

DIGGING THE WOMEN POWER FOR SUPPORTING CACAO FARMING ACTIVITIES IN GIRIPURWO VILLAGE, KULON PROGO REGENCY, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

Cacao is one of the main commodities cultivated in Giripurwo Village of Kulon Progo Regency. Its average productivity has reach 6.7 ton/ha in 2016. So far, farming activities of cacao commodity has been conducted by men who are supported by farming group. One of our community service programs since 2017 has been developing an incorporated women farming group that can support cacao farming activities, especially in marketing area. We found that actually women have potency for supporting cacao farming activities because: (1) women play the important roles in cacao marketing decision in one farming household since their decision affects where and how much money the cacao will be sold; and (2) women have more social activities than men thus their information access is wider. Our community service programs to accommodate the potency include: (1) assisting the establishment of women farming group and (2) facilitating comparative study in "Sari Mulyo" farming group and "Rumah Cokelat Nglanggeran"

Keywords: women, cacao, women farming group

INTRODUCTION

The market of processed cacao keep rising along with the increase of global consumption. Euromonitor International Limited reported that the consumption number of chocolate candy in markets of developing countries, including Asia, Latin America, Middle East, and Africa have reached to 5% per year in the last five years (Maruto, 2015). As one of cacao exporting countries, Indonesia has contributed 14.7% of cacao bean production whole the world. The average of cacao production in Indonesia from 1994 to 2016 was 602,475.96 tonnes. This achievement put Indonesia as the second cacao producer country on the world after Cote d'Ivoire (FAO, 2018).

Kulon Progo is one of regencies in Special Region of Yogyakarta which is potential cacao producer area reaching 2,345.7 Ha. The average of cacao bean production was 1,043.38 ton per year (Sutarmi, 2018). Girimulyo District contributed 259.45 ton or 25% of cocoa bean to Kulonprogo (BPS, 2016). Mostly cacao bean quality of Kulonprogo was categorized as grade C and grade B. Farmers commonly sell the dry bean in near market. Those beans have not been fermented yet thus the selling price is low.

In the case of Giripurwo Village located in Girimulyo District, the traders in near market buy at the same price both dry and fermented beans. However, farmer and his family do not try to look for other markets to get the competitive price because of the accessible location as well as the fast cash flow. This condition influences their decision and builds their habit in bean processing. Dry bean became the final product of cacao farmers in Giripurwo Village so far.

The aims of our community service is to increase the farmer income and prosperity through the quality improvement of cacao farm as well as farmer group in Giripurwo Village. Heretofore,

the previous target of community service programs both from colleges or from company were farmers as the main actors who directly go into farm activities. In order to achieve the goals, we involve not only the farmers but also all society including women. We try to dig their potency and create the programs to optimize their role in supporting cacao farming activities at Giripurwo Village.

PROBLEMS

Although the cacao productivity in Giripurwo Village had reached 6.7 ton/ha on average (BPS, 2016), the bean quality had competed difficulty in international markets. Mostly farmers do not treat their farm well thus pests and disease easily attack the plants. Cacao farms are wet because the branches and fallen leaves have not been managed. Finally, a lot of cacao fruits are infected by *Phytophthora*, *sp.* The less maintaining effort of farmers is influenced by the unfair price decided by the market.

METHODS

Digging the women potency to support cacao farming activities has been conducted since 2017 when our program was started. The location was chosen purposively in Nglengkong District, Giripurwo Village, Girimulyo District, Kulon Progo Regency, Special Region of Yogyakarta, Indonesia because the farmers tend to do less effort for improving the quantity and quality of cacao beans. The investigation used qualitative research with descriptive approach. In order to collect the data, deep interview and Focus Group Discussion was conducted with the informants, i.e. head of Nglengkong district, head of farmer group, head of each women community developed in Nglengkong, and the representative of women in each neighbourhood (*Rukun Tetangga* – RT).

