

# The Role of Social Capital towards Farmers Job Opportunity in *Simantri* Group in Bali Province

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**Abstract:** One of the issues in rural agricultural development is labor, the labor hiring in agricultural sector is seasonal, while labor is available all the time. Even at certain times many agricultural labors are jobless. This is due to the weak organization and management of farming. A workable solution to this issue and to face the increase of competition in the globalization era is the majority farmers of narrow and scattered land have to come together in a strong management cooperation. This study aims to analyze the role of social capital of farmers of *Simantri* group members in providing job opportunity thus the purpose of *Simantri* program in reducing unemployment and overcoming poverty can be achieved. The object of this research is *Simantri* program members, with data collection technique through structured interview, in-depth interview, observation, and triangulation. This study used a multi-stage procedure (clustering) in determining the sample. The population classification is done based on the implementation of *Simantri* group programs, especially the process and utilization of livestock manure into two levels, there are *Simantri* group that process the livestock manure into organic fertilizer and bio-urine and *Simantri* group that does not process the livestock manure

**Keywords:** social capital, job opportunity, cooperative farming, livestock-crop system.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The majority of poverty is found in society in which the people are working in agricultural sector. The statement was affirmed by the results of the National Socio-Economic Survey (*Susenas*) in September 2012, indicated that 48.8 percent of poor households in Indonesia are working in agricultural sector (Bappenas, 2014). The issue of poverty is caused by the inefficient usage of resources as stated by Penn (1979) and Jette-Nantel, et.al (2011) that inefficient usage of resources in the production process resulted in lower outcomes compares to resources that farmers has spent during the production process. Inefficiency in resource usage due to farmers remain using traditional farming technique, so the resources that have been spent are not comparable with the results gained by farmers (Gardner, 1992).

Various efforts to eradicate poverty and develop underdeveloped areas in Indonesia through agricultural development have been implemented by the Government. The program is implemented in the form of financial assistance to strengthen farmers' capital. Such programs are temporary; farmers' welfare issues will reappear when the program is not implemented. Such program is not able to help the structure of farmer community in order to ensure the welfare of farmers. Therefore, the solution of poverty that is faced by farmers is back to the farmers themselves.

One of the issue in the development of rural agricultural sector is the labor, the hiring of labor in the agricultural sector is seasonal, while the labor is available all the time. Even at certain times a lot of unemployed agricultural labor exist. This is due to the weak organization and management of farming. A workable solution to the issue and to face the increase of competition in the globalization era is the majority farmers of narrow and scattered land have to come together in a strong management cooperation. Otherwise, they will be eliminated from the tough competition in the era of globalization. Based on the above-mentioned opinion and refer to what Sinaga and White (1980) stated that the problem of agricultural development is not on the technological equipment, but the institutional structure in rural communities that determines

whether the technology has a negative or positive impact on the distribution income. Institutional aspect will still play an important role in agriculture development, so it needs a special effort for farmer empowerment which can be done through cooperative farming (Mubyarto, 1994).

The success of cooperative farming has been proven in various countries, such as in Bangladesh, as stated by Mallorie (1994), there are irrigation organizations that manage groundwater have successfully performed business functions that include crediting, marketing of agricultural products, providing the production facilities and renting the agricultural machinery. Axinin and Thorat (1972) and World Bank (1999) in their publications noted in some advanced agricultural countries, such as Britain, Taiwan, India, Malaysia and Thailand, farmers' associations such as Young Farmers Club, Farmers Club have been able to provide consultancy or counseling services for farmers to increase their income, even they are able to conduct business, such as providing the agricultural production facilities, crediting, marketing of agricultural products, post-harvest processing, and agricultural counseling services. Thus, in addition to overcome the problem of limited production factors, farmer groups are also able to provide services to other farmers who are still problematic in improving their welfare.

However, the effort of cooperation in the form of cooperative farming does not automatically happen. Keep in mind that agriculture is not just about the livelihood of farmers, but it is a way of life that makes the value system, traditions and beliefs become their guidance in acting and making decisions. Therefore, the concept of social capital that promotes the relationship of social relations and trust between communities is considered to provide encouragement for the realization of the collectivity because the group reflects the most of social capital in the agricultural sector (Moyano, 1995).

Farmers habits in the management of farming are done hereditary, causing the deceleration of adoption towards new technology that is recommended by the government in every agricultural development program which is done so that it affects the job opportunity as farmers, especially old farmers (Mardikanto, 1993, Ours and Stoelddraijer, 2010). According to its characteristics, local and traditional institutions are effective in promoting collective activities but are less efficient in allocating the resource utilization. To improve the efficiency of the land cultivation, raise the livestock and other farmers activities, it is necessary for a better cultural change without abandoning the existing local wisdom concepts. A cultural value that more Indonesians need from all levels of society is a future-oriented cultural value (Koentjaraningrat, 2000).

