The Empowerment Strategy for The Food Crop Farmers in Anticipating The Climate Change

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Abstract

In Indonesia, the climate change and the global warming like changes in the pattern and distribution of the rainfall give impacts on agricultural production at large, especially in the food crops. These also cause droughts, floods, landslides, forest fires, rising temperatures in urban areas, and rising sea levels. The above impacts are felt by the farmers because those can lead to a decrease in production even the crop failure. This research aims to develop an empowerment strategy of the food crop farmers in anticipating the climate change in Central Java. The data used is the primary data obtained through in-depth interviews with key-person and the Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The Analysis Hierarchy Process (AHP) is conducted to determine the program priorities and strategies. The result of research shows that anticipating the climate change should be synergistically conducted in four aspects: human resources, technology, institutional and production, by involving various groups in the society. Various groups can be grouped into academics, businessmen / private sectors, government and community of food crop farmers / society.

Keywords: empowerment of farmers, food crops, climate change, food production
JEL Classification: D2, C14, R3

1. Introduction

Climate change has a considerable impact for Indonesia. Many events have occurred in Indonesia as the result of climate change and global warming like changes in the pattern and distribution of the rainfall. The Impacts of climate change can be influential in a positive and a negative, directly or indirectly and can over- ride individual or group. Direct impact is the
direct impact that occurs can be seen as well as felt, such as rising temperatures in urban areas. Indirect impact is the impact on the environment as a result of derivatives that happened some time ago and can be felt directly to households or groups (Sylviani and Sakuntaladewi, 2010). Indirect impacts can be seen from the presence of an increase in the incidence of droughts, floods and landslides. The other impacts of climate change can be seen as the decline in agricultural production / crop failure, the rising of forest fires, and the rising sea levels.

The pattern and distribution of the rainfall has a tendency that dry areas become drier and wet areas become wetter that make the preservation of water resources disturbed. Extreme events like the rain with high intensity but in a short period of time cause the floods and landslides. On the other hand the prolonged dry season causes the drought and water crisis and the triggering of the forest fire. Instability of the rain like the coming of a late early season and the end of more quickly one bring impacts on the agricultural sector that is the declining agricultural productivity even the crop failure.

In general, the agricultural sector operators (farmers) have not made the optimum use of the information on the climate. The management is based on the habit. Consequently a lot of losses are suffered such as the crop failure due to floods, droughts or the presence of certain pests.

According to Susilowati (2004), the powerlessness of the society can be improved through the stages of empowerment strategy as in Table 1. The social empowerment is a process of capacity or human resource development. Having the capacity, then someone will have the strength (power) or a recognized legal authority so that he will not be marginalized (Susilowati, 2009).

By conducting the empowerment and assistance in finding, creating, using the institutional access related to production, distribution and consumption of agricultural products, the farmers’ productivity and income will increase. But in reality, based on the findings of the researchers in the field, the process of empowerment has not run optimally, as shown in Table 2.

**Food Crops.** Food crops have a very important and strategic role in the national and regional development. Food crop farming is the attractiveness for the growth of upstream and downstream industry. Both of these industries give relatively large contribution to the growth of the national economy.

Vegetable foodstuffs are generally derived from food crops. These commodities, especially rice, corn and soybeans are still the major source of nutritious substances, energy and protein. In Indonesia, with a large population spread over many islands, the availability of food is crucial for food security, both for regional and national scope. In addition, it also affects the social, economic, political and security as a whole. Therefore, it is necessary to constantly and continuously do many efforts in the production and distribution of foodstuffs.

| Researchers          | Problems                                      | Research Result                                                                 |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Susilowati, 2004 and 2005 | The empowerment of coastal communities         | Low level of empowerment                                                         |
| Suryana, 2004        | Aspects in food security                       | Food security including aspects of production, distribution, and consumption     |
| Sudantoko, 2010      | The empowerment of industry                    | Low level of empowerment from the aspects of production, marketing, human resources and technology |
| Edy Mulyono, 2011    | The empowerment of poor society                | Low level of empowerment                                                         |

Source : Processed from many previous sources of research
Climate change impact on the economic conditions of the community, especially community who work in the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector is a sector that is very sensitive and vulnerable to climate change (Subagyono dan Elsa, 2007; Dodon dan Saut Aritua, 2013). Impacts of climate change that affects the productivity of the agricultural sector, among others, is drought and floods (Estinings tyas, 2011). The phenomenon of drought and floods occur almost every year in both heavy moderate light. Thus the impact inflicted sangan also varies from mild to lose puso/failed harvest.

