

Farmers' Perception of The Role of Extensions Field Agriculture in Tarakan City

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ABSTRACT

Extension agents are referred to as agents of change because they become promoters in influencing the innovation adoption process. There are 4 roles of the extension worker, namely the role of the extension worker as an adviser, an organizer, a technical assistant and as a liaison. At the moment, the role of extension workers is still mostly in technical assistance tasks, but other roles still need deepening of information in the field. The research aims to determine the role of extension workers and farmers' perceptions of agricultural extension agents. This research is located in Tarakan City, North Kalimantan Province. Determination method sample using quota sampling. Respondents in this research consisted of 30 farmers and 2 key informants from agricultural extension workers. The data analysis used is Likert scale and descriptive. Based on the results of the analysis by using a Likert scale, it is known that the total score of the level of perception of farmers in Tarakan City regarding the role of agricultural extension agents at 251.3 and is at the perception index of 45.1%, so the perception of farmers is quite good. Perceptions of farmers regarding the role of advisers get a score of 225 with an index score of 50%. Role perception as organizers gets a score of 297 with an index score of 49.5% in the good category. Perception of the role as a technical assistant gets a total score of 273 with an index score of 46% in the fairly good category, which means that the instructor is sufficient to assist farmers in carrying out their work. Perception of the role of extension workers as liaison Extension officers get a score of 210 with an index score of 35% which is in the bad category.

Keywords:

Perception, Role of
Agricultural
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Farmers



INTRODUCTION

Counseling is non-formal education for farmers which includes activities in expert knowledge and skills from extension agents to farmers and his family which goes through the teaching and learning process. Agricultural extension workers must be experts, with agricultural components, besides being able to guiding farmers, extension workers can also provide motivation, provide information and raise awareness of farmers so as to encourage interest their learning in dealing with problems in the field [1]. Extension agents become promoters at an early stage in influencing the innovation adoption process before the innovation is adopted by farmers. In addition, extension agents are able to build farmers' skills, strengthen farmer institutions, and improve partnerships with the government and other agribusiness actors [2,3].

In agricultural extension activities, the role of agricultural extension officers as officers who prepare farmers and other agricultural business actors has begun to grow which is characterized by their ability to seek, obtain and utilize information, as well as the growth and development of skills education institutions managed by farmers. In line with the changing paradigm of agricultural development, the implementation of agricultural extension is carried out through a participatory approach to further increase the active participation of farmers and other agricultural business actors [4,5].

Perception is an individual process in interpreting, organize and give meaning to the stimulus that comes from the environment in which the individual is located which is the result

of the learning process and experience. Through farmers' perceptions of the role of agricultural extension workers, extension agents and farmers are also expected to be aware of the problems they face so that mentoring/counseling activities can run according to the expected goals [4].

The city of Tarakan is one of the areas in North Kalimantan which has considerable agricultural potential so that there are many farmer groups that play a role in the success of their farming. Another role that is needed in the success of this farming is the role of agricultural extension, especially in the city of Tarakan. Based on the observations the researchers made in the field and discussing with several farmers, the researchers obtained preliminary information which stated that the role of extension workers in Tarakan City had not been carried out optimally in facilitating farmer activities. The role of extension workers is still very large technical assistance is only, but other roles still need to deepen information in the field, so researchers are interested in seeing how farmers perceive the role of extension workers.

METHOD

This research was conducted in Tarakan City from April to July 2022 with a total of 30 respondents. The data analysis used was the Likert Scale to measure farmers' attitudes, opinions and perceptions [6,7]. This study uses data collection methods by direct interviews, observation, and documentation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The role of field agricultural extension workers

1. The role of the extensionist as an advisor

Extension agents must be able to provide guidance or advice and motivate farmers to increase their capacity. The role of extension workers is as advisors who can serve, provide instructions and assist in the form of demonstrations or work practices in their farming business and solve problems faced by farmers.

2. The role of extension workers as organizers

Farmers are motivated and directed to form farmer groups and develop them into economic and social institutions that have a role in developing the surrounding community [8,9]. An extension agent must have good technical knowledge and skills because at onepoint farmers will be asked to provide advice or demonstrate business activities.

3. The role of extension workers as technical assistants

The role of extension workers as technical assistants is facilitating farmer groups in organizing the teaching and learning process, increasing the ability of members to carry out tasks in accordance with problem identification, problem solving, preparation of activity plans, realizing activities, and abilities in analyzing markets, business opportunities, regional potential, managing businesses agribusiness, in carrying out technical assistance as well as farming activities provide instructions for every activity carried out by farmers. Assisting farmers in implementing agricultural innovations and assisting farmers in planning their farming business [10].

4. The role of the extension worker is as a liaison

The role of extension workers as facilitators is to convey information/aspirations to farmers. In

this case, extension workers should consistently bring new innovations from research findings to advance agricultural practices. However, researchers have found different observations in the field. From several interviewed respondents, it was found that the role of the interviewed extension workers in connecting/facilitating farmers with business actors, markets, research institutions, and other stakeholders outside the farmer groups appeared to be not very effective. This is also evidenced by the farmers' perception scores regarding the role of extension workers as connectors, which scored 210 and 35% with the category of poor. Extension workers are tasked with conveying the research findings of agricultural research institutions to farmers. Conversely, farmers provide feedback on the implementation of the research to agricultural research institutions through extension workers, as feedback on desired outcomes [6,7].

5. Farmers' perceptions of the role of agricultural extension workers in Tarakan City

Table 1. Recapitulation of Farmers' Perceptions of the Role of Agricultural Extension Tarakan city in 2022

No	Farmers' Perceptions	Score	Percentage	Category
1	Role as advisor	225	50%	Good
2	Role as advisor	297	49,5%	Good
3	Role as Companion Technical	273	46%	Good
4	Role As Liaison	210	35%	Not good

CONCLUSION

1. The total score for the level of perception of farmers in Tarakan City regarding the role of

agricultural extension workers is 251.3 and is at a perception index of 45.1%, so that the perception of farmers is quite good.

2. Indicators of farmers' perceptions that are considered very good regarding the role of extension workers are indicators called advisors who can serve, provide instructions and help farmers in the form of demonstrations or work examples in solving all problems faced by farmers, while the role of extension workers as organizers pay more attention to farmer groups and also often help form farmer groups so that farmers can develop their farmer groups

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