The role of networks both through the closeness and brotherhood social relationship in providing information about jobs and market opportunity has been widely demonstrated to influence the amount of labor availability to obtain jobs that has an impact on agricultural productivity (Rauch and Casella, 2001). Information on jobs and market opportunity is important, as it can reduce labor migration from rural to urban by increasing the number of labor in rural agriculture, indicating a high job field in rural areas (Limon et al., 2014). In this case, social capital is able to bridge government and society so that information and implementation of development programs reach the whole society.

The above concepts were adopted by the Provincial Government of Bali through the *Simantri* program, where the executor of the activity should be a group and implemented in one location. The formation of the group in the implementation of the *Simantri* program is to develop cooperation among farmers in the management of farming by changing the farming management structure from individual to collective management. In general, collective farming aims to raise farmer collective movement in increasing their productivity which includes the collectivity of production facilities, processing and supporting facilities (Droussiotis, 2004; Kleinhenz and Smith, 2011). Based on the previous discussion, this study aims to analyze the social capital of the farmers of the *Simantri* group members to gain job opportunity in the *Simantri* group so that the *Simantri* program aims to reduce unemployment and to overcome poverty can be achieved.

## II. THEORETICAL REVIEW

### A. Social Capital:

Schiff (Porte, 1998) defined social capital as a set of elements of social structure that affects relationship between humans and simultaneously as inputs for production and/or profit functions. Similarly, according to Uphoff, social capital is an accumulation of various types of social, psychological, cultural, institutional and intangible aspects affecting cooperative behavior (Dhesi, 2000). Lina and Von Bern (Chegini et.al, 2012) said that social capital has a positive contribution in workers' commitment, organizational flexibility, better management of collective actions and the development of

conceptual capital. Added by Lesser (2000), social capital is very important for the community because: 1) Facilitates access to information for members in the community; 2) Becomes a medium of power sharing within the community; 3) Develops solidarity; 4) Enables the mobilization of community resources; 5) Enables mutual achievement and 6) Shapes community togetherness and organizational.

To ensure the realization of sustainable agricultural development, it is highly dependent on social capital, especially the ability of rural communities to manage and overcome their economy, social and environmental pressures (Mathijs, 2003; Munasib and Jordan, 2011). Rural communities that is endowed with an affluent social capital, including social networks, norms and values relating to social relations, are in the profitable circumstance in solving disputes, sharing information and successfully implementing development programs. However, the success of the program cannot be equated between one community to another, although with the same availability of production factors, because it has different social capital (Trigilia, 2001; Woodhouse, 2006; Nardone et.al, 2010).

To understand how social capital is forming among farmers, a coherent model should be made of how it is formed. This research adopts the multidimensional approach used by Putnam (1993) and integrates it with the various aspects that determine social capital in three different dimensions, namely structural, cognitive and relational as presented by Nahaphiet and Ghoshal (1998), Uphoff and Wijayaratra (2000) as well as Limon et.al. (2014). The main differences between three dimensions are as follows:

1) Structural Dimension of Social Capital refers to the social interaction itself, through the establishment of relationship between individuals or groups by implementing cooperation so as to minimize transaction costs and foster social learning in the community. This dimension explains how individuals can gain certain benefits by utilizing the closeness of personal relationship in the interaction of social structures, including relationship within the network, configuration and organizational forms that provide benefits to members.

2) Cognitive Dimension of Social Capital, including attributes such as collective agreements or shared paradigms that facilitate mutual understanding of the purpose of an agreement and the proper way of acting in a social system, even though there are no special relationship (family or relatives) between individual as group members, social capital is able to influence people to work together. The condition will lead to community cohesiveness, a situation where groups love and trust each other, have a commitment to achieve group goals and share pride as a group, because group cohesiveness is indispensable in realizing sustainable agricultural development.

3) The Relational Dimension of Social Capital is described as a kind of relationship between people (not always long-relationship) that has built up a number of interactions between them to achieve the expected common goals. These dimensions include faiths and beliefs, social norms, sanctions and reciprocity.

### ***B. Social Capital and Sustainable Agricultural Development:***

The importance of groups such as cooperatives (enterprises) and farmer groups in agricultural development has been widely studied in agricultural economy and sociology, as groups reflect most social capital in the agricultural sector (Moyano, 1995). Social network can affect the economy sustainability of farmers by influencing agricultural practices and their tendency to adopt new technologies through the information of the network. Farmers can then learn new techniques and gain knowledge, gain informal training from others who have adopted these practices and even get official help to apply agricultural technology practices. In addition, the role of networks in providing information about jobs and market opportunity has been widely demonstrated. In this case, social capital also indirectly affects agricultural productivity and economy sustainability, as well as regional social sustainability, as it affects the amount of labor availability through both closeness and brotherhood or social relationship (Rauch and Casella 2001). This is particularly important because it can reduce labor migration from rural to urban areas through an increase of labor force in rural agriculture (Limon et al., 2014).

