

# The Role The Tani Groups (Gapoktan) In Increasing The Welfare Of The Family In The Kulwaru Village, Wates, Kulon Progo

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## Abstract

This study aims to describe: 1) The combined role of farmer groups in improving family welfare; 2) Supporting and inhibiting factors faced by farmer groups combined in improving family welfare.

This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The subjects of this study were the manager of the Gapoktan Kulwaru Village and members of the Gapoktan Desa Kulwaru. Determination of research subjects using purposive sampling techniques. The setting in this study was in the Kulwaru Village. Data collection techniques are done using observation, interviews, and documentation. The researcher is the main instrument in conducting research which is assisted by observation guidelines, documentation guidelines, and interview guidelines. Techniques used in data analysis are data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Triangulation is used to explain the validity of data using source triangulation.

The results showed that: 1) a) The role of the gapoktan in improving family welfare are (1) providing inputs to farming; (2) providing capital; (3) providing irrigation water; (4) providing information; (5) marketing agricultural products collectively; (6) regulating farmer groups and agricultural activities; (7) increasing food security; and (8) regulates the rural economy. b) Efforts by Gapoktan in improving family welfare are through: (1) skills training; (2) counseling. c) (1) The situation of the farming community after the farmer group union: from the implementation of training and extension activities the community has the ability to empower the community and there has been an increase in the welfare of the farming community. (2) The situation of farming families in meeting the needs of clothing, shelter, and food has been fulfilled and the education of children has also reached the level of high school. 2) a) Supporting factors are (1) participation of Gapoktan members; (2) the existence of adequate technology; (3) there is motivation from the management and members of Gapoktan. b) The inhibiting factors are (1) lack of capital; (2) low human resources.

**Keywords:** *the role of Gapoktan, improving, family welfare*

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## Introduction

One of the demands for developing countries like Indonesia in this rapidly growing era is national development. National development can be carried out well if there is good coordination from all elements of the country, both society and government. Human or individual development and society is a matter of the nature of national development. One area that is part of national development is economic development. Sustainable economic development is very important because it is closely related to the level of community welfare. A country is said to be advanced if welfare can be felt by most of its population. Improvement of people's welfare will have a positive impact on improving the standard of living of the community (Abler, 2010; Solikhah, 2016).

Indonesia is an agricultural country that has abundant natural resources so that most of its population works as farmers. Plains and fertile land that are spread throughout the archipelago in the archipelago is a potential area that opens opportunities for its inhabitants to grow crops and raise livestock so that agriculture can contribute to the welfare of society. Agriculture is still a source of livelihood for the majority of the workforce in Indonesia. Agricultural development aims to increase the income and standard of living of farmers, growth of employment opportunities, increase household food security, and alleviate rural poverty.

Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in September 2013 the number of poor people in Indonesia was still 28.6 million people. Approximately 62.8% of this amount is in villages

with main livelihoods in the agricultural sector. Poverty in the village is a major national problem whose overcoming is a top priority in the implementation of social welfare development. Economic development based on agriculture and rural areas, both directly and indirectly, will have an impact on reducing the number of poor people and the implementation of social welfare can also proceed as has become a common hope (Fatchiya et al., 2018).

At present the quality of human resources working in the agricultural sector is still low compared to other sectors. Viewed from the level of education they are very low and rarely have sufficient knowledge and expertise in agricultural science, and they are involved in the agricultural sector because of the guidance and experience gained from their parents who have been passed down through generations (Šajbidorová et al., 2016; Fauzan, 2014).

Many problems faced by farmers, both directly related to production, marketing of agricultural products, and problems faced in everyday life. The problem that is often faced by farmers in terms of production is usually in the form of crop failure and from the price level is usually in the form of very low farm product sales prices. Therefore farmers cannot meet the shortfall in agricultural production costs and the cost of living necessities due to losses. Other fundamental problems found in this field also agree with (Nanda et al., 2005; Zakaria (2008) is the difficulty of access to sources of capital, information, and technology. In addition farmer organizations are still expected to be a principal component in agricultural development, but the conditions are currently unsatisfactory (Dethier & Effenberger, 2012; Suhaeti et al, 2014). Therefore farmer organizations can be judged to be still weak. Such conditions cause the farming community to be poor, powerless and left behind.