Besides investigating the potency of women, we also conducted several meeting with women in Giripurwo Village with the intention of:

- a. Education, we educated the women about the importance of: (a) cacao as the main commodity which increase the village income; (b) market choice for selling cacao beans to get the good price; and (c) women farming group to support the activities of cacao post-harvest as well as looking for the suitable market for cacao beans. Those activities were conducted together with FGD three times on 27 February 2017, 22 May 2017, and 15 October 2018.
- b. Training, we invited the women to do comparative study in “Sari Mulyo” farming group and “Rumah Cokelat Ngalnggeran” located in Gunungkidul Regency on 8 October 2018. The women studied about post-harvest of cacao and processed cacao products, i.e. chocolate pasta and *dodol cokelat*.
- c. Mediation, together with agriculture extension agents of Nglengkong Hamlet, we support the women to make an incorporated farming group which can support cacao farming activities in this location. This activities was conducted on 5 and 10 July 2017 to collect information about incorporated farming group in the office of agricultural extension in Nglenggong Village and on 1 and 15 October 2018 to get information about administration books and articles of association (AD/ART).
- d. Advocacy, we keep the communication with the head of women farming group and agricultural extension agents via chatting application to monitor the activities of women farming group.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1.1. The Community Service Programs to Empower Women Supporting Cacao Farming Activities in Nglengkong Hamlet, Giripurwo Village

1.1.1. Social Mapping

In order to understand the problem and dig the potency in the field, social mapping were conducted at the first time through deep interview and forum group discussion with the informants as well as observation. The result shows that mostly previous community service programs have not involved all society when the goal is the improvement of quality and quantity of cacao beans or the increase of cacao farmer income. The target was only the farmers as the main actors. The interesting finding is women actually have potency to support the cacao farming activities. Although cacao cultivation is conducted by men, the selling management mostly is controlled by women. They play the important roles in cacao marketing decision in one farming household since their decision affects where and how much money the cacao will be sold. The near market is the most popular location to sell the beans. There are two reasons behind that: (1) the near market buys the beans in cash and (2) women need short time for going to the markets as well as spend low cost for transportation. Although there is a farming group, the activities only focus on the cultivation. Thus the members are only men who own and work on cacao farm. However, the collective activities between the farming group members are rarely found in the field because farmer tends to work with his own family to take care the cacao farm.

Involving women in cacao farming activities collectively have not been conducted before. One of our programs is to form a women farming group to support the cacao farming activities. The women farming group will focus on marketing and processing cacao bean. Women who have more social activities inside and outside the hamlet are able to expand the marketing networks for cacao beans. Women in Nglengkong Hamlet actively join as members of *arisan* (social gathering), PKK (*Pendidikan Kesejahteraan Keluarga* – program in village level to educate women on various aspects of family welfare), Posyandu (*Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu* – Maternal and Child Health Services). They gather once per week for Posyandu and once per month for *arisan* and PKK.



Figure 1. Forum Group Discussion with the women representative in Nglanggeran Hamlet

1.1.2. Women Farming Group

After finding the potency of women to support the cacao farming activities, we persuade the women to develop a women farming group. First of all, we approach the women who can influence the others to make a new group in agricultural sector. Second, we ask the women to choose the committee as the representative of women farming group. Third, we facilitate the women to meet the agricultural extension agents in order to get their support. Agricultural extension agents will also accompany to achieve the legal entity of women farming group. The

legal status is the main requirement to submit government subsidies. Forth, we assist the women to prepare all requirements for registering incorporated women farming group. So far, we have helped them to prepare article of association (AD/ART) and administration books, i.e. cash book, book of principal an voluntary savings, member list book, incoming mail book, outgoing mail book, activity logbook, activity plan logbook, minute book, inventory book, attendance book, and guest book.

According to Regulation of Agricultural Ministry No. 67/Permentan/SM.050/12/2016, farming group has the role as: (1) learning unit, a place to improve knowledge and skill in farming activities; (2) cooperation unit, a place to develop collaboration among farmers inside and outside the group; and (3) production unit, a place to improve the ability to make decision in determining the product development. Women can increase their capability in expanding the networking and marketing, especially for cacao beans by maximizing the role of women farming group. They can get new information from experts, get new relations, and create new various products easily when joining in farming group. External parties will also easily come to give support when a group have been run cohesively.