In Central Java, the production of food crops, especially rice, corn and soybeans over the past five years can be seen in Table 3. Based on Table 3 it is known that during the last five years there are fluctuations in the production of three excellent food crop commodities in Central Java. During the period of 2010-2013 (three years), the production trend of rice, corn and soybeans (Pajale) is similar. When compared to the production for three years, it has decreased in 2011 and it increases in the following year (2012). From the year of 2012-2014 the production trend for the three crops is different. For the rice crop it increased in 2013 and declined in 2014, while for corn and soybeans have the same trend, there was a decline in 2013 and an increase in 2014.

One of the causes of fluctuations in superior food crop (Pajale) in Central Java is due to the climate change that occurred during the period of five years.

2. Research Method

This research is conducted in Central Java province. The selection of research areas is conducted by purposive sampling method, which aims to formulate a strategy to empower the farmers in the regions that have superior food crops. Research data collection uses the methods of (1) FGD (Focus Group Discussion) or in-depth interviews with stakeholders; (2) Observation; (3) Documentation.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) is a method of collecting data by conducting a dialogue / discussion of 8-10 people with a moderator to lead the discussion for two hours. This method aims to produce the opinion, interpretation and public opinion (Sekaran, 2006). The topic of FGD is about the empowerment strategies of superior food crop farmers in anticipating the climate change. The participants of FGD consist of: (1) The farmer groups, public figures; (2) Government/related Department (BMKG, Department of Agriculture); (3) Academics; (4) Businessman.

FGD is able to give solutions to the society especially the farmers to anticipate and cope with changes in rainfall pattern as a result of climate change. Furthermore, the results of observation, in-depth interviews with key persons and FGD are formulated within the framework of the hierarchy of priorities.

The hierarchical framework of priorities that have been compiled then is analyzed using the model of AHP (Analysis Hierarchy Process) to determine the strategic priorities. For the analysis it uses the program of Expert Choice version 9.0 (Saaty, 1993).

3. Results and Discussion

The aim of Analysis Hierarchy Process is to develop the farmers’ empowerment program in anticipating the climate change in Central Java. Based on the observations, the discussions with competent key-person and FGD to the problems of climate change on agriculture in Central Java, it finds a framework arrangement of hierarchy of priorities. Among the competent key-persons are: (1) The Government, represented

| No | Commodities | 2010      | 2011      | Production (ton) | 2012      | 2013      | 2014      |
|----|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1  | Rice        | 10,110,830| 9,391,959 | 10,110,830       | 10,344,816| 9,648,104 |
| 2  | Corn        | 3,058,710 | 2,771,575 | 3,041,630       | 2,930,911 | 3,051,516 |
| 3  | Soybean     | 187,992   | 112,273   | 152,416         | 99,318    | 125,467   |

Source: Agricultural Bureau TPH Central Java Province (2015)
by the Department of Agriculture of Central Java Province; (2) Group of farmers, (3) NGO; (4) Academics and; (5) Public figures who care about the Agriculture in Central Java

The framework of hierarchy of priorities is related to any aspect need to perform in arranging the empowerment strategies for the superior food crop farmers in anticipating the climate change. The aspects above include the aspects of production, institutional, human resources and technology as in Figure 1. Furthermore, the model of AHP (Analysis Hierarchy Process) is used to determine the strategy of priority by performing the arrangement of strategic alternatives. For the analysis, it uses the program of Expert Choice version 9.0 (Saaty, 1993).