The problems experienced by farmers are not only in agriculture, but also in the daily lives of farmers. Farmers who have a family at home will be very dependent on their livelihood, namely agriculture. Therefore the income obtained from agriculture will affect the welfare of the farmer's family. Development does not only involve agricultural issues, but also development is carried out within the farmer's family. Prosperous family development is holistic, integrated and sustainable family empowerment. Development is done by placing the family as the central point of development. Families, especially families who are left behind for some reason, are helped to develop

all family functions that are considered weak (Vidickiene & Gedminaite-Raudone, 2018; Haryanto & Budi, 2020).

In an effort to develop and improve productivity and competitiveness, the policy line must be focused on efforts to increase the ability of rural communities by utilizing the agricultural base as the main key to developing competitive industrial businesses. With the empowerment of rural communities as the main base, it is expected that later rural communities will become rational societies that participate in national development and understand the meaning of market mechanisms so that they become a major force. Community empowerment is closely related to non-formal education (Corral et al., 2017). Non-formal education approach is based on community needs by exploring and using what is in the community to develop knowledge, attitudes, and skills towards independence. Community empowerment through non-formal education with a group approach or social group work to overcome the problems above is with government programs in agricultural and rural development through Gapoktan (Siddiq, D. M., & Faqih, A., 2020). The formation and development of Gapoktan are formed in villages using the principle of local independence which is achieved through the principles of economics and empowerment. Gapoktan becomes a liaison institution between farmers in one village and other institutions outside it. Gapoktan has functions as fulfillment of agricultural capital (Oja, H., Moento, P. A., & Yusuf, A. P., 2020)

Most of the people who live in the Kulwaru Village area work as farmers. Most of the areas in the Kulwaru Village area become agricultural land for the people who reside, therefore it is undeniable that most of the residents work as farmers. Farmers in Kulwaru Village in their daily lives are very dependent on the paddy fields which are the only land farmers earn through their harvests. Even so it still cannot meet the needs of daily life (Tan, S. S., & Mailena, L., 2021).

One of the growing gapoktan is gapoktan which is located in Kulwaru Village, Wates District, Kulon Progo Regency. This Gapoktan is fostered by Kulwaru Village, which consists of 11 farmer groups in each hamlet. Local environments that have different potentials can form farmer group combinations as a means to improve their knowledge and skills in agriculture, share experiences to solve problems in the field either through agricultural extension agents or between farmer groups. In addition, farmer groups also develop reinforcement both in terms of capital,

fertilizer supply, feed supply, and partnership development.

In a social group work as a vehicle for community empowerment and learning, especially farmers who attend the farmer group union will also be empowered, independent, and prosperous. Empower with the knowledge and skills gained to utilize its environmental resources and take advantage of business opportunity information, because empowering a group means empowering individuals. Therefore, to prove the influence (contribution) of farmer group union in empowerment of members of farmer groups, researchers are interested in raising a study entitled "The Role Joint Farmers Group (Gapoktan) in Improving Family Welfare in Kulwaru Village, Wates District, Kulon Progo Regency".

### Method

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. This research was carried out in Kulwaru Village, Wates District, Kulon Progo Regency. The research subjects consisted of Gapoktan management and Gapoktan members. In this study the data in the form of descriptive taken from observations, interviews and documentation. The main instruments used in this study are the researchers themselves assisted by interview guidelines, observation guidelines, and structured pediman documentation made by the researchers themselves. Data collection techniques used are observation, interviews, and documentation. The data analysis technique used in this study is descriptive qualitative, meaning that the data obtained in the study are reported as is and then interpreted qualitatively to draw conclusions. Data analysis is a way to organize data into categories, describe into units, do synthesis, arrange into patterns, choose what is important and what will be studied, and make conclusions so that it is easily understood by oneself or others (Sugiyono, 2009 : 244). Data analysis techniques used are data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

### Results and Discussion

#### The Role of Gapoktan in Improving Family Welfare in Kulwaru Village

##### 1. Provision of Farmer Business Inputs

Gapoktan has a role in facilitating all forms of needs of farmers or farmer groups such as subsidized fertilizers, medicines, and seeds (input farming). The inputs from the farming business come from distributors, authorized retailers, and the agriculture department. Each

farmer group will submit a request that is known by Gapoktan in accordance with what is needed by the farmer group. Then Gapoktan will look for these needs to distributors, official retailers appointed by the government, and the agriculture service to be distributed to farmer groups.

