements, profiles, business sector property, news, contacts, and other important information. The cooperative website would always be updated in accordance with the changes in information provided by the Cooperative. The *KSU-KM* website can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.ksumentulik.com/>

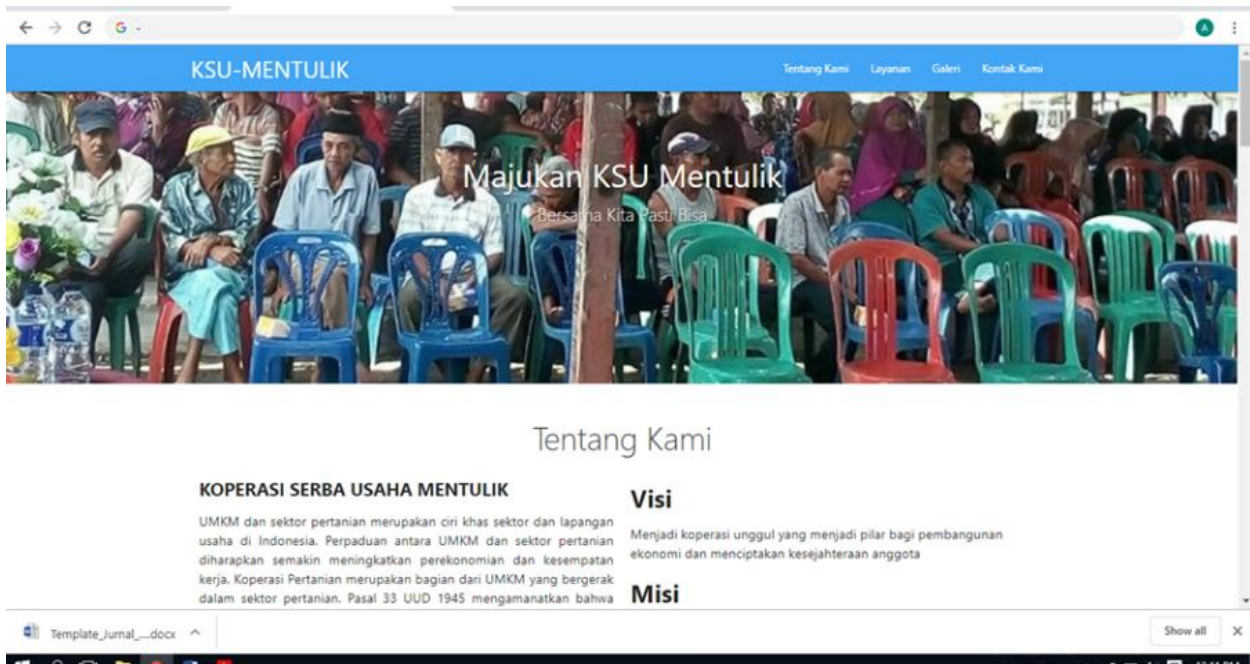


Figure 4. KSU-KM Website

Training of Information System in KSU-KM

The Information System Program training was conducted at *KSU-KM*. The training involved several *KSU-KM* administrators; they were follows:

Nama	Jabatan
Bakri	Head of <i>KSU-KM</i>
Erni Yusnita	Secretary of <i>KSU-KM</i>
Arman Toto	Financial Staff of <i>KSU-KM</i>
Septia Aldina Putri	Administration Staff of <i>KSU-KM</i>
Hamzah	Ex Head of <i>KSU-KM</i> Period 2009-2014
Muhammad Luhtfi Hamzah	Presenter (Lecturer)
Astri Ayu Purwati	Presenter (Lecturer)
Febdwi Suryani	Committee (Lecturer)
Sari Safitri	Committee(Student)



(a)



(b)