(1) Base as Considerations in Farmer Empowerment Program in Anticipating the Climate Change in Central Java

Farmer Empowerment Program in anticipating the climate change in Central Java is strongly associated with some aspects, among others: aspects of Production, Institutional, Human Resources and Technology. Analysis of the combined opinion of the respondents indicates that the aspect of human resource (weight value of 0.416) is the most important one to consider in the arrangement of farmer empowerment program in anticipating the climate change in Central Java. The next aspects to consider are the aspects of technology (weight value of 0.236); institutional (weight value of 0.211); and production (weight value of 0.138). The value of ratio inconsistency is 0.09 <0.1 (the maximum limit), which means that the result of the analysis can be accepted. Every aspect considered in the farmer empowerment program to anticipate climate change and weight values are presented in Figure 2.

The choosing of Human Resource aspect as a top priority that must be considered in the farmer empowerment program to anticipate the climate change in Central Java is that to anticipate the climate change it needs to pay attention to Human Resources or the farmers as the object of empowerment so that the empowerment program can be run properly. Human resources in the agricultural sector are as the executor and manager that are directly associated with the production process. Human Resources (farmers) as the object are the actor who must determine when to begin planting, which plants to be cultivated and how the production process to do. For the purposes above and to make the process of production of food crops can be managed properly, it needs the number of human resources (farmers) who can anticipate the climate change (Saaty, 1993).

**Figure 1. Framework of AHP (Analysis Hierarchy Process)**

*Description: A1 = Conducting Training of Management and Creativity in production; A2 = Determining the planting pattern; A3 = Determining the plant varieties; A4 = Socialization of climate change and anticipation; A5 = Climate Information; A6 = Information of planting season and plant species; A7 = Conducting training to improve technical skills; A8 = Conducting training in accessing climate information; A9 = Anticipating the climate change; A10 = Intensifying the role of field agricultural guidance; A11 = Giving assistance of production technologies related to climate change; A12 = Giving guidance and consultation related to climate change; A13 = Giving assistance in accessing ICT*
skill training as well as information related to the production process. The information needed includes the climate predictions, forecast of early planting season and the types of plants to be grown.

(2) Priority Determination for the Farmer Empowerment Program in Anticipating the Climate Change in Central Java

The aspects of Human Resources include (1) conducting the training to improve technical skills, (2) conducting the training to access to climate information, (3) Anticipating the climate change, (4) Intensifying the role of field agricultural guidance. The weights of each criterion in the human resource aspects can be seen in Figure 3. In this figure, it seems that the criteria with the highest priority is the anticipation to the climate change (weight value of 0.589); then successively followed by the training to improve technical skills (weight value of 0.170); intensifying the role of field guidance (weight value of 0.147); and conducting the training to access to the climate information (weight value of 0.09). The value of ratio inconsistency is $0.06 < 0.1$ (the maximum limit), which means that the results of the analysis can be accepted. Every aspect considered in the empowerment program to anticipate the climate change in Central Java with the value weights is presented in Figure 3.

Based on the opinion of the respondents, the most important aspect of human resources in the farmer empowerment program in order to anticipate the climate change is anticipating the climate change that may occur. An important implication of this is that the government must give information on the climate change that will occur that may have an impact on the agricultural sector. It also gives a solution for the farmers to anticipate the climate change that may occur. One of them is by giving the technical skill training to deal with the climate change, so the farmers will be better prepared in facing the climate change that will occur.

Farmer training in anticipation of climate change
change according to Laily, Heru and Farida (2013) can be done with two approaches, namely:

1. Approach based on task. This approach is carried out with the aim to improve skills and training so that participants can solve the problems at hand. In this case specifically to improve skills and solve problems in the management of farming. Participants can be individuals or groups.

2. The approach based on the system. The goal of this approach so that farmers can have the competence to understand the situation and can take the right decision, especially with regard to environmental and sustainability of production systems in the agricultural sector of food crops.

To access the training information on climate and anticipation to changes in climate, in real terms it has been done through the airy school special climate and its effects. The impacts that occurred due to climate change in General is the droughts, floods and pests.

The role of agricultural extension officers in fields largely determine the success of government programs in the agricultural sector. Because the extension officers are Messenger program information about the latest technologies of san that can be used and applied. In addition the extension officers also have a duty to accompany farmers in the process of the management of farming (Herminingsih, 2014). Thus the position of extension officers are very strategic.

