Understanding of social capital condition among red guava farmers in Tambahrejo Village, Pageruyung District, Kendal Regency

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Abstract. The aim of the study was to explore the potential of social capital and growing income of red guava farmers in Tambahrejo Village, Pageruyung District, Kendal Regency. Interview and observation were used for data collection. Set of Questionnaire was developed to answer research’ goal. All member of farmer group I ACC (Kelompok Tani Makmur I ACC) were chosen as respondents in this research. Data were analyzed using multiple regressions. The result shows that there was significant relationship between social capital in community and the income of the red guava farmers. Farmer’ group was found as a media to improve farmers’ knowledge and networking. Farmers group facilitated farmers to market red guava product. Moreover, wife of the farmers established women group or KWT (Kelompok Wanita Tani). The result found that KWT contributed to improve family’s income. KWT also promote activities to help product’s diversification of red guava. Both farmer group and KWT provided activities such as saving and loans, it means there was trust among member of farmer group.

Keywords: social capital, red guava, farmers

1. Introduction

*Psidium guajava* or red guava has been played as important commodity for farmers and their family in Kendal Regency. Based on secondary data from Statistic Office of Kendal Regency, the production of red guava in Kendal Regency has been increased due to intervention of the local government through improvement of cultivation technique new planting area. Red guava have highly economic value for farmers, however the farmers have problems to improve productivity; plant disease control and nutrient management, for instance [1]. In the beginning, red guava had been developed as conservation crop rotation with lack of information about cultivation techniques and sufficient information on guava agribusiness. Nowadays, both farmers and local government have been thinking how to make red guava farming system become more profitable and sustainable [2]. In addition, development of agriculture sectors has been linked to improve farmers’ skill and increase their participation in farmers’ group. Hence, it need to integrate all the activities in agriculture sectors based on optimizing the utilization of existing local resources through farmers’ group [3].

Extension services have been promoted over the years, including row spacing methods in order to improve cultivation methods. Farmers planted seeds without using exact plant spacing and it would affect productivity. The impacts of improper spacing method resulted in the growth of the guava plant. Through farmers’ group activity, extension agents introduced new technology in order to improve
farmers’ skill [4]. It can be concluded how the farmers’ group had important role in development of agriculture sector, especially in red guava farming system.

Social capital has been declared as a result of a process of social and economic organization, such as trust, reciprocity, informational and economic exchange, formal and informal group’s activities. Improving social capital situation in the community will improve collective action, as well as social and economic condition [5]. Putnam [6] defined social capital as mutual trust among member of community. Social capital is designed as social institution involving network, norms, social trust and it will increase social collaboration through coordination and cooperation to reach social goals.

A research by [5] showed that agriculture sectors has been linked to social capital using indicators, such as network and membership (where the people link to) and social trust (how member organization can trust each others). In addition, a research by Bebbington in 2008, told that the success of poverty reduction program in rural farm area had been associated with improving the role of community organization through participation and social network [7]. Social capital has consequence including social access, social control, improve social economic condition by social network. Moreover, Warni and Hidir [8] had investigated several dimensions of social capital in Toraja Tribe, namely integration, linkage, organizational integrity and synergy. These all of the dimenstions worked to keep member of Toraja Tribe to uphold the values of unity and togetherness. Meanwhile, there is no report on how the social capital worked to increase income among red guava farmers. Based on consideration above mentioned, this study attempted to find out the effect of social capital on improving income of red guava farmers in Tambahrejo Village, Pageruyung District, Kendal Regency.

2. Materials and methods

The study focused on of red guava farmers’ group in Tambahrejo Village, Pageruyung District, Kendal Regency. Data were compiled from primary data through interview and observation. In addition, secondary data were gathered to improve data analysis process through government offices or farmers’ group. It followed by data entry process and data analysis. Survey method was used in this research based on interview with red guava farmers in Kendal Regency. Set of Questionnaire was developed to answer research goal. All member of farmer group I ACC (Kelompok Tani Makmur I ACC) were chosen as respondents in this research. In total, there were 32 respondents in this research. Data were analyzed through editing, coding, and tabulating. Moreover, data were analyzed using descriptive analysis and multiple regression analysis. The research used the theory of social capital as independent variables. It was proposed by Putnam [6] and consisting of the elements of trust (X1), social networks (X2) and collective action (X3), meanwhile income of the farmers as dependent variables (Y).

3. Result and discussion

This study will explored three dimensions of social capital, namely trust (X1), social networks (X2) and collective action (X3), meanwhile income of the farmers was dependent variables (Y).