Some authors have highlighted the importance of groups in rural development policies, especially from the perspective of social capital, as groups arise as a result of trust between individuals and are the basis for greater trust and new collective action efforts to undertake projects that is beneficial for the whole society (Putnam, 1993). The role of the group as an intermediary in the implementation of public policy is highly appreciated. Social capital is strongly linked to the quality of the existing associative environment at the local level and has a significant influence on the dynamics of development in rural areas and ultimately affects the survival of rural communities and their social cohesion, where farmers are key players (Limon et al, 2014).

**C. Job Opportunity:**

Providing high job opportunity will have an impact on increasing people's buying power so that ultimately the welfare of the community will be increased. The lack of information on existing job opportunity, followed by a significant increase of population from year to year but not followed by an increase of job opportunity to accommodate population leads to job availability problems.

Sumarsono (2003) provided a definition of job opportunity as filled job and job vacancy. Furthermore, Esmara (1986) stated that job opportunity can be defined as the number of working people or people who already have job, in other words, if more people work there will be a wider job opportunity.

Elizabeth (2007) stated that job opportunity in the agricultural sector can be analyzed by looking at the level of domestic work participation in various types of work related to the level of education as well as their work on their own farm and working for another people's farm. The low quality of rural labor education is very influential on creating new job opportunity. Rural labor is more likely to be considered as a burden than a potentially useful.

The application of technology in farming, it creates limited farming job opportunity, less chance of working in the agricultural sector or even disappear. The decrease of job opportunity due to capital investment in technology is also explained in the neo-classical economic model, where the rapid technology (in this case capital) and population growth (in this case labor) tended to be negatively correlated. In a sense, to achieve maximum profits, the addition of capital usage will suppress the use of labor, consequently weakening the bargaining position of labor (Todaro, 2006).

One of the development's goal is to create job opportunity as much as possible so that the labor force can be absorbed within the development to reduce unemployment. Job opportunity is interpreted as the availability of job field to work as a result of economy or production activity. Thus, the definition of real job opportunity includes jobs that are still vacant. Real job opportunity can also be seen from the number of available worker, as reflected by the working age population (15 years) and above who are working. Job opportunity is the participation of a person in development both in the sense of carrying the burden of development and in receiving back the results of development. The labor force in various economy developments has broad implications for overall economy activity. The more labor force that works has an impact on the increase of people's buying power and then encourages companies to increase production and expand new business according to the needs of society. The addition of production and the addition of new business will result the expansion of job opportunity (Esmara, 1986).

The purpose of job development is to provide employment rate. The employment rate is a measure that shows the proportion of people employed in the labor force. Job development programs are directed at: (1) Expansion and development of jobopportunity such as programs to reduce unemployment and work based on normal working hours (at least 35 hours per week), the goal is to expand job opportunity in various business fields and create self-employment through development entrepreneurship and labor market information; (2) Improvement of the labor quality and productivity; (3) Protection and development of labor agencies (BPS, 2011).

Job opportunity means chance or circumstances that indicate the availability of worker so that everyone who is willing and able to work in the production process in accordance with the skills. Job opportunity is a condition that describes the availability of jobs that are ready to be filled by job seekers. By showing the proportion of persons employed in the labor force involves the field of business or the expansion and development of jobopportunity, the quality of worker, the quantity of worker and the nature of worker (BPS, 2011).

In this study, job opportunity refers to the concept of BPS (2011) which is also adopted the results of the Sanjaya (2013) study and the objectives of the *Simantri* program, that the job rate is a measure to show the proportion of working people especially in the field of business or expansion and development of jobopportunity in the *Simantri* Group which includes providing job field, creating women farming groups and developing family economy ability.