The second aspect to consider in the farmer empowerment program in order to anticipate the climate change in Central Java is a technology that consists of (1) Giving assistance of the production technology related to the climate change (2) Giving guidance and consultation related to the climate change; (3) Giving assistance in accessing to ICT. In the aspect of technology the main priority is giving assistance of production technology (weight value of 0.515). Then the next priority in a row is the assistance of guidance and consultation related to the climate change (weight value of 0.300); giving assistance in accessing to ICT (weight value of 0.186). The value of Ratio Inconsistency = 0.000. The value of ratio inconsistency is 0.000 <0.1 (the maximum limit), which means that the result of the analysis can be accepted. Each alternative of the aspect of technology considered in the farmer empowerment program to anticipate the climate change in Central Java with the value weights is presented in Figure 4.

The important implication of this is that in order to anticipate the climate changes in Central Java in the farmer empowerment program from the aspect of technology, the government gives assistance of production technology that can be used by the farmers in facing the climate change that may occur. Technology policy formulation in anticipation of climate change needs to be done to improve production technology (Hayun dkk, 2013). The necessary production technology by farmers can be the use of superior varieties that are resistant to climate change and agricultural machine tool utilization.

Guidance and consultation related to climate change undertaken by the Department of agriculture, in particular the related food

![Figure 4. Priority of Aspect of the Technology in the Empowerment Program](image)

Source: Primary Data processed (2014)

*Description:* A11 = Giving assistance of production technology related to the climate change; A12 = Giving guidance and consultation related to the climate change; A13 = Giving assistance in accessing to ICT
crops and horticulture that coordinate with 7.7. For activities in the fields can be implemented directly by the individual or related service (extension officers) and groups. The activities implemented in the Group generally involves a group of farmers, communities, community leaders, private sector and academia.

The third aspect to consider in the farmer empowerment program in order to anticipate the climate change is the aspect of institutional through some alternatives: (1) socialization of the climate change and anticipating it, (2) climate information, (3) information of the planting season and the plant types. In the aspect of institutional aspect, the top priority is the giving of information of the planting season and the types of plant growing season (weight value of 0.583). Next, the socialization of the climate change and anticipating it (weight value of 0.320); and the climate information (weight value of 0.097), with Ratio Inconsistency = 0.03. The value of ratio inconsistency is 0.03 <0.1 (the maximum limit), which means that the result of the analysis can be accepted. Each institutional aspect is considered in the farmer empowerment program to anticipate the climate change and the value of the weight is presented in Figure 5.

Based on Figure 5, the important implication of this is that the government gives the information about planting season and plant types that is appropriate to the season at that time. Therefore the government through BMKG and the department of agriculture of food crops and horticulture always gives information on the climate and plant types that are suitable for planting during the season at that time. Climate change information relating to the period of planting and the types of plants that fit needs to be packaged in a language that is easy to be understood by the user. In addition it should meet the needs of users and to timely and right on target. Thus can be used to make the right decisions, so that losses can be reduced or increased profits instead. Based on the analysis of the Boer and Surmaini (2006), it is noted that the farmers were responsive to information climate forecasts will benefit a larger economy than not responsive.

Institutional aspects in the program of empowerment cannot be detached from the resources available in the Community farmers, good financial resources or non-financial. Based on the results of the research of Suradisastra (2008), in the process of empowerment of the institutional aspect, the community should be included. This is done for several purposes, including: (1) Program in accordance with local needs and real; (2) Improve public participation in the development process.

The last aspect to consider in the farmer empowerment in order to anticipate the climate change in Central Java is the aspect of production. The aspect of production presented in this research consists of some alternatives: (1) conducting the training of management and creativity in production, (2) determining the planting pattern, (3) determining the variety of plants. From the three alternatives on the production aspect, the main alternative considered
by the respondents in the empowerment program to anticipate the climate change is determining the planting pattern (weight value of 0.591). Furthermore is conducting the training of management and creativity of production (weight value of 0.297); and determining the plant varieties (weight value of 0.112) with the Ratio Inconsistency = 0.09. The value of ratio inconsistency is 0.09 < 0.1 (the maximum limit), which means that the results of the analysis can be accepted. Each alternative considered in the farmer empowerment program to anticipate the climate change and the value of the weight is presented in Figure 6.

