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Social Capital of Sweet Potato Farmers and Collector Traders in Aki Jaya Village, West Bula District, East Seram Regency

Agung Basuki Litiloli[1], A.E Pattiselano[2], Jeter Donald Siwalette[3]

[1,2,3]Extension Study Program, Faculty of Agriculture, Pattimura University, Jln Ir. M. Putuhena, Poka-ambon Campus, Postal code,972333

E-mail: Agungbasukilitilolygmail.com

Abstract

Social Capital of Sweet Potato Farmers and Collector Traders in Aki Jaya Village, West Bula District, East Seram Regency guided by A.E. Pattiselanno and Jeter Donald Siwalette This research aims to find out the social capital of sweet potato farmers and collecting traders. This research was conducted in Aki Jaya Village from October to November 2023. The respondents were 30 people who work as sweet potato farmers and 10 respondents as collecting traders. Data collection was carried out by interviews and using questionnaires and then using qualitative descriptive analysis. The results of this research show that farmers and traders in Aki Jaya Village both benefit from each other in buying and selling and help each other in farming and obey each other's mutually agreed rules.

Keywords: Social Capital of Farmers and Collecting Traders

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a developing country where the majority of its population earns its living in the agricultural sector. Indonesia is an agricultural country that is rich in natural resources with large areas that still need to be explored and utilized for human needs. Thus, all efforts in the agricultural sector must be utilized, both in terms of natural resources and human resources because both are interdependent.

Social capital needs to be considered in supporting smooth development in order to improve the welfare of society (Kholifah, 2016). Social capital is development capital which is very important for people's lives which is reflected in the high level of solidarity

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between citizens and also the strong sense of kinship between them which is still strong. Without social capital a person will not be able to gain profits and achieve optimal success.

Social capital is an introductory program that allows it to be shared by a group or community (farmers), which contains three main pillars, namely trust, reciprocity (mutual help) and social networking (Social Network). It is believed to be able to have a big impact on farmers because of its role in complex combinations of farmer groups to bind together to defend common interests (Diniyati, 2009).

Based on the research results of Nurhidayat, Bahtiar, Peribadi (2022), it shows that socio-economic relations or relationships between farmers and traders are very important in the formation of social networks, with the marketing or sale of farmers' crops which can support better income for farmers and to meet their needs. In the daily life of farming communities, the socio-economic relationship between farmers and traders has the characteristics of mutual dependence, mutual need, mutual benefit to each other so that it is very important for good interactions between farmers and traders.

Farmers and traders have a very close relationship with each other. Farmers need traders as a place to sell their agricultural products. Traders need farmers to fulfill their lives every day. There are various ways farmers use to increase their income. Creating a good network with traders has a very big influence. The greater their income, the better the farmer's network with traders

Based on the above phenomenon, West Bula District, most of its area relies on the agricultural sector as the main livelihood, so that West Bula District has the nickname "food barn". One of the agricultural development areas in West Bula District, one of which is in Aki Jaya Village, is a superior commodity cultivated by farmers plant Sweet Potatoes (Ipomea Batats), this plant is still maintained because it has quite good potential in production so that it can meet the family's needs.

Based on data from the West Bula District Central Statistics Agency (2021), sweet potato production in 2021 will reach 600 tons. Meanwhile, sweet potato production in Aki Jaya Village is 300 tons. Sweet potato production in Aki Jaya Village is the largest in 13 villages in West Bula District. Based on BPS data from West Bula District (2022), sweet potato production in West Buala District is 780 tons, while sweet potato production in Aki Jaya Village is 400 tons, indicating that sweet potato production results are the highest in Aki Jaya Village. Meanwhile, there are 300 farmers planting sweet potatoes in Bualat Barat sub-district, while in Aki Jaya Village itself there are 180

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people. This shows that the increase in sweet potato production can continue to be increased.

