HOW TO BUILT OPTIMISM OF FOOD’S FARMERS IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ERA

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Abstract: COVID-19 is spreading through the developing world. This written to describe how COVID-19 gave impact to agriculture sectors especially in food security. Methods in this research using review article and matching with actual conditions. Strategies that should be done to reduce farmer stress, raise enthusiasm, and increase optimism during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The first is farmer’s strategic efforts and actions. Farmers optimize the family's ability to increase capacity and capability. Farmers do Good Agriculture Pratices (GAP). Farmers partner with universities to obtain assistance and advocacy.

Keywords: COVID-19, Food Security, social-economic.

I. INTRODUCTION

As we know, the positive cases of Covid-19 are still growing. On March 10, the number infections had just passed 110,000 with about 4,000 deaths. In the following month, the number of people with COVID-19 increased 20-fold (to over 2 million) and the number of deaths more than 30-fold (to over 135,000). COVID-19 is spreading through the developing world. Many low- and middle-income countries are now reporting growing numbers of cases and imposing rigorous lockdown regulations in response, which impact all aspects of the economy.

Dozens of countries going into a recession, such as United States of America, France, South Korea, Singapore, and Thailand. This recession will spill over to the rest of the world through lower demand for trade and lower commodity prices. Developing economies will be hurt by the economic fallout caused by their own social distancing measures and by increased morbidity affecting the labor supply for farming and other business activity. And, according to Indonesian Central Bureau of Statistic’s data indicate Indonesian economic growth on 2020 second quarter minus 5.32 percent. Indonesian Minister of Finance said that recession, when there is economic growth recorded negative in two consecutive quarters.

This Covid-19 pandemic have many adverse impacts in life, including agribusiness sector. From past pandemics that the world has experienced, it has been shown that quarantines activities and economic growth and panic have an impact on human (Hanashima and Tomobe, 2012) but, the effect also occurs in agricultural activities. Agriculture is one of the most important sectors in human development and is related to food security (Abdelhedi and Zouari, 2020; Kogo et al., 2020; Lopez Ridaura et al., 2019).

II. WORLD IN THE MIDDLE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Food and Agriculture (FAO), in its Early Warning Early Action: Report on Food Security and Agriculture released April 2020, warned countries in the world to be aware of potential food crises that occur due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A food crisis has the potential to occur due to the implementation of lockdowns, social restrictions and travel restriction.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) prediction on global economic that world economic growth fell by 3%, the worst after the Malaise Crisis (The Great Depression) of the 1930s, the economies of developing countries grew by minus 2.2%, per capita income in more than 170 countries is decreasing. World GDP increases down. Distribution obstruction due to restrictions on transportation...
operations, decrease in the number of seasonal local / migrant workers, export restrictions / postponements, efforts to meet domestic needs, declining demand is due to weakening people's purchasing abilities, currency exchange rate depreciation, rising commodity prices, panic buying and food hoarding.

III. Indonesia in the middle of Covid-19 Era

Based on Early Warning Early Action: Report on Food Security and Agriculture, Indonesia is not at risk of experiencing a food crisis during April to June 2020. In 2019, Indonesia's Food Security was ranked 62 out of 113 countries in the world, with a total of 61.7 (The Economist 2019). This is the performance of agriculture in Indonesia:
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries in the first quarter of 2020 grew by 0.02%
- Agricultural Exports on February 2020: US $ 299.0 million and March 2020: US $ 317.3 million. Increase US $ 18.3 MILLION (6.12%)
- Farmer Exchange Rates on January 2020: 104.16 and Apr 2020: 100.32. Decreased 3.69%
- Foodstuff Inflation 2020 February 1.17%, March -0.15%, April -0.13%. Inflation Jan-April 2.66%.

IV. FOOD SUPPLY CHALLENGE 2020

The food supply chain is a network that connects an agricultural system (the farm) with the consumer's table, including processes such as manufacturing, packaging, distribution, and storage (Chen et al., 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to disrupt the production and distribution of food and agricultural products to meet people's needs.