From Figure 6 it shows that the main alternative in the aspect of production in order to anticipate the climate change is determining the appropriate planting pattern. It can help the farmers in Central Java in facing the climate change. The proper planting pattern will minimize the losses of the farmers due to the climate change happening today.

Cropping patterns to determine the required information about the planting time with regard to climate change. Such information can be found in three forms (Subayono and Elsa, 2007), namely:
(1) Map calendar scheduling system is planting, planting. Are real farmers already apply the cropping calendar based on the natural phenomena that occur in each area. However, along with the population and the loss of most of the flora and fauna that serves as an indicator of lead to the application of the traditional way of becoming less accurate (Syahbudin and Rantunuwu, 2007). As a guide, Agroklimat and Hydrology Research Hall has compiled a map of planting calendar for food crops in Java didaskan on a range of climate scenarios.
(2) Prediction of rainfall, is done by analyzing the monthly rainfall forecast in some areas where agricultural production, especially for the purposes of the agricultural sector
(3) Map the estimated summer and rainy season, done with the analysis of spatial locality. This map is continually updated so that steps can be taken to anticipate the next cropping patterns.

To determine the varieties of crops, to do research in the field of plant breeding. Such research aims to get these kinds of plants, particularly food crops that are resistant to environmental stress (Budiastuti, 2010). Thus be produced new varieties of food plants, tolerant climate change, so that the losses of farmers in the production process can be minimised.

(3) Determining the General Synthesis of the Target of the Farmer Empowerment Program in Anticipating the Climate Change
The overall results of analysis show that the priority scale of criteria and alternative of the farmer empowerment program in anticipating the climate change in Central Java by Analysis Hierarchy Process (AHP) can be seen in Figure 7.

Figure 6. Priority of Production in the Farmer Empowerment Program to anticipate the climate change in Central Java
Source: Primary Data processed (2014)

Description: A1 = conducting the training of management and creativity of production; A2 = determining the planting pattern; A3 = determining the plant varieties
From Figure 7 it appears that the three main priorities in the farmer empowerment program in anticipating the climate change in Central Java by looking at all aspects and alternatives are (1) anticipating the climate change (weight of 0.236). The government anticipates the climate change as well as possible and helps the farmers in facing the climate change so as to minimize the loss of the farmers; (2) giving assistance of the production technology that is appropriate to the climate change at that time (weight of 0.134). The appropriate technology in production in agriculture can help the farmers to prepare for the climate change; (3) giving information about the planting season and the plant types (weight of 0.120). In facing the climate change that will occur, the government should give information about the planting season and the plant types that is appropriate to the coming or recent season. It can help the farmers to prepare for the climate change at that time. Therefore, it can minimize the greater loss on the farmers due to the climate change, so that it can maintain the farming continuity. The value of overall ratio inconsistency (overall analysis) is 0.07 <0.1 (the maximum limit), which means that the result of the analysis can be accepted.

(4) Empowerment Strategy
Based on the result of AHP, then a strategy of the food crop farmer empowerment in anticipating the climate change is arranged as shown in Figure 8. Figure 8 shows that in the process of empowerment there should be a synergistic cooperation among the farmers as an object / target with the related stakeholders. The stakeholders consist of the academics, government, businessmen/private and public. The empowerment programs are conducted in four aspects:

1. Aspect of production, including the management training, the determination of planting patterns and varieties having been adjusted to the recent climate condition.
2. Aspect of institutional with the socialization of climate change, climate information and information planting.
3. Aspect of human resources, including the training of technical skills, the training of access to the climate, the climate anticipation and optimizing the field agricultural guidance.
4. Aspect of technology with program of production technology, consultation on climate
change and access to ICT (especially with regard to climate change)

Soesilowati, Dyah Rini and Widiyanto (2011) research results recommends that the empowerment of farmers should do integrated aspects of financial, research, development and production. From the side of the perpetrators, the integration needs to be done between relevant agencies/stakeholders. According to Ridwan and Nurul Chazanah (2013), cooperation and sinergisme between the perpetrators of the stakeholders need to be done on an ongoing basis. The things that are necessary in the process of sinergisme, among others, planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation are integrated. The process sinergisme is not just done in the agricultural sector but also in the need in other sectors are interlinked, such as the transportation sector.