Marketing of sweet potatoes to collecting traders is carried out directly in farmers' gardens. Usually, before harvesting, traders order in advance one week (7 days) before harvest time. The sword collectors come not only from within the village, but also from other villages. traders buy crops by bringing the harvest first but not paying for it, after the trader sells it at the market a few days after selling it and makes a profit, then the trader pays the farmer,

RESEARCH METHODS

This research was carried out in Aki Jaya Village, West Bula District, East Seram Regency from October to November 2023. Sampling was carried out using the Purposive Sampling method (purposeful sampling), where the respondents selected were Sweet Potato Farmers and Collector Traders who were indigenous people, livelihood as farmers. The number of respondents used in this research was 30 respondents who work as sweet potato farmers in Aki Jaya Village, West Bula District, Eastern Seram Regency, while there are 10 traders collecting sweet potatoes. The data analysis technique in this research uses a qualitative descriptive analysis method. which is based on (Sugiyono, 2010) which describes and explains the activities carried out in the context of strengthening farmer institutions through developing farmer groups, the data collection method that can be used is the in-depth interview method. The results of this interview are then supplemented with secondary data originating from documents/publications/research reports from related departments/agencies as well as other supporting data sources.

DISCUSSION

Identity of farmer informants and collecting traders

The identity of farmer informants and collecting traders is one of the important things that can help the research run smoothly. The following is a discussion of the identity of farmer informants which includes age, education level, number of family dependents and number of informants based on gender in Aki Jaya Village.

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Age

Table 1. Identity of Farmer and Trader Informants According to Age Group in Aki Jaya Village, West Bula District, Eastern Seram Regency

No	Age group (Year)	Number (Farmers)	Percentage (%)	Age group (Year)	Amount (Trader)	Percentage (%)
1	21-27	4	13,3%	28-33	3	30,0%
2	28-33	4	13,3%	34-39	5	50,0%
3	34-40	9	30,0%	40-45	2	20,0%
4	41-50	7	23,3%			
5	51-59	6	20,0%			
	Amount	**30**	**100,0%**		**10**	**100,0%**

Source: Primary Data after processing, 2023.

Based on Table 1, it explains that of the 30 informants, there were 4 people (13.3%) aged between 21-27 years, 4 people (13.3%) aged 28-33 years, 9 people (30 .0%) aged 34-40 years, 7 people (23.3%) aged between 41-50 years, and 6 people aged 51-59 (20.0%). and there are 10 traders aged 28-33 years, 3 people (30.0%) aged 34-39 years, 5 people (50.0%) aged between 40-45 years, 2 people (20.0%) . Based on age groups, it can be said that the age of most informants is still in the productive age range.

Level of education

The level of formal education of farmers is one of the important factors, especially in farming. The level of education also influences farmers' mindset in making decisions, where farmers with a relatively high level of education can act more dynamically in managing farming. In general, a higher level of education will increase productivity so that it will also have an effect on increasing income. For more details, the education level of informant farmers can be seen in the following table.

Table 2. Education level of farmer informants in Aki Jaya Village, West Bula District, East Seram Regency

No	Level of education	Amount (Person)	Percentage (%)
1	Elementary	6	20.0%
2	School/Equivalent	10	33.3%

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3	Middle School/Equivalent High School/Equivalent	14	46.7%
	Amount	**30**	**100.0%**

Source: Primary Data after processing, 2023.

Table 2 shows that of the total informant farmers in Aki Jaya Village, West Bula District, East Seram Bagin Regency, there are 6 people (20.0%) who have elementary school education, while 10 people have junior high school education (33.3%), and 14 have high school education. People (46.7%). So this shows that Aki Jaya Village, West Bula District, East Seram Regency, the informant's education level is classified as productive education because it is dominated by those with a high school education.

Number of Family Dependents

The number of family dependents is all the people in one family or one house who are dependents of farmers and are responsible for the survival and welfare of their families. The number of family members greatly influences the family's farming business, so that the more workers there are in the family, the faster the process of adjusting farming activities will be. To find out the amount of responsibility of the respondent farmers, see the following table.

Table 3 Number of Farmer Informants According to Number of Family Dependents in Aki Jaya Village, West Bula District, Eastern Seram Regency.

No	**The number of dependents Family**	**Amount (Soul)**	**Percentage (%)**
1	2-3	12	40,0%
2	4-5	11	37,7%
3	6-7	6	20,0%
4	8	1	3.3%
	Amount	**30**	**100,0%**

Source: Primary Data after processing, 2023.

