

The Development Strategy of Customary Institutions Utilization of Keujruen Blang (Association of Water User Farmer; GP3A) in Increasing Rice Production in Pidie Regency

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Abstract. Keujruen Blang is a person who has particular abilities in agricultural management and arrangement and served as assistant of village head in prospering the farmers. Keujruen blang have criteria such as persevering personality, discipline, experienced and master the customary law of agriculture. This thesis describes the results of research on the customary institution's utilization of Keujruen Blang: Gabungan Perkumpulan Petani Pemakai Air (Association Of Water User Farmer; GP3A) in increasing rice production in Pidie Regency. This research is important to be carried out because the existence of ofKeujruen blang is really needed by the peasant community in the farming activities of rice fields. This study uses descriptive qualitative and quantitative methods; the research method used to create an overview of the situation or event with the accumulation of data obtained. Based on the results of the study, it is known that the role and function of Keujruen Blang in driving the cooperation of the peasant community not yet maximized. What already done is only carrying out pragmatic routine activities, so as a result it does not touch on the subject matter of the decline in the spirit of Gotong Royong (mutual cooperation). Members of Keujruen Blang are not yet aware of their main task; the motivator of the peasant community. Besides, Keujruen Blang also hasn't owned the notary registration as an institution that is legally recorded in the district. The institution does not have a clear vision, mission and goals and the lack of facilities and resources available in the district in improving the ability of the institution's capability. The non-optimal function of the irrigation system also becomes a major obstruction to the development of Keujruen Blang. Besides, other problems are related to the weaknesses of local leadership, lack of educating organizational structure, lack of government participation, and part of the substance of the customary rules are less relevant to the conditions of the peasant society nowadays. In order to minimize the problems that occur in Keujruen Blang, it requires a traditional leadership reorientation from the fixed role (the implementation of routine tasks only) to the role of a agent of change, who is able to reform the organization, improve irrigation, raise awareness of the peasants and the government, and redefinition of customary rules and Keujruen Blang.

Keywords: *Keujruen Blang, Pidie Regency, Rice Production*

1 Introduction

Keujruen Blang has a function, authority and responsibility to manage the water management in the rice fields fairly and orderly so that all farmers in the area get the same treatment. In other words, Keujruen Blang is a Geuchik helper in Gampong in accordance with the area of authority by area of rice fields in Gampong area.

Related to that, it is necessary to do further research on the development strategy of the utilization of customary institution of Keujruen Blang / Gabungan Perkumpulan Petani Pemakai Air (Association of Water User Farmer; GP3A) in increasing farmer production result in Pidie Regency.

1. How are roles and functions customary institution of Keujruen Blangin increasing farmer production result in Pidie Regency?
2. How are development strategies of utilization customary institution of Keujruen Blang in increasing farmer production result in Pidie Regency?

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Customary Institutions

The customary institution is a component of a social structure which is oriented in cultural values, by respecting the preservation of natural resources and the sustainability of their environment in improving their welfare and survival in accordance with their respective fields, in order to achieve the development objectives. These roles have been internalized within a community group based on their knowledge, values, and norms on an object of life.

2.2 Keujruen Blang

Keujruen Blang is a farmers community of paddy fields where it has the legal basis, duties, and authority listed in a Government Regulation No. 22 of 1982 on Water Regulation and Presidential Instruction No. 2 of 2004 on The Development Water User Farmer. Keujruen Blang is referred to the Gabungan Perkumpulan Petani Pemakai Air (Association of Water User Farmer; GP3A). The presence of Keujruen Blang is considered as one of local wisdom.

2.3 Irrigation

Irrigation is a watering activity on agricultural land that aims to create moist conditions in the root of plants to meet the water needs for plant growth. What is meant by irrigation are activities related to the effort to watering rice fields, lands, plantations and other agricultural businesses such as swamps, fisheries? The effort mainly involves the making of facilities and infrastructure for distributing water to the fields regularly and disposing of excess water that is no longer needed to meet agricultural purposes.

