

## Challenges of Village Farmers in Facing Globalization (Descriptive Study in Padaherang Village, Padaherang District, Pangandaran Regency)

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### **Abstrak**

*Arus globalisasi berdampak pada perubahan aktivitas warga khususnya di bidang pertanian. Hal ini mengancam kegiatan pertanian yang bersifat tradisional, terutama mempengaruhi terhadap pola kehidupan para petani. Maka dari itu penelitian tujuan penelitian ini yaitu menemukan gambaran masyarakat petani desa menghadapi globalisasi dan tanggapan petani terhadap globalisasi. Metode dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber data dipilih secara snowball sampling. Pengumpulan data yang digunakan dalam penelitian yaitu observasi, wawancara dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan beberapa bentuk tantangan petani dalam menghadapi globalisasi yaitu persaingan pekerjaan bertani dengan pekerjaan lain mengakibatkan berkurangnya sumber daya petani, pendidikan petani masih tergolong rendah, inovasi dan efisiensi petani minim akibat adanya barang-barang impor, masyarakat pertanian pada umumnya masih terikat pada patron-clien, dan keinginan untuk berprestasi dari petani tergolong rendah karena masih berfikir tradisional.*

**Kata Kunci:** Tantangan, Petani, Masyarakat Desa, Globalisasi.

### **Abstract**

The flow of globalization impacts changes in people's activities, especially in the agricultural sector. This threatens traditional agricultural activities, significantly affecting the lifestyle of the farmers. Therefore, this research aims to find a picture of rural farming communities facing globalization and farmers' responses to globalization. The method in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. The data sources were selected by snowball sampling. The data collection used in the study were observation, interviews, and documentation. The results showed several forms of challenges for farmers in facing globalization, namely competition for farming jobs with other jobs resulting in reduced farmer resources, farmer education is still relatively low, innovation and farmer efficiency are minimal due to imported goods, agricultural society, in general, is still tied to patrons. In addition, clients and the desire for achievement from farmers are low because they still think traditional.

**Keywords:** Challenges, Farmers, Villagers, Globalization.

### **Preliminary**

Most of Indonesia's food needs are supported by rural areas. Woods (2010) points out that "rural areas are implicitly known as exploration land in community life-oriented work as an agricultural identity." Most rural people live dependent on agricultural livelihood patterns (Kolip, 2011). This is reinforced by (Soetrisno, 2002), who shows that "Based on statistical data, currently around 75% of Indonesia's population lives in rural areas, and more than 54% of them depend on the agricultural sector".

The area of agricultural land supports the progress of the agricultural sector in Indonesia. According to data released by the Agriculture Service of West Java Province in 2020, there are 1,477,790 hectares of agricultural land in West Java. There are 15,033 hectares, which is the area of agricultural land Pangandaran Regency. Padaherang District has an area of 3,540 hectares of rice fields. It consists of 2,670 hectares of technical irrigated rice fields, 808 hectares of rural irrigated rice fields, and 202 hectares of rainfed rice fields spread across

14 villages. Rice harvesting can be done twice a year with a grain production of 6.5 tons per hectare, and the total yield of rice production is 49,920 tons per year.

An environment supports the style of agricultural life with large land, climate, population, and the socio-culture of the rural community itself. This makes agricultural productivity very important for rural communities and supports food self-sufficiency and being a source of daily economics. One of the characteristics of rural communities is that they depend heavily on agriculture as their primary source of income". So it can be said that the agricultural sector is a primary component and has a vital role in sustaining the life of rural communities (Gueorguieva, 2008). But, then, article 1 paragraph 9 of 2014 of the Law on Villages shows that "Rural areas are areas that have the main activities of agriculture including natural resource management with the composition of the function of the area as a place for rural settlements, government services, social services, and economic activities.

In this case, agricultural actors have an important role in all agricultural activities carried out in the village. The position of farmers, in this case, is as maintainers, managers, and developers of farming businesses in the village. The success of the farming business that farmers do is very dependent on the participation of all elements of the community itself (Zhukov & Lyamin, 2016). According to the BPS, in 2013, the Indonesian population working in the agricultural sector was 39.68 million people, or 31.86% of the total working population of 124.54 million people. Furthermore, according to BPS in 2013, the population of West Java amounted to 46,497,175 million people, and 31% worked in the agricultural sector. This, of course, can be an opportunity if the farmer can maintain and improve the quality of agriculture. Still, on the contrary, it will be a challenge for all elements of the village community if the farmer shows a decrease in quality, even to a decrease in the number of farmers.