Based on Table 6, it can be explained that of all farmers, there are 12 people (40.0%) with family dependents of 2-3 people, 11 people (37.7%) with family dependents of 4-5 people, 6 people (20 .0%) with 6-7 family dependents, 1 person

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(3.3%) with 8 family dependents. Based on the table above, it can be concluded that the highest number of family dependents is 12 people with 2-3 family dependents in one family.

Distribution of Informants Based on Gender

The gender of the informant is one of the characteristics that can differentiate individuals, in this study it can be grouped into two, namely the male group and the female group, which can be explained in the table presented below.

Table 3. Number of informants from sweet potato farmers and traders in Aki Jaya Village, West Bula District, Eastern Seram Regency

No	Gender	Number (Farmers)	Percentage (%)	Amount (Trader)	Percentage (%)
1	Laki-Laki	20	66,7%	6	60,0%
2	Perempuan	10	33,3%	4	40,0%
	Amount	**30**	**100,0%**	**10**	**100,0%**

Source: Primary Data after processing, 2023.

Based on the research results that were found at the time of the research, there were 20 male farmers (66.7%) and there were 10 female farmers (33.3%). There were 7 male traders (70.0%) and 3 (30.0%) female traders. This is because when the samples were taken, the number studied, namely farmers who farmed sweet potatoes and sweet potato traders, were mostly men.

Trust

The trust of sweet potato farmers in Aki Jaya Village, West Bula District, East Seram Regency is a belief in other people or a sense of trust in traders. Farmers sell their crops to traders and the traders bring them first before paying for them, so that the indicators of trust that are implemented in Aki Jaya Village are the existence of family relationships, kinship, fellow tribesmen and neighbors in the same village that have been going on for a long time. Previously, farmers and traders had made an agreement or mutual agreement in determining the price of sweet potatoes which could provide mutual benefits between the collecting traders and farmers.

So the trust system between farmers and collecting traders trusts each other, there is an agreement agreed upon at the beginning of the collaboration. As expressed

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by Mr. La Irman as a sweet potato farmer as follows: “we *Sweet potato farmers in Aki Jaya Village, West Buala District, East Seram Regency, we sell our harvest to traders and the traders take them first. "We trust traders because these traders have family relations with fellow tribesmen and neighbors in the same village" (interview 5 November 2023).*

Mr. La Obo further explained that there is trust between sweet potato farmers and collecting traders as follows: *In determining the price of sweet potatoes given by traders, there is a system of openness or price agreement that has been set between traders and farmers. Traders provide prices according to mutual agreement which is mutually beneficial between farmers and traders in buying and selling. (interview 5 November 2023).*

Social capital also strengthens the trust of farmers and traders which is used for mutual benefit. This is done by sweet potato farmers and traders by utilizing social capital, which is used to buy crops and agree on prices. With the existence of a kinship system, relatives, fellow tribesmen and village neighbors between them, sweet potato farmers interact well with traders, so that trust and relationships emerge that can strengthen the cooperative relations they will carry out.

From the results of the interview, it can be concluded that the trust between sweet potato farmers and collecting traders in Aki Jaya village, West Bula subdistrict, East Seram Regency, is very close in social life, because mutual trust is strong and there is cooperation or price agreement. such as collecting traders giving prices for sweet potatoes and farmers giving their harvest to traders in a debt system first.

In accordance with previous research by Rahmi, Rahmaini 2018) that trust between farmers and traders is cooperation, openness and agreement between each with high trust between both parties, with this trust farmers can find a way out in overcoming problems.

Social Networks and Reciprocity

Basically, social networks are formed because of the existence of a network between traders and farmers, there is a strong fraternal network or solidarity network between sweet potato farmers and collecting traders. This can be seen in case examples, for example when there are sweet potato farmers who are harvesting, the traders will buy sweet potato traders come to the farmer's land, then the trader helps the farmer to harvest and transports the harvest to the car for downstairs

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Farmers and traders have a very close relationship where there is a family relationship, relatives so that farmers and traders often interact and pay attention to each other, help and provide information to each other between farmers and collecting traders. Social networks are one form of social capital.

