

The Role of The Younger Generation in Advancing Indonesian Agriculture

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia is one of the countries that relies on agriculture as its sector of excellence. The role and contribution of the younger generation is needed in this field. Broadly speaking, the younger generation has a crucial role in innovating advanced or modern agricultural practices by integrating developing technology, which supports farmers to encourage changes in agricultural practices in Indonesia. However, the need for quality and human resources in Indonesia in the agricultural sector has decreased in recent years, so that it will hinder the regeneration process and will certainly affect the contribution of the young workforce or young generation to the success of agriculture in Indonesia. Lack of understanding, knowledge of the younger generation in the agricultural sector is the main factor hampering the process of agricultural regeneration. This article discusses the importance of the contribution of the younger generation in advancing the agricultural sector, integrating the use of technology or optimizing the use of the latest technology to support the success of agriculture in Indonesia, providing basic understanding of agriculture, and job prospects found in agriculture. The contribution of young people can certainly be a breath of fresh air in the agricultural sector, especially in Indonesia, they can enter and take a role in the education system to provide basic understanding and knowledge by becoming a mentor, organizing workshops, seminars, socialization, and holding training to help farmers understand agricultural practices that integrate technology to support an agricultural activity to be more effective and efficient.

Keywords: young generation, contribution, agriculture, technology

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is one of the fields that has a strategic role in the structure of national economic development. The quality of human resources and the basis of commitment, intention, effort to achieve goals are factors driving success in agriculture. These two things will later be used as a foundation, the foundation for encouraging the success of agricultural development in Indonesia. Agriculture is a sector that has received less serious attention by the government even though this sector has the potential to improve the country's economy if it can be managed properly and correctly. However, the agricultural sector can accommodate such a large overflow of labor because most Indonesians depend on the sector.

The contribution of the younger generation in developing agriculture, especially in Indonesia, is very important. In recent years, the productivity of agricultural success in Indonesia has decreased, this can certainly be a motivation so that the younger generation can participate actively in increasing agricultural productivity. The younger generation has a critical mindset, is creative, and dares to take opportunities by considering certain aspects and is supported proficiently in the use of technology. This can certainly encourage major changes in the agricultural system in Indonesia.

In the era of industrial revolution 4.0, the younger generation is even reluctant to go into agriculture, they

think that peer farming work is dirty and tiring work. This is one example of a narrow mindset embedded in society, in agriculture that advances the use of technological tools into one of the shortcuts in changing the view of agriculture is a tiring job. Optimizing the use of technological tools in agriculture can help field work become more effective and efficient. However, agricultural development in Indonesia until now has not been able to show maximum results. This can be seen from the welfare of farmers and their contribution to national income.

Increasing fundamental understanding of agriculture is an effort to attract young people to enter this sector, they have an important role in developing agriculture in Indonesia by encouraging activities such as workshops, seminars, socialization, counseling, to training in the agricultural sector which aims to provide assistance, facilitate access for farmers in buying fertilizer, taking assistance from the government is an effort that can be optimized so that make it easier for farmers in the farming process which will certainly have an impact on agricultural regeneration in Indonesia.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Ministry of Agriculture (2015) stated that the agricultural sector has contributed around 35.3% in absorbing labor in Indonesia. However, over time this figure has decreased due to several factors. As time goes by, the increase in old age farmers (>55 years) continues to

increase, but it is not balanced with the regeneration process of young farmers. The decline in labor in 2017 was quite large from 36,956,111 people to 1,080,722 in 2018. This is closely related to the rise of doctrine or inheritance system from the surrounding community so that new problems arise in the process of farmer regeneration and the loss of agriculture in Indonesia. (Salamah, 2021).

The minimum investment in the agricultural sector is also one of the causes of hampering the agricultural development process in Indonesia. Investment can encourage the community to increase economic activity, employment opportunities, national income, and increase the level of prosperity of the community. The increase in capital as a result of investment will certainly encourage additional production capacity in the agricultural sector. So that these developments will stimulate the increase in national production and employment opportunities (Ajeng Afrillia Adha, 2022)

METHOD

The method used in an effort to attract the interest of the younger generation to support the success of Indonesia's agricultural development process to continue to be carried out and run well, and is able to provide changes to agriculture by utilizing and optimizing the use of developing technology.

1. Surveys and Case Studies

Conducting surveys of the younger generation, especially in areas that have the potential to have boosting power in the agricultural sector. Analyze the business fields of the younger generation in developing and utilizing technology in businesses in the agricultural sector.

2. Literature Analysis

Conduct periodic reviews in analyzing the crucial role of the younger generation in conducting research, developing research, in facing various challenges in the era of globalization.

3. Statistical Data Analysis

Collecting various data from the results of surveys and analyses related to the importance of the role and contribution of the younger generation in helping agricultural development in Indonesia in the future.

4. Collaborative

Involving the younger generation in various processes in planning, making policies, related to agriculture

Combining these methods can lead to a more holistic understanding of the important role of young people in agricultural development and help design policies that support the development of the agricultural sector with an inclusive approach that is sustainable.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The factor causing the rise of the younger generation to switch jobs to the non-agricultural sector is the willingness to do a job. Factors from within a person that give choice to that person, whether or not he wants to do a job that is beneficial to him. The lack of understanding and knowledge in the community about agriculture is the main cause of the hampering of the regeneration process of young farmers reluctant to enter agriculture (Wehantouw et al., 2018).

In facing and responding to the challenges of this globalization era, of course, the government does not just stand still. Various efforts in improving and developing agricultural productivity have also been carried out by cooperating with the younger generation. Attracting young people to work in agriculture can be done by integrating agriculture that is run using technology packages. Agricultural development at this time goes hand in hand with a technological system so that the absolute requirement when you want to grow and advance agriculture is to combine technology with agriculture. Efforts to increase the interest of the younger generation in the agricultural sector can also be done by building character, especially the younger generation who love agriculture. Programs, incentives and training in agriculture must also be immediately optimized by extension workers in order to attract the work interest of the younger generation to engage in agriculture (Salamah, 2021).

Figure 1. Socialization of millennial farmers



Source;

<https://prokompim.purwakartakab.go.id/berita/read/sosialisasi-digitalisasi-petani-milennial-in-kabupaten-purwakarta>

Programs or activities from the government are also not responsible such as workshops, seminars, and training for farmers which will certainly provide many benefits and fundamental understanding that supports the sustainability of the agricultural process (Novi et al., 2014). The younger generation can take an active role in

developing, innovating agricultural technology to be more effective and efficient so that it can overcome a problem in the era of globalization, especially the rampant development that makes the agricultural land crisis occur. Plant planting using intercropping systems and polybags, is an example of technological innovation so that it can be a solution for people who do not have land to plant in their yards (Al Hakim et al., 2022).

The availability of employment fields that are so wide in this field, is one of the reasons that require young people to enter this field. They can open and develop agricultural businesses, such as organic farming or modern animal husbandry, which can certainly be a successful example and inspire the next generation to be interested and involved in agriculture. In addition to creating their own jobs, the younger generation also has an important role in increasing the productivity of the country's agricultural economy and improving the quality of agricultural products (Fathurohman & Safitri, 2023).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The younger generation plays an important role in innovating the agricultural system in Indonesia from various aspects. The awareness of the younger generation to face and respond to the challenges of globalization is needed. They should be motivated to be more courageous in making changes in this field. Broadly speaking, they are more proficient in the use of technology, this certainly provides positive value if it can be managed and combined with the agricultural sector so that it can make work in agriculture more effective and efficient.

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