

THE IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON RICE FARMERS IN LAMPUNG PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

The International Labor Organization (ILO) states that the agricultural sector is one of the sectors that has a lower risk of the COVID-19 pandemic compared to other industrial sectors. Most people think that the agricultural sector, especially rice, is not affected by the pandemic because rice is the staple food in some large area of Indonesia, but the reality is not like that. Rice farmers as regard its people more are also affected by the impact of a pandemic COVID-19. The focus of research this is to know the impact of a pandemic COVID-19 on the farmers of rice and strategy of what that can do to minimize the impact.

Keywords: pandemic, farmers, rice

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, like most other countries, is still struggling to cope with the transmission rate of the COVID-19 virus. Since the month of March 2020, WHO categorizes COVID-19 into a pandemic, which spread is classified into a situation of emergency and classified into a pandemic chronic. (WHO, 2020).

Pandemic is causing the impact of social and impact the economy in all sectors. The government without exception has made regulations limiting human interactions, which aim to break the chain of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

Spreading COVID-19 in Indonesia not only spread in the areas of urban course, but also own up to the village, not the exception of the villages in the province of Lampung. Province of Lampung is on the list of provinces that became the granary of rice nationwide, even in the year 2020 Lampung become the province with the percentage increase in the production of rice the highest in the province granary of food nationwide.

International Labor Organization (ILO) states that the sectors of agriculture is one of the sectors that have the risk low

against the pandemic COVID-19 compared to sector industry more, but the proportion of most workers are exposed to the impact of the pandemic COVID-19 is the workers who work in the sector of agriculture with a percentage of 29, 6% (ILO, 2020).

Community mostly has opinion that the sector of agriculture, particularly rice, is not affected by the pandemic because rice is a food staple in the majority of large parts of Indonesia, but the reality is not like that. Rice farmers as regard its people more are also affected by the impact of a pandemic COVID-19.

At the beginning of the pandemic, ministry of agriculture ever stated that the enactment of restrictions on the social scale large in some cities great cause disruption of the chain of supply. (News Plantation, 2020) Society race the race to buy as much as possible ingredients of food that they can so that the availability of food is threatened and the value of the exchange of farmers becomes low.

This research was conducted in Central Lampung district, where this location has the largest rice field in Lampung Province and is a pilot area for rice nurseries. The focus of

research this is to know the impact of a pandemic COVID-19 on the farmers of rice and strategy of what that can do to minimize the impact.

RESEARCH METHOD

This Studi use descriptive qualitative with approach to study the case with a focus on strategies t do to lessen the impact of the pandemic for rice farmers, with the object of research is the group of farmers in the village trimurjo , district of Central Lampung.

According Sugiono, research qualitative is research in which researchers placed as the instrument locks , Mechanical collection of data is done by merging and analysis of data is inductive . (Sugiono, 2010). According Poerwandari , research qualitative produce and process the data that its descriptive , such as transcription of interviews and observations (Poerwandari , 2005)

Basic thought the use of this methods is because studies have wanted to know about the phenomena that exist and the condition of the natural , not the condition under control , labolatolis or experiment .

In data collection, the research team went into the field to collect data directly and make observations of the research environment, while interviews were conducted either in person or via telephone and video calls. This is related to provincial and district government policies related to limiting activities to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

When a number of sectors of the economy experienced a decline in growth in the pandemic, different things precisely happen in the sector of agriculture.

Minister of agriculture Syahrul Yasin Limpo said sectors of agriculture is able to grow in the midst of a pandemic COVID-19. In the year 2020 the sector of agriculture recorded able to grow by 16.4%. (Kompas, 2020). The main factors is the need for food

which is a basic need for the Indonesian people. But despite having the achievement of statistical positive, the condition is different it felt the farmers in the field.

Compared with vegetables farmers, the farmers of rice can be said to be low risk, matter is also the researchers found in the field that the price of grain tends to be stable compared with the prices of vegetables are very volatile.

From the results of the researchers' interviews with informants, it is known that the quantity of rice sales from the research location was reduced by 75% of sales before the pandemic. Of course this is a very large number considering the rice is the food staple almost the entire community in the province of Lampung.

Pandemic were prolonged with the number of patients who continued to rise led to the government the province of Lampung issued a policy related to the licensing of procurement events become much more stringent. Province of Lampung alone when it was located in the zone of orange, but at the time that the province of Lampung also been located in the zone of the red, which indicating a very high spreading of COVID-19 virus.

Celebration like wedding reception which involve many people and potentially causing the crowd had not allowed since the month of March 2020, the policy is to follow the number of patients and deaths due to covid-19 in the province of Lampung.