The main provincial road traverses the geographical condition of Padaherang village. It is an area that is close to the Pangandaran beach tourist attraction, making the public tend to be open and easily accept outside influences. The rapid development of information and communication technology has made globalization which goes hand in hand with modernization, quickly spread to all corners of the world as a dynamic process (Komariah et al., 2015). Globalization, supported by information and communication technology, is intensively involved in a social revolution that pervades all corners of life (Marra, 2007). The easy acceptance of technology and communication tools influences the activities of rural communities, especially farmers. The flow from outside impacts changes in residents' activities, especially in the agricultural sector. This is in line with (Butcher & Massey, 2001), which shows that "Modernization is a straightforward concept to integrate reforms, reorganizations, and changes that have been made."

This threatens traditional agricultural activities, significantly affecting the lifestyle of the farmers. This currently accepted means that something has been transformed or changed in society in all its aspects. These changes usually occur continuously and develop slowly, changing adaptive capacity (Antlöv, 2003). The world continues to experience dynamic development by breaking down the barriers of space and time that limit humans, which is called globalization (Lowry, 1996). Globalization in rural farming communities is interpreted as the process of entering outside influences that impact their socio-cultural life. The current globalization forces the lives of farmers to change according to the times, even leaving their jobs (Bah et al., 2003). Another problem point due to globalization and the development of this

era is that people gradually start to lose interest and leave their agricultural livelihoods. Farmers turn to industry, trade, or urbanize to cities. The presence of globalization creates a form of a shift in the patterns of life of the farming community. Therefore, the purpose of writing this article is to reveal the problems of farmers in facing globalization in rural communities.

## **Method**

This study focuses on finding the challenges of rural farming communities facing globalization and the changes in farming communities due to globalization. Therefore, the researcher used a qualitative method because it was deemed appropriate to describe the overall situation in depth for farmers in Padaherang Village, Padaherang District, Pangandaran Regency. The qualitative approach was chosen because the approach to the informants was closer and more humanist. In this approach, the researcher tries to reveal ways of life, perspectives, tastes, and languages that are not revealed from the informants. Researchers use qualitative methods because they consider the ease of theory development to seek data validity and find out more about data, both visible and sensory or not, during the research ((John Creswell, 2010). The method used in this research is descriptive. The selection of this method considers that it is intended to describe existing phenomena, both natural phenomena and man-made phenomena. The phenomena can be in forms, activities, characteristics, changes, relationships, similarities, and differences between one phenomenon and another.

The research was conducted in a farmer environment in Padaherang village, Padaherang sub-district, Pangandaran district. There are two types of data used in this study: primary data, indirect information in the form of results from observations and interviews with farmers, and secondary data, namely supporting data from village archives and internet sites. In this research, the researcher used the snowball sampling technique or snowball technique. The number of informants in this study was 12 farmers and two village officials. The farmer informants are 45-65 years old with sufficient experience in the agricultural sector.

This study's data collection techniques were observation, interviews, and documentation studies. The observation and interview instruments broadly explore how the daily life of farming communities is in the face of globalization. The next step is the documentation study technique, and the researcher explores the data by taking pictures and data about the farmer's background. This research was conducted from April 2020 to September 2020 (6 months). The data analysis technique that the researcher uses is data reduction, namely the researcher collects data, then the researcher sorts the data according to the research focus. The presentation of the data is that the researcher describes the narrative in the form of the research results that have been sorted. Finally, the conclusion is that the researcher concludes. The data validity technique uses observation extension, triangulation, and increasing persistence.

## **Results and Discussion**

Farmers are people whose livelihoods are oriented towards agriculture, which includes using biological resources to produce food, industrial raw materials, or energy sources and manage their environment (van den Berg et al., 2003). Farmer activities utilizing biological resources included in agriculture are usually defined as plant cultivation or farming (Rasmikayati & Saefudin, 2018). Therefore, the difference between farmers in the village is

interpreted as a symbol of the cultural integrity of the community as well as maintaining the authenticity of the village community itself.

At this time, the currents from outside are unavoidable. All levels of society will inevitably experience the influence of these external currents and feel their impact on aspects of life (Lê et al., 2015). This current can be called globalization because the influences come without limits that affect all aspects of life (Anantanyu, 2011). No exception for rural farming communities, the current globalization that comes influences the lives of farmers (Rasmikayati & Saefudin, 2018). The following are some of the challenges of rural farming communities facing globalization in Padaherang Village, Padaherang District, Pangandaran Regency.

1. Competition for farming jobs with other jobs results in reduced farmer resources

The eroding jobs as farmers and replaced with other better jobs. The low-income factor causes people's disinterest in farming as a farmer compared to other professions (Jati, 2014). In addition, the life of farmers in the village, which is identical to poverty, causes them to be reluctant to work in agriculture (Bah et al., 2003). One of the primary factors causing this poverty is the weakness of resources, the low control of productive resources, and the low quality of human resources so that farmers' food products are less prosperous. As a result, the younger generation is reluctant to become farmers and prefers to work in other sectors such as industry, trade, or urbanization to cities (Rasmikayati & Saefudin, 2018). This job competition can be seen in the decreasing number of farmers due to the community's disinterest as farmers.