Besides involving the stakeholders and implemented in four aspects, the anticipation of the climate change also needs to apply the principle of 5 R (Dedik Budianta, 2012) in its implementation. Principle of 5 R consists of:

1. Reference
2. Respect / Care
3. Restrain (Control)
4. Redistribution (equalization)
5. Responsibility

Principle of 5 R basically is that the process of food crop production needs to pay attention to the carrying capacity of the land so as not to exceed the production capacity, maintain the natural balance and manage the land optimally. It is necessary to keep the production process viable and sustainable. Thus the food supply is relatively safe.

4. Conclusions

The empowerment strategy for the food crop farmers in anticipating the climate change in Central Java aims to reduce the decline in production or the crop failure. The empowerment is held on various aspects, particularly the aspects of human resources, technology, institutional and production with the involvement of the related stakeholders. The stakeholders involved in the empowerment process are the academics, the businessmen / private sector, the governments and society. To make the empowerment run well, it needs to have coordination and synergistic relationship between the objects (farmers) and the stakeholders in the management of production. In addition, it also needs the application of the principle of 5 R.
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6. Appendix

Table 1. Stages of Empowerment Strategy

| theoretical | empirical |
|-------------|-----------|
| what        | why       | how         | facts in the fields | actions need to be performed |
| identification or clarification of the problems | it needs a basic description of the characteristics of the regions / society, besides some determinant factors (empowerment). | determining the real needs of the society to increase the business. | the society is lack of reading / anticipating the market opportunity (due to the lack of access to business market information). | the government may facilitate the society in opening the access with business actors (upstream-downstream), financial institutions, university consumers, etc. |
|             | analyzing / clarifying the problems: the level of social empowerment is still low. | communication / networking between the farmers and other stakeholders have not been good yet. | | the government may take a role as a moderator to facilitate in increasing the empowerment. |
|             | developing relationship and communication with the society. | | | activating the roles of each stakeholder to cooperate in integrated way. |
| mobility or consulting | it needs data/information as the reference to select the problems and determine them collectively. |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                        | • stimulating the society to discuss the problems.                                                |
|                        | • there is no communication among the society about their business, problem solving, business prospective, market information. |
|                        | the government takes a role as the motivator of changes by giving assistance (production technique, management, marketing business, finance, etc.) and by cooperating with universities, non-governmental organizations, and other institutions having high commitment to the farmer empowerment program. |
|                        | • analyzing the problems together.                                                                |
|                        | • the government cooperates with the related parties to hold training or workshop to assist in the arrangement of development program planning for the groups of society. |
| organizing             | it needs a media or an organization that help to manage the administration of strategy implementa- |
|                        | tion and empowerment operational.                                                                 |
|                        | forming or building an organization with formal structure and having leadership spirit.            |
|                        | it has been formed but the role is not optimal.                                                    |
|                        | • the government cooperates with the related parties to assist the management of organization administration for the groups of society. |
education, training, and counseling

- it needs the education, training, and counseling that may help the society to have more skills, ability and power.
- educating the society to know / perform their rights and duties to the organization aim and its continuity.
- it has been done but is not optimal yet.
- the government cooperates with the related parties (like universities and non-governmental organizations) in holding training / workshop that may help the arrangement of program planning of increasing various business skills to the society to make them more empowered.

business guidance

- it needs guidance through the demonstration to help the society to have more skills, ability and power.
- guiding the society to perform their skill and ability to make them stronger and more powerful.
- the guidance has been initiated but the result is not optimal yet.
- the government needs to keep motivating the efforts of guiding (like organization, management, technique) in cooperating with universities, non-governmental organizations or other institutions having high commitment to the farmer empowering program.
- activating / increasing the role of each stakeholder to cooperate in integrated way.

Source : Susilowati (2004)