

## Observation of Agricultural Business Conditions in RT 05 Parakan Jaya Village in Economic Terms During the Covid-19 Pandemic

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### Article Info

#### Article history:

Received January 2, 2023  
Revised January 16, 2023  
Accepted February 8, 2023

#### Kata Kunci:

Covid 19  
Economy  
Farming

### ABSTRACT

The world is currently going through difficult times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Indonesia is also one of the countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of this pandemic, all human activities have been disrupted, even paralyzing the community's economic sector. The agricultural sector is a superior sector because the livelihood of the Indonesian population is mostly farming. Parakan Jaya village where most of the population as vegetable farmers. One of the vegetable producers in Bogor Regency. Vegetables are food crops as the basic needs of the community. This farming is carried out by ladies and gentlemen in the neighborhood of Rt 05 Rw 08 Parakan Jaya Village, Kemang Bogor. This service activity is called the independent written idea real work lecture (KKN-GTM) because the implementation technique is carried out independently and the location of the activity is carried out in the residential environment. The purpose of this service is to find out the activities of agricultural activities that are carried out every day, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic that is currently happening in Indonesia.

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### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is known as an agricultural country which means a country that relies on the agricultural sector both as a source of livelihood and as a support for development. The agricultural sector includes the food crop subsector, horticulture subsector, fisheries subsector, livestock subsector, and forestry subsector. Agriculture is one of the most dominant sectors in people's income in Indonesia because the majority of the Indonesian population works as farmers.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused instability in all sectors of the economy, including the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector is the last sector that can survive any shock. But that does not mean that the Covid-19 pandemic does not have an effect on agricultural activities. In addition, the farming part must still be done to meet food needs.

A farm is a place or part of the surface of the earth where agricultural activities are organized by a particular farmer whether he is an owner or a salaried person. Agricultural business is a collection of natural resources contained in the place that are needed for the production process such as land, water, improvement of the land, sunlight, buildings erected on the land, labor, capital, and farm business management (Suparmi,

1986: 33). Farming can be in the form of farming or livestock. In the language of economics, agricultural production legitimizes inputs to produce outputs.

Parakan Jaya Village is one of the villages located in Kemang District, Bogor Regency, West Java. Parakan Jaya Village has an area of 218.7 hectares with no less than 9,000 people. Parakan Jaya Village is one of the villages whose people are farmers, one of which is in the Kampung Gardu Rt 05 Rw 08 environment almost all community activities are farming. The type of agriculture here is not only vegetables but types of sweet potatoes, taro, and cassava. The livelihood as a vegetable farmer is expected to meet the needs of life and improve welfare. Agriculture is the utilization of biological resources carried out by humans to produce food, industrial raw materials, or energy sources, as well as to manage their environment. Activities of utilizing biological resources included in agriculture are commonly understood by people as cultivating crops or growing crops.

The purpose of the agricultural business observation service activity in the RT 05 environment is as research material to find out the ins and outs of the implementation of farming and harvesting activities.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This service activity is carried out from September 1 to September 30, 2021 according to the schedule determined by the campus. However, this activity is more different from the previous year, where the technical implementation must be carried out independently and the location of the activity is carried out at the location of residence. This is done to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

All agricultural businesses are basically economic activities so they require the same basic knowledge of business place management, selection of seeds/seedlings, cultivation methods, yield collection, product distribution, product processing and packaging, and marketing. If a farmer views all these aspects with efficiency considerations to achieve maximum profit, he does intensive farming. Agricultural businesses that are viewed in this way are known as agribusiness. Programs and policies that steer agricultural businesses toward such a view are known as intensification. Because industrial agriculture has always implemented intensive agriculture, the two are often equated.

The method of activities used is qualitative methods by collecting data such as observation, interviews and documentation. According to Sugiyono (2017: 9), qualitative research methods are research methods based on the philosophy of postpositivism used or interpretive, used to examine natural object conditions, where researchers are the key instrument, data collection techniques are triangulated, the data obtained tend to be qualitative data, data analysis is inductive / qualitative and qualitative research results are to understand meaning, Understand uniqueness, construct phenomena, and find hypotheses.

1. The first stage is observation:

According to Riyanto (2010: 96) "observation is a data collection method that uses direct or indirect observations Based on the explanation of experts, the data is concluded that observation is research by observing and recording various biological and psychological processes directly or indirectly that appear in a symptom in the object of research.

2. The second stage is the interview:

According to Riyanto (2010: 82), interview or interview is a data collection method that requires direct communication between investigators and subjects or respondents. According to Afifuddin (2009: 131) interview is a method of data collection by asking something to someone who is an informant or respondent.

3. The third stage is documentation

According to Arikunto (2006: 158) is a method of documentation researchers investigate written objects such as books, magazines, documents, regulations, meeting minutes, daily notes and so on. According to Riyanto (2012: 103) the documentation method means a way to collect data by recording existing data. Based on the expert's explanation, it can be concluded that the documentation method is a way of collecting data carried out by investigating written objects and recording the results of their findings.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The impact of Covid-19 on individual farmers is the disruption of farmers' health and safety. In general, someone exposed to the Covid-19 virus will experience health problems and can even cause death. Covid-19 is contagious between individuals, especially in vulnerable groups, namely the elderly and those with congenital diseases. The average age of Covid-19 patients ranged from 47\201259 years, and 41.9\201245.7% were female patients (Sudaryanto et al. 2020). The elderly population (over 50 years old) is very vulnerable to being infected with the Covid-19 virus. The vulnerability of exposure to Covid-19 becomes

even greater when old age is accompanied by certain diseases such as diabetes, asthma, heart, high blood pressure, and low body resistance.

