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Analysis Of Income And Welfare Levels Of Nutmeg Farmers' Households In Negeri Saleman, West Seram Utara District, Central Maluku Regency

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the income of nutmeg farmers and to determine the level of household welfare of nutmeg farmers in Negeri Saleman, West North Seram District, Central Maluku Regency. This research was conducted in Negeri Saleman, West North Seram District, Central Maluku Regency in February 2024. The sampling method in this study used purposive sampling method, namely 45 respondents randomly selected. The data analysis method used in this research is quantitative method using income and welfare formulas. The results showed that the income of nutmeg farmers in Negeri Saleman, West North Seram District, Central Maluku Regency was quite high with an average income of 45 respondents in one harvest of Rp 57,667,089 and the welfare level of nutmeg farmers in Negeri Saleman, West North Seram District, Central Maluku Regency as many as 32 people in the prosperous category and 13 people in the category of not prosperous.

Keywords : Income, Welfare, Nutmeg Farmers

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is known as an agrarian country that relies on the agricultural sector both as a source of livelihood and as a pillar of development. The agricultural sector is divided into five subsectors: the food crop subsector, plantation subsector, forestry subsector, livestock subsector, and fisheries subsector. Plantation commodities are a

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potential asset with high economic value and have the potential for further development. The agricultural sector serves as the largest source of employment and a means of livelihood for the majority of the population, especially in rural areas.

One of the plantations that plays an important role and makes a significant contribution in Indonesia is the nutmeg plantation (Directorate General of Plantations, Ministry of Agriculture, 2019).

According to the Indonesian Agricultural Data Unit, Indonesia's nutmeg production in 2019 reached 43.97 thousand tons, generated from an area of 231.39 hectares and involving 254,201 households.

Nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans* Houtt) is one of Indonesia's native plants, widely found in Banda and surrounding areas (Rismunandar, 1992). Saleman is also an area in Central Maluku that has community-owned nutmeg plantations. Most residents in this region cultivate nutmeg and then sell it to the capital of Central Maluku Regency and Negeri Makariki. They do this to meet their daily needs, thereby improving the welfare of their families.

For nutmeg farmers in Negeri Saleman, the income from nutmeg sales significantly supports their livelihoods. Earnings from these sales are used not only to maintain their farmland and nutmeg plants but also to meet their daily living expenses.

Tabel 1. Area and Production of Nutmeg in Community Plantations in Maluku Province 2020-2022

Province/District	Area Size (Ha)	Production (Ton)	Productivity (Kg/Ha)	Number of Farmers (KK)
Maluku Tenggara Barat	13	2	183	50
Maluku Tenggara	2.970	419	305	1.736
Maluku Tengah	**11.942**	**2.463**	**331**	**15.255**
Buru	1.335	101	221	950
Kepulauan Aru	23	4	268	26
Seram Bagian Barat	2.870	253	264	1.273
Seram Bagian Timur	9.863	1.299	306	7.435
Maluku Barat Daya	1.516	167	226	1.265
Buru Selatan	2.954	507	312	2.196

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Ambon	1.763	331	359	989
Tual	97	19	289	311
Provinsi	**35,346**	**5,564**	**312**	**31,486**

Data Source: National Superior Plantation Statistics 2020-2022

As shown in Table 1, Central Maluku Regency has a plantation area of 11,942 hectares and a production output of 2,463 tons.

Negeri Saleman has a community plantation area of 700 hectares. Most of the population in Negeri Saleman makes a living as farmers, fishermen, and some small business owners. The land used for nutmeg cultivation covers 150 hectares. The type of nutmeg grown is Papua nutmeg, with seeds sourced from Gorom Village, Eastern Seram. Generally, nutmeg trees begin to bear fruit at the age of 7 to 8 years, but with proper care, they can start bearing fruit at 5 to 6 years.