Figure 2. Facilitating women farming group to get legal status

1.1.3. Comparative Study

Comparative study is conducted to educate women the management of post-harvest and the processed cacao bean products. We facilitated women to visit “Sari Mulyo” farming group and “Rumah Cokelat Nglanggeran” in Gunungkidul Regency. “Sari Mulyo” farming group is located in Gambiran Hamlet, Bunder Village, Patuk District, Gunungkidul Regency. This farming group is led by Mr Paryano who is the outstanding cacao farmer in 2017. At first, Prof. Dr. Ir. Supriyanta from Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Universitas Gadjah Mada opened this program by presenting the management of cacao post-harvest and the processing cacao beans to be cacao pasta. Mr Paryanto then continued with giving motivation speech to the participants to strengthen the role of farming group. Gambiran Hamlet can produce chocolate products called “Gun-Kid” because of cohesive farming group. The women then were invited to learn the processing of cacao beans to be chocolate pasta in the Mr Paryanto’s kitchen.



Figure 3. Comparative study in “Sari Mulyo” farming group

The second location of comparative study is “Rumah Cokelat Nglanggeran” located in Nglanggeran Village, Patuk District, Gunungkidul Regency. It is managed by women community called KUBE PURBA RASA (*Kelompok Usaha Bersama Purba Rasa*) which was developed by Department of Industry and Commerce of Gunungkidul Regency on 25 October 2015. In 2011, this community got the assistance from CSR Program of Bank Indonesia (BI) to improve the products. Nowadays, we can meet various products in Griya Cokelat Nglageran, such as instant beverages (Chocomix, Chocomix-Classic, Chocomix-FFEE, Chocomix-Tawa, Chocomix-Ice); chocolate bar (Chocomix-Bar, Chocomix-Coconut Milk Praline, Chocomix-Peanut Milk Praline, Chocomix-Dodol Milk Praline); chocolate powder; *dodol cokelat* (sweet sticky toffee-like candy); and *salut pisang cokelat* (banana covered by chocolate). Here, the women of Nglengkong Hamlet were learned to make *dodol cokelat* as a product of processed cacao beans. *Dodol cokelat* is the simplest product taught in Griya Cokelat Nglanggeran because using the tools and materials which can be found easily in traditional markets.

The community of those two locations successfully engage the member to work together for achieving the common interest. By conducting comparative study in there, the women farming group can learn not only post-harvest of cacao and the products of processed cacao bean, but also the important of farming group in running the agricultural activities from cultivation to marketing.



Figure 4. Comparative study in “Griya Cokelat Nglanggeran”

4.2.1. The Importance of Empowering Women through Farming Group

Women farming group is formed finally not only to support the cacao farming activities especially in marketing or processing post-harvest of cacao beans, but also to support the development of agricultural sector in Nglengkong District. The activities of women farming group will be evolved with the assistance from agricultural extension agents who will bring various programs. Based on potency mapping, the social activities of women can be source to develop the network as well as market for agricultural products. When women are gathered in a farming group, they can learn and create new products as well as work together to expand the

marketing and networking. Women farming group automatically will support the agricultural activities in Nglengkong Hamlet. They can also support household income by selling vegetables, fruits, spices, or livestock which is maintained in their yard. Based on Figure 5, our two year programs have already gained to second level. Women have worked together to frame the article of association (AD/ART), learn the administration of farming group, and improve knowledge and skill in cacao post-harvest through comparative study in “Sari Mulyo” farming group and “Rumah Cokelat Nglanggeran”