The environmental condition of Parakan Jaya Village is an agricultural area, so regarding the variety of livelihoods the main residents in Parakan Jaya Village are farmers. Vegetables are staple crops grown by the community as the main consumption material. Vegetables are agricultural commodities that have a short shelf life. The longer this vegetable commodity reaches consumers, the quality will decrease and affect the selling price. Therefore, the quality of vegetables is greatly influenced by yield. Besides working as farmers, there are also Parakan Jaya villagers who work outside the agricultural sector such as civil servants, midwives, teachers, traders and so on.

In the Rt 05 neighborhood of Parakan Jaya village not only grows vegetables but taro and sweet potatoes, farmers use a piece of land that is still empty. Taro and sweet potatoes are harvested for 7 months for taro types while sweet potatoes are about 3 months and take a long time to get maximum yields. Types of vegetables, such as kale and spinach are harvested about 25 days each harvest while cassava leaves about 1 month can only be harvested. For cucumber types of vegetables, the first harvest of cucumbers can be carried out after the plants are 75-85 days old. The harvest period can last 1 - 1.5 months. Harvesting can be done every day, generally obtained 1-2 fruits/plants each time picked. Picking should be done in the morning so that the fruit is still fresh due to slight evaporation.

Observation, interview, and documentation methods were used to collect data and information during this KKN-GTM activity. There are several questions asked in the form of interviews related to the implementation of agricultural business observation activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. There are some questions asked to the father of the farm business owner.

1. How long have you been working as a farmer
2. What effect does the weather have on your harvest?
3. What is the average cost for maintenance of your rice field
4. Does this covid pandemic have an impact on the course of this farming business activity?
5. In one month how many times did you harvest
6. How much land do you use for farming activities
7. How is the process of selling the vegetable harvest.

Respondents	Response
Question 1	Working as a farmer since he was a child, because he followed in the footsteps of his parents. This farming business is like a hereditary business for about 55 years running; k, this profession as a farmer
Question 2	The influence of weather on the harvest is certainly there, such as heavy rainfall for lowland rice fields must be submerged in water, so that planted seeds can be carried away by rainwater and prolonged drought can make the soil hard and difficult to hoe. So that the harvest obtained is not optimal.
Question 3	The cost of maintaining my rice field from purchasing seeds to planting is around 3 million, because the purchase of seeds, fertilizers, and others I buy in large quantities. So that when I need the equipment it already exists.
Question 4	The Covid-19 outbreak has greatly impacted our health as farmers. However, farming activities are carried out very carefully because I interact with the community who help in harvesting these vegetables, and still maintain distance from the surrounding community.
Question 5	In one month I harvest 5 times this harvest for kale and spinach vegetables. This kale and spinach is harvested for about 25 days. While my type of taro can only harvest for about 7 months, cassava leaves for about 1.5 months are ready to harvest.
Question 6	The area of land I use is about 1 hectare.
Question 7	I sell the harvest to vegetable collectors who are marketed directly at the market.

This agricultural activity has been running well, farmers and communities around the location are planting by complying with health protocols in accordance with government recommendations. Farming activities are very useful for the surrounding community and help the economy in the Rt 05 environment because many people have been laid off due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A few days before the harvesting activity is carried out, farm owners usually hoe on the finished piece of land and replant vegetable seedlings, after which they are fed with manure. The seeds used by the people of Parakan Jaya village in farming kale and spinach are ground kale seeds purchased at agricultural stores. People

choose cap ura and garuda brand seeds because in addition to having a low price, these seeds also have very good quality.

After 10 days of growing, re-apply urea fertilizer and wait for harvest for 25 days. This harvesting activity is carried out well in order to get maximum yields. This harvesting process is carried out by pulling out the vegetable harvest and then tied using bamboo rope that has been made. After being tied, the vegetables are washed using flowing river water, then the vegetables are tied as many as 25 bunches and then tied back using plastic rope. One harvest produces 1500 bunches in one day of harvest and is brought by the vegetable collector to the market to be sold to consumers, after the vegetables are sold out then get a deposit from the collector.

## CONCLUSION

1. Agriculture is one of the sectors that play a role in a country's economy. Especially for agrarian countries where the population is mostly farmers. However, many problems make it difficult for a country's agriculture to advance, both technical factors and non-technical sectors. Therefore, it is necessary for the role of the government in agriculture to overcome the problems that occur, and to increase Indonesia's agricultural output, in order to make a major contribution to the Indonesian economy.
2. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted various aspects of the agricultural sector, including farmers and agricultural businesses. The government has implemented various social safety net programs for farmers, especially those that are short-term in nature so that these impacts do not cause a decrease in performance or more severe losses.

## Suggestion

1. Agriculture is always being improved, because it is a sector that plays a role in a country's economy.
2. It is expected that the role of the government to overcome problems in agriculture.

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