2.4 Benefits of participation of Customary Institution in the Process of Environmental Management and Production Improvement

In addition to providing valuable information to decision makers, community participation can also reduce the likelihood of community willingness to accept the decision [1]. The opportunity of community participation is an educational process in terms of community

empowerment in order to recognize problems, identify needs and be able to determine the solution of the problem in accordance with the potential and available resources.

2.5 Legal Basis of Customary Institution Utilization of Keujruen Blang in increasing farmer production result in Pidie Regency

The enactment of Law No. 18 of 2001 on Special Autonomy for the Province of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam can be used as broader legal protection for the province to freely manage the development based on the characteristics of a region, in all aspects, both religion, education, economy, and cultural custom.

3 Objectives and Benefits of Research

3.1 Research Objectives

Based on the background of the problems and discussion of the literature above, then the objectives of the research are:

- a. Analyzing roles and functions customary institution of Keujruen Blang in increasing farmer production result in Pidie Regency.
- b. The arranging strategic formulation in development strategies of utilization customary institution of Keujruen Blang in increasing farmer production result in Pidie Regency

3.2 Benefits of Research

This research is conducted in terms of the preparation of Thesis as a partial fulfillment in completing the study on Magister of Agribusiness Study Program, Faculty of Agriculture, Syiah Kuala University and also as a science application for writers. The results of this research are expected to be useful to increase knowledge, and as input to the government to be the basis of consideration of strategy of increasing customary institution utilization of Keujruen Blang/Gabungan Perkumpulan Petani Pemakai Air (Association of Water User Farmer; GP3A) in improving farmer welfare in Pidie Regency in the future.

4 METHOD

4.1 Population and Sample of the Research

In accordance with the purpose of research, then that will be used as research population is all customary institutions Keujruen Blang in Padang Tiji, Batee, and Muara Tiga Pidie sub-districts. The population in this study is all the administrators of Keujruen Blang customary institutions in these three sub-districts. Purposive sampling technique is used for the determination of sample respondents that is as much as 10 percent (population 126 people, sample 12 people).

4.2 Data Collection Techniques

The data in this research consist of primary data and secondary data. Primary data will be collected using in-depth interview techniques and observation. Observations will be conducted directly to all activities of the data source (customary institution of Keujruen Blang) more closely so that any phenomena related to the problem can be recorded in detail.

4.3 Data Analysis Model

The method used in this research is descriptive method and quantitative method. Nazir [2] explains that the descriptive method is a research method to describe the situation or event with the accumulation of obtained data. The data have been collected and then analyzed using descriptive and quantitative approach.

4.4 SWOT Analysis

SWOT Analysis is a favorable, effective, and efficient analytical tool and can see all possible future changes through a systematic approach through the introspection process into, both negative and positive [3].

SWOT Matrix is a tool for compiling strategic factors of a business field that can clearly illustrate how external opportunities and threats facing a business sector can be cultivated with its strengths and weaknesses.

5 Results and Discussions

Based on the problem and the formulation of research objectives, as well as the results of data processing, the following section will be discussed research results.

a. Roles and functions of the customary institution of Keujruen Blang

Based on the results of the research in Padang Tiji, Batee and Muara Tiga sub-districts of Pidie District, the Keujruen Blang function and authority that has been run only based on previous habits or Keujruen Blang experience, it is not a guideline on written rules in qanun of customary institutions. So that the function of Keujruen Blang in the three sub-districts is only in maintaining water supply and taking care of khanduri, whereas in the settlement of disputes are under coordination with Kaushik, of course, this is with consideration Keujruen Blang under the authority of keuchik.

Keujruen Blang in Padang Tiji, Batee, and Muara Tiga sub-districts have not played an active and functioning role, because the research area still faces the problem of insufficient water availability for rice farmers, thus affecting rice production.

In the harvest season, the average production of paddy with a source of water from irrigation is good, it appears that the production level is different from the water source from the poor irrigation management by Keujruen Blang. In Muara, three planted area with the harvested area is higher than Batee's but the Batee harvest higher than Muara Tiga. This is caused by the water consumption that has not been maximized by the farmers in that sub-district.