Based on the description above, the issues to be analyzed in this study can be identified as follows: what is the income of nutmeg farmers, and what is the level of welfare in Negeri Saleman, West Seram Utara District, Central Maluku Regency.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research was conducted in Negeri Saleman, West Seram Utara District, Central Maluku Regency, during February 2024. The sampling method used in this study is purposive sampling. The sample for this research consists of 45 nutmeg farmers. The method employed in this study is quantitative, and the data will be analyzed using the income formula (Rahim and Hastuti, 2008), which is:

$$Pd = TR - TC$$
$$TR = Y \cdot PY$$
$$TC = FC + VC$$

Explanation:

Pd = Farming income
TR = Total revenue
TC = Total cost
Y = Production obtained
Py = Price of Y
FC = Fixed cost
VC = Variable cost

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And the welfare formula according to Sajogyo's criteria (1997):

Ct = Ca + Cb + Cn

Explanation:

Ct = Total household expenditure
Ca = Expenditure for food
Cb = Expenditure for non-food
Cn = C1 + C2 + C3 + C4 + C5 + C6 + C7 + … + Cn

Where:

C1 = Expenditure for fuel
C2 = Expenditure for various goods/services
C3 = Expenditure for education
C4 = Expenditure for health
C5 = Expenditure for electricity
C6 = Expenditure for home renovation
C7 = Other expenditures

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nutmeg Farming Income

For the people of Negeri Saleman, nutmeg has become a livelihood and source of income for the majority of the population. Nutmeg production in Negeri Saleman can reach tens of thousands. There are two types of nutmeg: Banda nutmeg and Papua nutmeg. Papua nutmeg, originating from Papua, is oval and pointed, while Banda nutmeg, coming from Banda, is round and small. For nutmeg seedling cultivation in Negeri Saleman, farmers create beds to place the seedlings, using a growing medium made from a mixture of black soil and wood powder.

The nutmeg plantations in Negeri Saleman are community-owned farms that have been cultivated for generations and are preserved by each succeeding generation. For their maintenance, farmers water the nutmeg seedlings twice a day. Some farmers also construct shade houses using nets to protect the seedlings from excessive sunlight. If the seedlings are exposed to heat too often, the nutmeg leaves will dry out, significantly increasing the risk of the plants dying. The data on the analysis of nutmeg farming income

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in Negeri Saleman, West Seram Utara District, Central Maluku Regency, can be seen in Table 2.

Tabel 2. Average Income of Nutmeg Farmers in Negeri Saleman, West Seram Utara District, Central Maluku Regency

No.	Uraian	Rata-rata
1.	Production (Kg)	500
2.	Revenue (Rp)	62.432.222
3.	Variable Costs (Rp): a. Seedlings b. Bags c. Gasoline	 2.445.556 167.111 68.000
4.	Fixed Costs (Rp): a. Machete b. Crowbar c. Large Knife d. Property Tax Costs	 300.000 1.500.000 400.000 21.689
5.	Total Costs (Rp)	4.902.356
6.	Income (Rp)	57.529.867

Source: Processed Data (2024)

Based on Table 2, it shows that the average nutmeg production is 500 kg with an average income of Rp 57,529,867. From the varying incomes of the farmers after the researcher interviewed several farmers in Saleman, there are several factors that contribute to the low or differing incomes of nutmeg farmers, even though the land area they own is the same. This is due to the fact that the number of nutmeg trees planted is still young, and the fruit production is still relatively low. Additionally, the number of nutmeg trees planted is not very high. There are 10 respondents who have a small number of trees. Lastly, many nutmeg trees are planted but do not receive adequate sunlight. This occurs because the nutmeg produced is of the male variety (nutmeg that does not bear fruit), a term used by the people of Saleman; therefore, they must cut down the nutmeg trees and replant them. Furthermore, according to the farmers, the price of nutmeg also affects their income; in addition to low nutmeg prices, there is also price fluctuation,