##### 2. Capital Provision

Gapoktan has a role in facilitating the financing or capital of farmer businesses or farmer groups incorporated in Gapoktan, through the Agribusiness Microfinance Institution (LKMA) owned by Gapoktan. The capital came from assistance such as Farmer Managed Extension Activities (FMA) and Rural Agribusiness Development (PUAP). Farmers or farmer groups are allowed to borrow the capital provided they only fulfill their production needs such as fertilizer, medicines and seeds. The repayment of the capital loan can be done when it is through the harvest period so that it has money to pay off the loan.

##### 3. Irrigation Water Supply

Gapoktan has a role in facilitating farmers or farmer groups in providing irrigation water. Gapoktan can work together with Water User Farmers' Association (P3A) in relation to irrigation water, starting from procurement, handling, and maintenance. Irrigation water is important for irrigating paddy fields when they are about to enter planting, tillage, and soil maintenance. These irrigation waterways have covered and are spread throughout the paddy fields in the Kulwaru Village area so that the water needed by the farmers for their paddy fields can be fulfilled.

##### 4. Information Providers with Counseling through Farmer Groups

Gapoktan has the role of facilitating farmers or farmer groups through extension activities by providing information needed by farmers or farmer groups to support their activities in agriculture. This extension activity aims to provide guidance to farmers or farmer groups so that they can be more advanced and have a broad insight in agriculture. In this extension activity, farmer group union can work together with the Agricultural Extension Office (BPP) to conduct activities such as counseling on pest pests, counseling about cropping patterns, and counseling on information technology for agriculture.

##### 5. Collective Marketing of Results

Gapoktan has the role of facilitating farmers or farmer groups in marketing

agricultural products together (collectively). The agricultural products can be distributed by farmer group union to small traders and big traders (collectors). In addition, Gapoktan can also market or sell their own agricultural products from members of their farmer groups. Farmers or farmer groups can also market their own agricultural products by asking information from the Gapoktan about the marketing of other agricultural products and farmers or farmer groups can also market themselves without going through Gapoktan.

#### **6. Acting as a Central Institution in a Strategic and Built System**

Gapoktan has the role of providing facilities in the form of the needs of farmers and farmer groups. All forms of shortage of farmers or farmer groups' needs will be facilitated by Gapoktan. Gapoktan will help meet all the needs of farmers or farmer groups in accordance with their requests. Therefore Gapoktan also has a role as a central institution in an established and strategic system, for example Gapoktan is involved in the distribution of subsidized seeds. Gapoktan is also a strategic institution that will summarize and regulate all agricultural activities in the Kulwaru Village area.

#### **7. Role in Improving Food Security**

The role of Gapoktan in the Kulwaru Village is considered not able to increase food security in the region. However, gapoktan can also be said to be at least able to maintain food security in the Kulwaru Village. This is shown by the farmers being able to meet their food needs in daily life through their agricultural products. But in reality there are still many farmers who have not fulfilled their needs such as clothing and boards that are still makeshift in this Kulwaru Village.

#### **8. Gapoktan as a Rural Economic Business Institution (LUEP)**

Gapoktan can be said as a Rural Economic Business Institution (LUEP). This can be said so because Gapoktan can provide capital loans to farmers or farmer groups whose source of funds comes from the government or the private sector. Then Gapoktan can distribute and market agricultural products from farmers or farmer groups to be sold alone by Gapoktan or distribute to large traders (collectors) and small traders. Besides Gapoktan can also provide facilities to farmer groups in the procurement of seeds.

### **Efforts by Gapoktan in Improving Family Welfare in Kulwaru Village**

#### **1. Skills Training**

Skills training is a form of effort by Gapoktan to provide additional skills so that they have many skills. Various kinds of skills training have been carried out by Gapoktan, for example, such as training in making organic fertilizer. Raw materials for making organic fertilizer can be obtained easily in the environment around them so there is no need to spend a lot of cost in making or procuring fertilizer. In addition, the holding of this skills training is a form of empowerment process for Gapoktan members.