Farm production is strongly influenced by water flowed into the rice field, but in the rainy season water management is not so influential, this is because in the rainy season the farmers do not face watering problems.

b. Roles and functions of the customary institution of Keujruen Blang in increasing farmer production result

From the results of the research, it is known that the role of Keujruen Blang in mobilizing the cooperation of the farmer community has not been maximized in overcoming the problem of decreasing the spirit of gotong-royong in Keujruen Blang. What Keujruen Blang does is merely performing the tasks of a pragmatic routine, so that it does not touch the main cause of the decline in the spirit of gotong-royong. The decline of mutual cooperation is caused by the lack of optimum services provided by Keujruen Blang to the farmers in the form of adequate

agricultural water availability and the weakening of internalization of the values prevailing in Keujruen Blang which done by farmers.

c. The formulation of the development strategy of the utilization of Keujruen Blang

The strategy formulation of role and function of Keujruen Blang in Padang Tiji, Batee, and Muara Tiga consists of three stages. 1) the input stage that contains basic input information (identification and analysis of internal and external factors) needed to formulate the strategy. 2) the matching stage consisting of Internal-External (IE) analysis and SWOT analysis based on the results of Stage I. 3) the decision-making stage by evaluating the alternative strategies based on the SWOT analysis to find priority strategies in utilizing the Keujruen Blang.

Alternative strategies in increasing the role of Keujruen Blang in maintaining the water usage for the farming community is carried out to achieve the objective of increasing the role of Keujruen Blang in maintaining water consumption for farmers in order to increase rice production, it needs a set of facilities; the role and function enhancement strategy. Through the implementation of these strategies in a directed and planned way, it is expected that the Keujruen Blang will grow and develop so that it can be relied upon and trusted as a strong Keujruen Blang capable in self-sufficiency. There are 6 (six) strategies of utilization of Keujruen Blang: (1) Strategy of Increasing Utilization of Keujruen Blang (2) Strategy of Conductive Climate Development for Empowerment and Development of Keujruen Blang (3) Strategy of Structuring the Institutional Structure of KeujruenBlang (4) Strategy for Empowerment and Management Development of KeujruenBlang (5) Empowerment and Cooperation Development Strategy or Partnership of KeujruenBlang (6) Capacity Building Strategy for Keujruen Blang

From those six strategies above, it can be concluded that Keujruen Blang has a role and function which really should be increased its utilization so that the strategy can increase the capacity of the management in increasing the production of a rice farmer in Pidie District. According to Hess, Markson, & Stein [4], the role refers to positions displayed by a person or group in a situation, based on a mutually agreed social norm. In the social structure contains elements such as system, status, role, interaction, and group.

6 Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusions

Based on the results of the discussion, there are several conclusions:

1. Roles and functions performed by Keujruen Blang in mobilizing the cooperation of farmers have not been maximized in overcoming the problems of rice fields, the decreasing on the spirit of gotong-royong in institutions Keujruen Blang.
2. From the results of QSPM then selected six strategies in improving the utilization of institutions KeujruenBlang: (1) Strategy of Increasing Utilization of KeujruenBlang (2) Strategy of Conductive Climate Development for Empowerment and Development of KeujruenBlang (3) Strategy of Structuring the Institutional Structure of KeujruenBlang (4) Strategy for Empowerment and Management Development of KeujruenBlang (5) Empowerment and Cooperation Development Strategy or Partnership of KeujruenBlang (6) Capacity Building Strategy for Keujruen Blang

6.2 Recommendations

Strong legal protection is needed for all customary institutions at the district level in accordance with Qanun of NAD Province Number 7 of 2000 on the implementation of

customary life in Aceh province. Thus each customary institution will have clear functions and duties and have good mechanisms in establishing customary institutions. It needs to be a clear division of labor and duties between customary institutions and related agencies so that every task carried out has a clear responsibility as well.

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