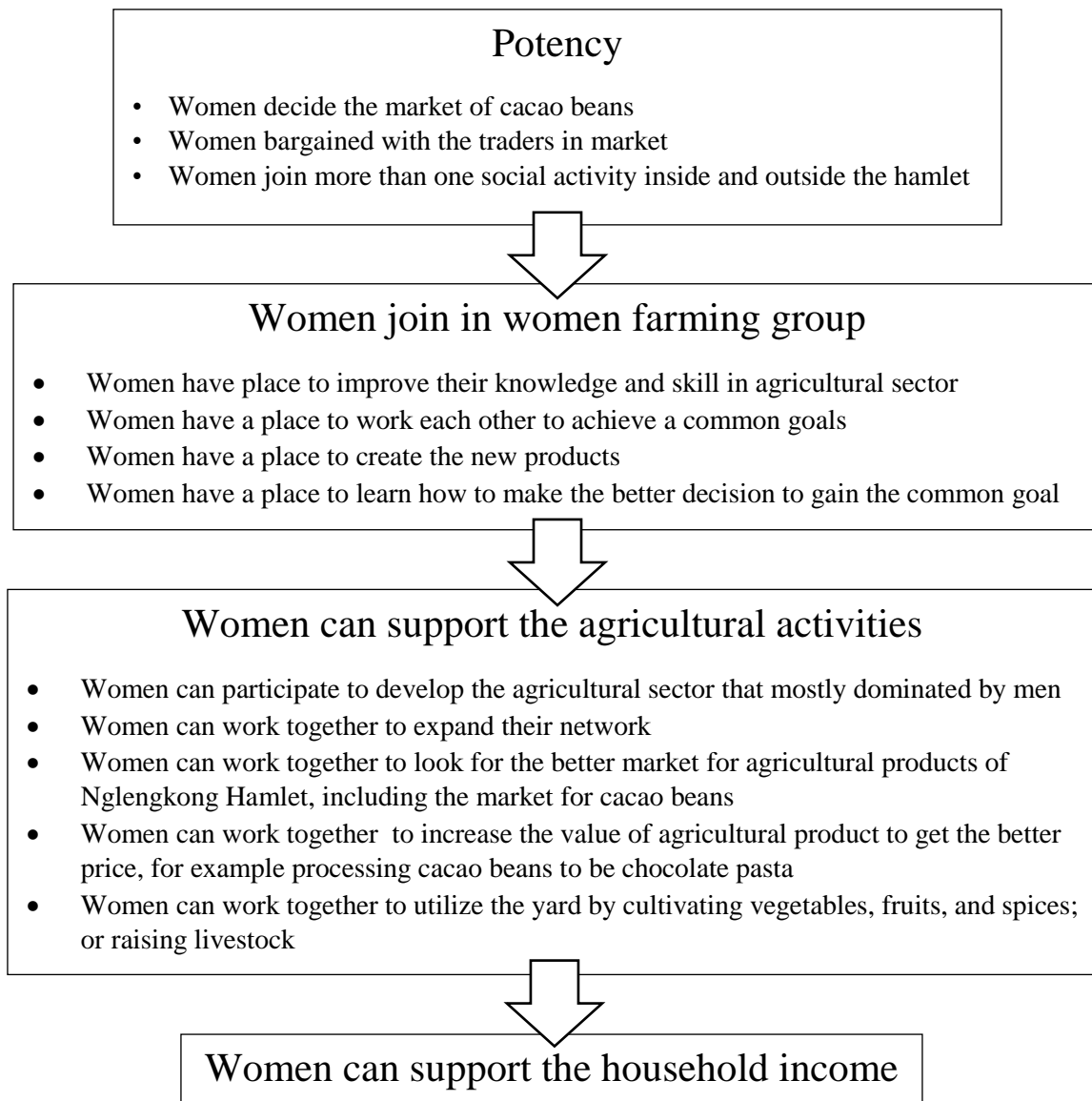


Figure 5. The goal of empowering women in agricultural sectore

CONCLUSION

Women have potency to support the cacao farming activities. By forming the women farming group, they will have a place to improve knowledge and skill as well as develop network and market for cacao beans. Our community service programs have already facilitated women to gather and establish a women farming group. In order to register the legality of this group, we work together with agricultural extension agents. Although the legal status is on the process, the role of women farming group is able to be felt by the members. The next program for women farming group is the introduction of yard utilization for produce the agricultural product.

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