Policies that are not directly impact on farmers of paddy in the district of Lampung middle due in part substantial results of the production of rice they were purchased by the companies catering and hotel. So that the limitation of celebratory activities will of course have a big impact on the sale of their rice production.

Before the pandemic farmer of paddy in the district of Lampung middle rely on the local market to sell the results of their production so now the farmers began offering its products up to the outside

Lampung, but the demand of rice in general is going on a decline so demand will be the result of production also did not rise as significantly .

According to the chairman of the general council leaders of national (DPN) young farmer HKTI Rina Saadah (in Kompas , 2020) losses were suffered by the farmers , one of which was caused by factors distribution , surplus production of an area can be transferred to the regions other supplies rice less . Rina also recognizes that when it does happen decline in power purchasing community, which impact on the difficulties of farmers to market the results of the harvest.

Researchers also conduct interviews at several public urban about the consumption of rice in the house. Researchers find change in the pattern of behavior of consumers, when these people tend to return to the pattern of living a healthy one of them with reducing carbohydrates .

Apart from these bad effects , there are also good effects from the pandemic for rice farmers . Viewed from the side of the other, pandemic covid-19 this became an opportunity for the farmers Indonesia to become a host home in the country itself because of the restrictions on the export of import. Meanwhile, food security must be protected. Along with the length of a pandemic, the government began to plan the protection of the chain of supply of food and nutrition.

From the observation that done by a team of researchers in the field there are some conditions that can be slit for improvement in order to increase the demand of farmers in the future will come.

1. Farmers only sell grain at harvest to the offtaker
2. Farmers focus more on quantity than quality

Actions that can be done as a step to improve the sales results of the production is to cultivate paddy into rice and repacking of products in packaging which is nice,

hygienic and vary in weight. Step further is to boost the quality of rice were planted in order adapat entry into the market with higher price offers.

Both activities above would be optimal if done in large scale by forming corporate agriculture. The agriculture corporation itself is a flagship program of the ministry of agriculture. In the year 2019 the Ministry of Agriculture create a program that focuses on encouraging the management of the business of agriculture as a collective (corporate) for agriculture is more advanced and competitive. Corporations Agriculture is the development of the sector of agriculture -based corporation that is managed by professional. In general corporate farming can be based SOE and society. In the management of the management of land, corporate farm must have the expanse of land of at least an area of 1,000 hectares.

Corporate farmers are expressly contained in the Regulation of Number 18-year 2018 on Guidelines for Development of Regions of Agriculture -Based Corporate Farmer, who said corporate farmers are " Institutional Economics Farmers entity legal form of a cooperative or a body of law other with most large capital owned by farmers “. Corporate farmers as a unitary body of effort that is formed of, by, and for farmers in efforts to restore the spirit of mutual cooperation of farmers. Venture corporation of farmers is also a base for supporting the efforts of farmers. In contrast, the development of venture corporation supported by the efforts of farmers who owned individual farmers. The farmer corporation is jointly owned by the farmer members of the corporation to improve the welfare of the farmers. Because of that, the development corporation farmer directed to embody the sovereignty of farmers in managing the entire chain of production enterprises farmer. Farmers not only sovereign in the management of on-farm but also the processing or off farm and marketing

results of efforts farmer. (Ministry of Agriculture, 2019)

For product marketing, farmers can also do marketing through e-commerce. When this has been provided marketplace specialized farm, the farmer can sell the results of farming are online are also watching the price. There are at least 5 applications that can be used by farmers to sell their products, namely agromaret, tanihub, petani, pantau harga and lima kilo.

Strategic step that ministry of agriculture do within the framework of the prevention and protection from the impact of the spread of the virus COVID-19 to prioritize the needs of the material the principal as the supply of the community as well as to protect the economy in the sectors of agriculture in order not to weaken during the process of controlling the spread of COVID-19 in Indonesia.

CONCLUSION

Although the sector 's agricultural especially rice had a risk more low to the affected pandemic covid but researchers noted there are some things that cause a decrease in demand for rice , namely :

1. Restrictions activity celebration that use catering and large consumption of food.
2. Decrease in people's purchasing power
3. Changes in the pattern of behavior of the people to the pattern of living healthy .

From the observation results, interviews and study of literature , there are several ways that can be done to increase the demand for rice , namely :

1. Improved logistics management for the distribution flow of goods
2. The local government disbursed assistance in the form of purchasing products from farmers' crops , and then channeled it back to the community in the form of social assistance .
3. Make guides detail the protocol of Health strictly to the procurement of the celebration of the event is public.

4. The processing returned results of production with packaging that is more attractive
5. Peddling the results of production as online through e-commerce
6. Improving the quality of the results of production to enter into the market with the offer price is high .

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