The holding of this skills training is expected that the members of Gapoktan will become more empowered who are able to produce their own fertilizer through mutual cooperation. Therefore, by holding this skills training, it is expected that Gapoktan members not only have additional skills but are also able to empower their members so that they can become strong, resilient and independent Gapoktan members so that their daily lives become more prosperous.

#### **2. Counseling**

This extension activity is one of the ways by Gapoktan in the welfare of Gapoktan members by increasing the knowledge and information of Gapoktan members. This counseling is also a process of empowerment because some members of the Gapoktan only work as farmers, so with this counseling, Gapoktan members can become empowered and independent capable of overcoming the problems they face. For example through counseling about pests and diseases. Gapoktan members can find out how to overcome the problems of pests and diseases they get when they attend counseling held by Gapoktan.

Information about the technology that is developing at this time also needs to be known by farmers so that they will not be left behind. Therefore it is expected that through this extension activity farmers can be open-minded so that they have extensive knowledge and information so that farmers can be more independent and empowered.

### **The Situation of Farmer Communities After Gapoktan in Efforts to Improve Family Welfare Through Empowering Farmers in Kulwaru Village**

The results of the implementation of the empowerment of the farming community through training programs and counseling will continue to be monitored and improved to match the expectations desired by the farming community of Kulwaru Village. The state of the community after empowerment through a training and counseling program conducted by Gapoktan in an effort to improve family welfare include: First, by holding skills training from the farmer group union farmers can have additional skills, be able to improve their abilities, and better understand HR and potential owned by Kulwaru Village. Second, the community as a member of Gapoktan can gain knowledge and insight by holding a counseling program from Gapoktan. Third, by following a program of training and outreach activities, it can train farming communities in independent entrepreneurs that are useful for earning additional income. The implementation of training and counseling program activities from Gapoktan as a form of empowerment can also have an impact on the welfare of the farming community by increasing community income and changing the mindset of the farming community.

From the statement above about the situation after the training and counseling program activities from Gapoktan as a form of empowerment in Kulwaru Village, it can be concluded that the training and extension activities program from Gapoktan has a role in: educating the farming community in Kulwaru Village to have skills and knowledge, prosper the life of the welfare in particular families and farming communities in general through empowering farmers, can create new jobs for the people of Kulwaru Village in accordance with their potential and human resources, improving the economy of the Kulwaru Village community.

### **Supporting and Inhibiting Factors of Gapoktan in Improving Family Welfare in Kulwaru Village**

In every effort made to improve family welfare through the farmer empowerment program from Gapoktan there are certainly supporting factors and inhibiting factors. Supporting factors will affect the ongoing process of the program carried out by Gapoktan. Based on observations and interviews that the supporting factors in improving family welfare through the farmer empowerment program from Gapoktan are active participation of Gapoktan members, the existence of adequate agricultural technology, the motivation of the management and members of Gapoktan as well as

the activities that have been carried out by Gapoktan to encourage farmers become stronger, more resilient, independent, and empowered so that the welfare of life for the family will be achieved.

Besides supporting factors, there are also inhibiting factors in improving family welfare through the farmer empowerment program from Gapoktan. This can hamper the shared aspirations of farmers in Kulwaru Village. Based on the results of the study that the inhibiting factors in improving family welfare through farmer empowerment programs from Gapoktan are lack of capital, low human resources, lack of springs, and not yet compactness between one farmer group and another farmer group.

### **Conclusions**

The role of Gapoktan in improving family welfare in Kulwaru Village, Wates Subdistrict, Kulon Progo Regency includes facilitating farming input; financing or capital for farmer businesses; irrigation water supply; extension activities by providing information; collective marketing of agricultural products; facilitate all forms of shortages that are owned by farmers or farmer groups to help meet the demands of the needs of farmers or farmer groups; Gapoktan has been able to maintain food security; and is said to be the Rural Economic Business Institution (LUEP).

Supporting factors are the active participation of Gapoktan members, the existence of adequate agricultural technology, the motivation of the management and members of Gapoktan and the existence of activities to encourage farmers to become stronger, tougher, independent, and empowered. The inhibiting factors are the lack of capital, low human resources, lack of springs, and lack of cohesiveness between one farmer group and another.

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