One of FAO's roles is to promote that food value chains are not interrupted and continue to operate (FAO, 2020b). Thus, despite the restrictions that governments have imposed on the mobility of labor in agricultural systems, although with some problems, the supply of basic necessities is normally assured. The situation is different when it comes to goods that are imported or exported; due to the closure of borders international trade was interrupted, although after having defined security protocols to avoid the spread of the virus, trade stabilized (Siche, 2020).

In the report "Early Warning Early Action Report on Food Security and Agriculture" FAO warns about the potential for a food crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and drought. And, the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency predicts the potential for a drier dry season (starting June 2020) in agricultural production centers, especially in parts of Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan, South Sulawesi and Bali.

V. FACTUAL CONDITIONS OF AGRICULTURE (FARMERS) in INDONESIA

The trend of smallholder farmers is increasing. This includes social distancing, avoiding unnecessary travel, and a ban on congregations. Advice on self-isolation upon contact with suspected carriers of the virus is likely to impact the number of available inspectors and delivery staff critical
to ensuring verification and transportation of products. This will have pronounced implications for perishable goods such as meat and vegetables.

The Exchange Rate of Farmers and the wages of farm workers have decreased during Jan-May 2020. Because the output of the agricultural sector has decreased, the welfare of farmers (as indicated by the farmer exchange rate) has decreased.

![The Exchange Rate of Farmers Development in 2020](source: BPS, 2020)

The farmer exchange rate is the ratio between the price index received by farmers and the price index paid by farmers which is expressed as a percentage. The farmer exchange rate is one indicator in determining the level of farmer welfare. The agricultural sector absorbs 29.04% of the workforce but only grows 0.02%. On the employment side, the agricultural sector absorbs a workforce of 29% of the total Indonesian workforce, however, income in this sector is very low. This has the potential to increase the poverty rate from the agricultural sector.

Farm worker’s wages decreased. Although nominally the wages of agricultural laborers have increased, the inflation that occurs in the food sector is too high, causing real wages of agricultural laborers to decline.

![Farm worker's wages decreased](source: BPS, 2020)

VI. RESPONDING TO THE FACTUAL CONDITIONS OF AGRICULTURE

Showing many problems with the conditions of farmers and agriculture in Indonesia, a way is needed to build enthusiasm and optimism for all stakeholders, especially food commodity farmers, to see and respond to the future of agriculture in Indonesia. The Covid-19 pandemic is not clear when
it will end, but its impact is very pronounced on agriculture, especially for farmers. For that, we need "extraordinary" efforts.

Strategies that should be done to reduce farmer stress, raise enthusiasm, and increase optimism during the Covid-19 Pandemic between farmers, government, research institute, seed certification center, higher education, banking, insurance and cooperatives by procurement and distribution of production facilities (off-farm), primary production or farming (on-farm), processing or agro-industry, and marketing. And also, develop an attitude of optimism and fight pessimism. There is two way in make efforts and strategies action towards the uncertainty condition of COVID-19 pandemic.

The first is farmer’s strategic efforts and actions. Farmers optimize the family's ability to increase capacity and capability. Farmers do Good Agriculture Pratices (GAP). Farmers partner with universities to obtain assistance and advocacy. Through the Farmers' Group, they conduct deliberations on various problems to be submitted to the local Agriculture Office to find solutions. Farmers actively follow the instructor's directions

Then, government's strategic efforts and actions are the government provides counseling, intensive socialization that the state is ready to help Acceleration of incentive programs and farm capital stimulus. Empowerment of farmer groups in marketing, price guarantees and business risks. Integration of the Village Budget with labor-intensive programs in the agricultural sector. Utilizing information technology to realize integrated agriculture (smart farming).

V. CONCLUSIONS

The pandemic called COVID-19 disease has a great impact on the actions and activities of humanity, agriculture is not outside this impact. Strategies that should be done to reduce farmer stress, raise enthusiasm, and increase optimism during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The first is farmer’s strategic efforts and actions. Farmers optimize the family's ability to increase capacity and capability. Farmers do Good Agriculture Pratices (GAP). Farmers partner with universities to obtain assistance and advocacy.

REFERENCES