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making it unpredictable. The fluctuation in nutmeg prices occurs due to pests that damage the nutmeg plants, leading to a decrease in harvest and a reduction in nutmeg supply. Additionally, adverse weather conditions, such as heavy rain and drought, greatly impact nutmeg production because these conditions affect nutmeg prices. Since the farmers in Saleman only have a market supply in the capital city of Masohi Regency, this also contributes to their low income due to limited market supply and relationships.Analisis Tingkat Kesejahteraan Rumah Tangga Petani Pala

The results of the research conducted by the researcher through surveys and using questionnaires are as follows an explanation of the analysis of the welfare level of nutmeg farmers households in Negeri Saleman, West Seram Utara District, Central Maluku Regency.

Additionally, based on the survey results using questionnaires regarding the welfare level of nutmeg farmers' households in Negeri Saleman according to the criteria of the Central Statistics Agency (2014), there are 7 welfare indicators: population, health and nutrition, education, employment, standards and patterns of consumption, housing and environment, and social factors and others.

Table 3. Level of Welfare

No.	Level of Welfare	Number (People)	Percentage (%)
1.	Prosperous	32	71
2.	Not Prosperous	13	29
	Total	45	100

Source: Processed Data (2024)

Table 3. The level of welfare above shows that the majority of respondents fall into the prosperous category. However, there are 13 respondents who still fall into the not prosperous category. The main reason why these 13 respondents are in this category is the low scores they received on the employment and social indicators. This is influenced by several factors, namely insufficient working hours, which affects their welfare as limited working hours result in restricted income.

Low income often fails to meet basic needs such as food, housing, and health. With limited working hours, respondents find it difficult to satisfy their daily needs, which

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overall reduces their level of welfare. Furthermore, the number of family members who are unemployed affects welfare; if few family members are working, this can increase the financial burden on those who are employed. Additionally, if family members of working age are not engaged in employment, the family's potential income becomes limited, thus worsening their financial condition and overall welfare.

Next is the absence of additional work; its impact on welfare is that additional jobs are often used to increase income and financial stability. Without additional employment, respondents rely solely on their primary income, which is insufficient to meet all their needs and desires. A lack of opportunities for extra work can limit a person's ability to increase their income, reduce savings, and diminish their quality of life. There is also limited access to recreational sites; its effect on welfare is that restricted access to tourist spots and recreational activities can impact mental and physical well-being. Tourist sites and recreational activities are important for reducing stress, improving mental health, and providing time for relaxation. If someone does not have access to these facilities, they may experience a decline in their quality of life and overall welfare.

Next, the lack of ability to use various types of technology affects welfare in that limited ability to utilize technology can restrict respondents' access to information, education, and job opportunities. Technology often plays a crucial role in facilitating work, expanding educational opportunities, and improving quality of life. A lack of technological skills can hinder a person from taking advantage of available opportunities, increasing work efficiency, and accessing essential services. Overall, these factors are interconnected and contribute to the low scores in employment and social indicators, which directly influence the level of welfare. To improve welfare, an approach is needed that includes increasing working hours, utilizing the potential of family members to work, creating additional job opportunities, better access to recreational activities, and enhancing technological skills. These efforts can help respondents achieve a better and more stable level of welfare.

CONCLUSION

The income of nutmeg farmers in Negeri Saleman, West Seram Utara District, Central Maluku Regency is quite high. The average income of nutmeg farmers from 45 respondents in a single harvest amounts to Rp 57,529,867. Based on the criteria of the Central Statistics Agency (2014) regarding household welfare levels, the welfare level of nutmeg farmers' households in Negeri Saleman, West Seram Utara District, Central

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Maluku Regency is relatively high, with 32 farmers classified in the prosperous category, accounting for 71%, while 13 nutmeg farmers fall into the not prosperous category, representing 29% of the 45 respondents in Negeri Saleman, West Seram Utara District.

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