2.1. Trust

Based on interview with the respondents, trust was defined into three categories, trust among farmers (individual), trust in the organization and trust in the government services (organization). The respondents told that they trust their co-farmers, for example they could loan money to other farmers. The respondents responded that they had a high level of trust in the farmers’ group. Respondents gave examples, the farmers believed that the farmers’ group had good recording of common money or the farmers’ group would help them whenever they had problems. Moreover, respondents agreed that the government gave many services to improve their condition as well as extension agents would help to solve farmers’ problem. Social trust may provide opportunities for farmers to access services, information and resources that will allow them to improve their capacities in these areas [9]. Trust can create good relationship between individual or in a group. Trust is a desire to take risks in the social relationships or the feeling that others will do something as expected and will always act in a pattern
of mutually supportive actions. Trust is believed that people’ action will not act to harm themselves and their groups[10]. Trust is needed to maintain the integrity of a relationship. Based on data analysis, trust was one of elements to build a farmers’ group. Trust arises from the existence of honesty and discipline according to mutual norms. Trust requires a process of the relationship between individual and involve in daily life [11].

2.2. Social network
Interviewed revealed that farmers will get opportunity to improve their income by joining the farmers’ group. The group provided many activities that can improve income and farm management. Most of the farmers said they need to interact and communicate with co-farmers. Farmers also believed that the farmers’ group will help them to get in touch with other stakeholder, government or private sectors, for instance. Moreover, based on observation and interview, wife of the farmers also established women group or KWT (Kelompok Wanita Tani). The result found that KWT contributed to improve family’s income through women’ training. KWT also promote activities to help product’ diversification of red guava. Interaction and communication created mutual network [12]. One of advantage of network is to link with information or new knowledge and foster a sense of kinship among farmers. The strong social network can be seen from the cohesiveness and participation of each member whenever the group held an activity. In general, social network can be developed through the willingness of the farmers to take part and cooperate in farmers’ group [6,10].

2.3. Collective actions
Collective action can be formed by activities done collectively. The respondents shared their thought related to collective actions. The farmers’ motivation to involve in collective action were sharing knowledge and experience, increase income, togetherness, and only two respondents answered they did not know the answer. Farmers also raised concern about the reason others farmers did not joint farmers’ group, such as laziness, busy, and personal problem with other farmers. Farmers will think what kind of benefit they get when joining farmers’ group. It needs the same feeling of reciprocity among group member or between farmers and the group in order maintaining and strengthening social capital. This plays an important role in the formation of groups. Mutual acceptance and mutual assistance among group members emerge from social interaction. It will create sensitive feeling to fellow group members to act according collective action [12].

2.4. Farmers’ income
The definition of farmers’ income in this paper based on the concept of net farm income which is all the return from farming activities after the farm’ expenses have been paid [13]. The calculation of net farm income was subtraction total farm expenses from total farm income. The farmers’ income of red guava farming system was IDR 6.554.698,53/year or 27.71% of all farming activities’ income. This result was higher than interest rate (20%/year). It can be said that the red guava farming activities had opportunity to increase family’ income. It needs government’ effort to help the farmers to improve farming management, provide assistant as well as open new market of red guava products.

2.5. Multiple regression analysis
Result of regression analysis shows that trust (X1), social networks (X2) and collective action(X3), had positive influence towards farmers’ income (Y).

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Y = 1.24 + 0.24 X_1 + 0.126 X_2 + 1.316 X_3
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The result of overall F test for the null hypothesis shows that all independent variables had significant influence towards farmers’ income in red guava farming system. Result of t test of partial regression analysis, trust (X1) had significant influence (P < 0.05) towards farmers’ income. Hence, if the farmers increase their trust while others factors are constant, it would increase farmers’ income. Social networks (X2) had influence toward farmers’ income. It can be said, if the farmers increase
their social network while others factors are constant, it would increase farmers’ income. Moreover, when the farmers are able to increase their collective action, it would increase farmers’ income. This condition based on result of t test, collective action(X3) had significant influence (P < 0.05)towards farmers’ income (Y). It shows that social capital is a very valuable asset. Social capital provide the basis for social cohesion. It encourages people to work with each other and not only with people they know directly will gain mutual benefits [14]. The study revealed that social capital is an important tool to explore business opportunities. All stakeholders in agribusiness system of red guava need to connected each other. A farmers’ group is created because of the social ties among its members on daily regular basis. Groups can be formed on the basis of cultural similarity, professional and residential religion[14]. Red guava farmers’ group is a social bond between farmers who form organizations to interact in social relationships based on a common goal. The study of social capital benefit to get a better understanding of how society works to achieve common goal, increase income, for instance [15].

3. Conclusion
Based on the results, it can be concluded that social capital is very important in a group or organization. Trust, social networks and collective action have a role in maintaining relationship and increase income. It need honest attitude and discipline toward the social norms the farmers do not to deviate from the rules and agreements. Interaction can create solidarity and easy to share knowledge and information. It is important to maintain good relationships with other members. Farmers’ group have to promote collective action to achieve common goal. Avoid conflict within the organization is also recommended.

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