2. Farmers' education is still relatively low

The number of farmers is 462 people; 45% have an elementary school education, 40% have a junior high school education, and 15% have a high school education (Monograph Data of Padaherang District 2019). The low educational attainment of farmers results in low quality and quality of human resources for farmers (Huyer, 2016). This situation is characterized by minimal farmer knowledge. Farmers act only as agricultural actors without effort (Anantanyu, 2011). Therefore, farmers' education is still low, resulting in a lack of knowledge and skills in agricultural innovation. In addition, farmers who rarely follow the counseling and guidance provided by the local agriculture office cause a lack of better farming skills.

3. Farmers' innovation and efficiency are minimal due to imported goods

Various foreign products can be purchased easily. Products that should be produced by the community themselves but instead bought make farmers dependent (Damanik, 2007). These products include fertilizers; for example, Macro Grow More 6-30-30 Npk fertilizer, global seed companies control the seeds: Monsanto, Dupont, Bayer, East-West, Syngenta. In addition, the existence of cheap imported agricultural products has resulted in the price of local agricultural products falling.

For example, rice imports from Vietnam, India, Thailand, Pakistan; salt from Australia, India, New Zealand, Germany, Denmark; Shallots from India, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, China. The government is expected to seriously evaluate rice import policies that are detrimental to farmers' lives. Every year, the government issues rice import policies from other countries before harvesting has begun in several regions (Beard & Dasgupta, 2006). The government should maximize domestic food products and check food availability in rice mill stocks. In addition, checking is also necessary on agricultural land that has been harvested so that real food stocks can be known in the field (Elizabeth, 2016).

4. Agricultural society, in general, is still tied to patron-client

Patron clients still apply to farmers with unequal conditions, both in terms of status, authority, power, and income, so that farmers (clients) are placed in a lower position and middlemen and landowners (patrons) are in a higher position (Elizabeth, 2016). Farmers work on land owned by entrepreneurs for wages. This makes farmers feel comfortable but cannot significantly improve their welfare (Saksena, 1972). This practice of peasant feudalism created an unequal social stratification that impacted social and economic life (Zhukov & Lyamin, 2016).

The form of exploitation is usually capital accumulation price suppression, forcing farmers to sell their products to middlemen. The current globalization is seen as an effort to force farmers to be able to adapt to changing times and get out of feudalism (Zambeta, 2002). Farmers in these conditions are required to develop their potential and skills (Iryana, 2018).

5. The desire for achievement from farmers is low because they still think traditional

Farming activities that farmers do are usually inherited from their predecessors. Therefore, farmers assume that reforms in farming methods will impact the quality and quantity of their agricultural products. Farmers consider that by changing the way of farming, besides making it more accessible, there are also harmful effects (Bulan et al., 2005). In addition, traditional farming methods are being replaced by more modern farming methods. In practice, technology facilitates the process of spraying pesticides and farming by covering the land with plastic (Rasmikayati & Saefudin, 2018). This technique produces a much better harvest but makes the land prone to landslides. Then the use of tractors makes it easier for farmers to plow the fields, but the use of diesel fuel causes land contamination. It develops the potential to compete globally (Anantanyu, 2011).

## Conclusion

Implicitly, rural areas are considered exploratory land in work-oriented to community life as an agricultural identity. The pattern of rural society and the life of farmers cannot be separated from each other. An environment also supports agricultural life with a large land area, climate, population, and socio-culture of the rural community itself. The farmer's position, in this case, is as a keeper, manager, and developer of farming in the village. The successful implementation of farming that farmers do is very dependent on the participation of all elements of society. One of the characteristics of rural communities is that they depend on agriculture as their primary source of income. Therefore, the agricultural sector is a primary component and has an important role in sustaining the life of rural communities. The easy acceptance of technology and communication tools influences the activities of rural communities, especially farmers. The flow from outside impacts changes in residents' activities, especially in the agricultural sector. This threatens traditional agricultural activities, significantly affecting the lifestyle of the farmers. The world continues to experience dynamic development by breaking down the barriers of space and time that limit humans; this is called globalization.

Globalization in rural farming communities is interpreted as the process of entering outside influences that impact their socio-cultural life. The current globalization forces the lives of farmers to change according to the times, even leaving their jobs. There are several forms of

challenges for farmers in facing globalization, namely competition for farming jobs with other jobs resulting in reduced farmer resources, farmers' education is still relatively low, innovation and efficiency of farmers are minimal due to imported goods, agricultural society, in general, is still tied to patron-clients, and The desire for achievement of farmers is low because they still think traditional. The results of this study are used as implications or input for relevant agencies, namely the agricultural service, to pay more attention to farmers so that farmers are more empowered and can compete in the global world.

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