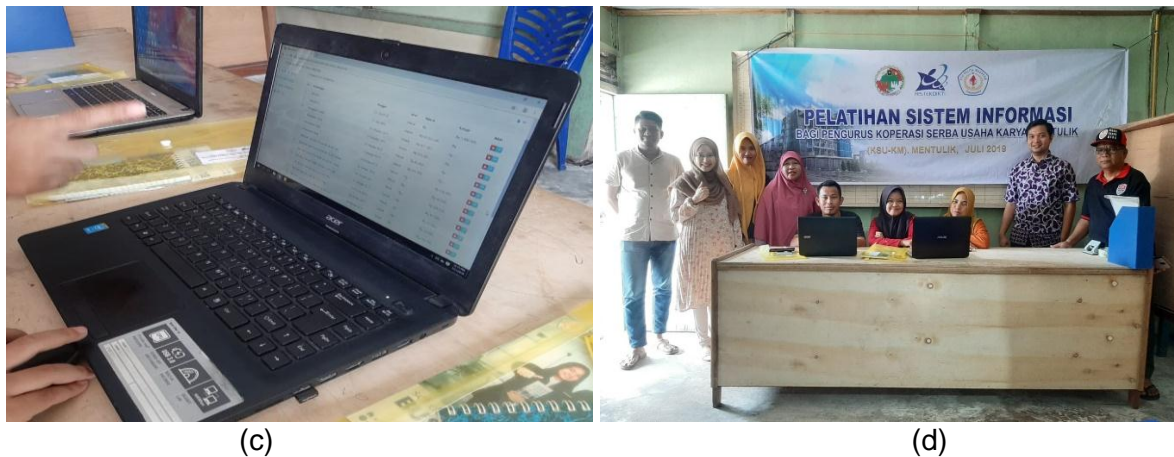


Figure 5. Training of Information System in KSU-KM

The Implementation and Evaluation of Cooperative Information Systems

Implementation of the use of cooperative information systems that have been run by the service team has also provided many benefits for cooperative management. Accounting recording system is very helpful for management in an organization to manage cash in and out. Through a well-organized information system, an organization's financial transparency will be better and miscalculation errors can be minimized (Purwati & Handani 2017). In addition to the information system, the SMS Gateway system and website also provide many benefits in facilitating the exchange of information between the management and members of the cooperative as well as to the outside community. Through SMS gateways, distance issues are no longer an obstacle in communication (Jimoh et al., 2013).

After designing a cooperative information system and providing training to the cooperative management in order to use the system, a questionnaire was distributed to the administrators involved in managing the system to evaluate the success of the system. The results of the questionnaire were as follows:

Table 1 Evaluation Result for Information System Applied in KSU-KM

No	Questions	Average	Remark
Accounting Record System			
1	Ease of applying <i>KSU-KM</i> Accounting Record System	4	Good
2	Understanding in applying <i>KSU-KM</i> Accounting Record System	3.8	Good
3	<i>KSU-KM</i> Accounting Record System helps the work of cooperative financial administration to be well organized.	3.8	Good
SMS Gateway			
4	Ease of applying SMS-Gateway System	4	Good
5	Understanding in applying SMS Gateway System	3.1	Neutral
6	SMS Gateway system makes it easy to give announcements about salaries and others to cooperative members	4	Good
Cooperation Website			
7	Ease of managing the website	4	Good
8	Understanding of using the website	4.4	Very Good
9	The cooperative website provides information regarding cooperatives to the community	4.6	Very Good
10	<i>KSU-KM</i> Information System (Recording System, SMS Gateway and Website) makes all Cooperative work smoothly	3.9	Good
11	<i>KSU-KM</i> Information System can be well received by all administrators	4.6	Very Good
Average		4.01	Good

Based on the data from the questionnaire of the evaluation results displayed above, it can be perceived that the average response of the cooperative management about their understanding and benefits of the cooperative information system is good. This implies that the cooperative information system can be implemented well to help facilitate the work and management of the cooperative on a daily basis. In addition, during this activity, the service team also provided assistance to *KSU-KM* cooperative in the form of 1 unit of laptop and a model as well as a cooperative signboard since the old signboard was broken.

CONCLUSION

The community service activity was expected to provide benefits to create technology-based cooperative management that was able to facilitate all cooperatives management and members to improve the bookkeeping and information sharing. In the future, it is hoped that this service can continue to be conducted to promote *KSU-KM* cooperatives, not only in the management but also the marketing, in order to increase the competitiveness of the cooperative in producing good quality of palm bunches products.

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