As stated by Mrs. Wa Rita Ode regarding the social network of farmers and traders in Aki Jaya Village, namely:

"If when the farmer is harvesting sweet potatoes, at that time the trader comes directly to the farmer's land to help the farmer until it is finished and the farmer buys our harvest, the trader helps without expecting wages from the farmer, but the trader wants the farmer to sell the harvest to trader". (Interview November 8, 2023)

Furthermore, Mr. La Sumarno also stated that there is a social network and reciprocal relationship between sweet potato farmers and collecting traders as follows:

"*Farmers and collecting traders in Aki Jaya Village always interact because almost every day we meet, pay attention and help each other in mutual cooperation, not only in work but in everyday life." (Interview November 8, 2023)*

From the results of these interviews it can be concluded that the social network of sweet potato farmers and collecting traders in Aki Jaya Village really pays attention to each other so that they help each other with a kinship network or a sense of solidarity and mutual cooperation in carrying out their work.

This is related to previous research by Damsar (2002), social networks are relationships created between many individuals in a group and other groups. The relationships that occur can be in formal or informal forms. Social relations are a picture or reflection of cooperation and coordination between citizens which is based on active social ties.

Social Norms and Values

Norms are a set of written and unwritten rules that society is expected to obey and follow. The written rules are that there is an agreement or agreement before making sales and purchases, farmers sell their harvest to traders. The rules given to collecting traders are that there is a time limit given by farmers to traders to buy and bring the harvest first (debt) If the trader later complies with the rules and agreements that have been determined, the farmer will not give the trader any more of his sweet potato harvest.

The unwritten rule in Aki Jaya Village is the mutual cooperation system, where farmers and traders help each other in sweet potato harvesting activities. This activity is

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purely based on the characteristics of the farmers and traders in Aki Jaya Village. As stated by Mr. Baidi as follows:

"When traders buy our harvest, there are traders who pay directly and there are also traders who bring it first or are in debt because farmers and traders have made a mutual agreement. If the trader violates the agreement or the time that has been determined, the farmer will no longer want to sell the produce to us. the trader." (Interview November 10, 2023)

As stated by Mrs. Wa Dewi, there are social norms and values between sweet potato farmers and collecting traders as follows:

"We farmers help each other with traders, where traders will come to the land to help us farmers to harvest, while we always work together in community activities." (Interview 10 November 2023).

Results of interviews between farmers and collecting traders in Aki Jaya Village, West Bula District, East Seram Regency. It can be concluded that social norms or unwritten rules are said to only follow the general customs and norms that apply in society which are still firmly adhered to by farmers and traders in Desa Aki Jaya. When harvesting, traders will come to farmers' land to help farmers, as well as in social life they always interact with each other. worked together. The sanctions given by collecting traders are if within the time given, farmers no longer want to sell their crops to traders who violate mutually agreed rules or can stop collaborating with traders.

This is in accordance with previous research by Putnam (1993), defining norms as a set of rules that must be obeyed by members of society in a group. Norms are basically formed because of the desire to keep a relationship running well. The research results show that rules are an important element of social capital whose implementation is relatively high. According to the results of the interview, there are rules for farmer activities that can run well, even though these rules are not written but are agreements and treaties. This is because with the existence of rules, there are limits for individuals in using them, so they are wiser and more responsible. Apart from that, the implementation of sanctions has also been carried out according to the agreement.

CONCLUSION

The social capital of farmers and collecting traders in Aki Jaya village, West Bula subdistrict, Eastern Seram district, can be concluded that the trust of sweet potato farmers and collecting traders in terms of giving the harvest by the trader bringing it first,

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farmers feel trust because there is a relationship between relatives, kinship, relatives, neighbors from the same village and fellow tribes. Apart from that, farmers get prices from traders which have been determined by traders and farmers so that there is an agreement or cooperation agreement made by farmers and traders. Social networks are formed due to the existence of a strong network of brotherhood, solidarity and helping each other in carrying out activities or harvesting activities as well as helping each other in daily life. The social values that are still carried out by farmers and traders are mutual cooperation, where mutual cooperation provides many values of togetherness, unity, an attitude of willingness to sacrifice, mutual help between farmers and traders.

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