**III. METHODOLOGY**

This study aims to reflect the role of social capital towards job opportunity of farmers members of *Simantri* in Bali Province. To achieve these objectives, a quantitative approach with descriptive and explanatory research is used, supported by a qualitative approach. Research with mixed research design was conducted simultaneously with the aim of complementing the results of studies on the phenomena studied and to strengthen the research analysis. This research was

conducted in nine district/city which implement the Simantri program from 2011 in Bali Province, as many as 145 gapoktan (group farmer) with population of 3104 farmers. The object of this research was *Simantri* program group member, especially the executor of the 2011 programs throughout Bali Province. The subjects of research were the farmers who implemented the *Simantri* program, *Simantri* companion and the government of Department of Agriculture and Food of Bali Province. This study used a multi-stage procedure (clustering) in determining the sample. Population classification was done based on *Simantri* program especially processing and utilization of livestock manure into two levels there were, *Simantri* group that processed livestock manure for organic fertilizer and bio-urine and *Simantri* group that did not process livestock manure, where the information was got from Department of Agriculture and Food, Bali province. Each district / city will be selected two gapoktan determined by proportional sampling. In each selected group would be randomly selected 20 farmer members of the *Simantri* group. The model used to experiment the hypotheses in this model is the Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) use SmartPLS 3 application to analyze research data. Research data collected by structured interviews, in-depth interviews, observation, and triangulation.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on research analysis of collected data results in both cluster of research, social capital positively and significantly influences the job opportunity (Table 1). This indicates that the higher social capital owned by farmers, then result in job opportunity of farmers of the *Simantri* group will be higher too. This is consistent with Rauch and Casella (2001) research results that social networks can affect the sustainability of farmers' economy by influencing agricultural practices and their tendency to adopt new technologies through the provision of information of the network. Farmers can then learn new techniques and gain knowledge, gain informal training from others who have adopted these practices and even get official help to apply agricultural technology practices. In addition, the role of networks in providing information about jobs and market opportunity has been widely proven. Social capital also indirectly affects the amount of labor availability through both closeness and brotherhood or social relation so that it affects the worker and income of farmers.

**Table 1: The Influence of Social Capital towards Farmers' Job Opportunity of *Simantri* Group Members**

Research Stratum	T Statistics	P Value	Annotation
Group that process the livestock manure	4,404	0,000	Positive and significant
Group that does not process the livestock manure	2,601	0,010	Positive and significant

Good respondent perceptions of social capital by giving a high response to all statements about social capital indicates social capital owned by farmers is high enough. This is proven by the closeness between farmers in a very good group that is caused by farmer members of the group have known each other before. They are both farmers who exist in one village area, so it is used to get along together. They uphold the values of local wisdom of Bali that strongly influence the behavior in social relation that is *menyamabraya* (assuming all people are brothers) and *sagiliksaguluk salunglung sabayantaka, paras paros, saling asah, saling asih, saling asuh* (united in joy and sorrow, facing the obstacles, talking and discussing, respecting each other, caring for each other, and helping each other).

Similarly, the closeness of farmers with the government is very high because the routine visits by the Department of Food Crops and Horticulture to monitor and evaluate the implementation of *Simantri* program so as to bring a sense of closeness between farmer members in the group with government. By feeling close, the farmers do not hesitate to convey the problems when implementing the *Simantri* program and the government can directly provide solutions to solve the problem so that *Simantri* program goals can be achieved.

The desire to keep working in groups is also high due to the conduciveness in the group caused by the closeness and togetherness among farmers is also very high. Togetherness arises because of the intensity of gathering among farmers in the group is high enough, where the regular group meetings are held in groups every month depending on the agreement in *gapoktan* (farmer group). But there are also groups whose members are not active anymore because the board is inconsistent and not strict in implementing agreements that have been made together. This condition is of course contrary to the wisdom of the Balinese people, *matilesang raga* (can adopt themselves based on the place, time and circumstances) and *nawang lek* (feel embarrassed when making trouble, take something that is not his, feel embarrassed if not attending the meeting when other member is present) which strongly influences Balinese behavior. The fading of local wisdom in Bali is caused by the negative social behavior of Balinese society, as stated by Wingarta (2017) and Robinson (2005) that Balinese are in an extreme polarized culture because of the more liberal life of Balinese society today. Both extreme point of views (liberalization and primordial) make the people of Bali are confused resulting in negative social behavior. The



informant's statement indicates that trust to the board also contributes to the desire of group members to keep working together. The division of tasks and income in a fair and transparent group and in accordance with the norms and sanctions that have been agreed upon, resulting in the trust of farmers to the board is high enough.

Similarly, work performance variables, respondents' perceptions are good by providing a high response to the statements related to the worker variable indicating job opportunity owned by members of the group in the implementation of the *Simantri* program is high enough. Providing the job opportunity can be seen in the *Simantri* group in the form of division of tasks to all farmers to be responsible for one cow in *gapoktan*. Even in groups that process livestock manure, family members of both child and wife groups are also included to assist with the processing of fertilizers. Giving job opportunity is due to the closeness and trust of farmers with the group so that *Simantri* program can run well.

Related to the development of productive economy, there are already some groups that succeeded in developing it in the form of cooperatives by selling the product in *gapoktan*. However, recognized by the Department of Food Crops and Horticulture, productive economy sector is still not able to be implemented optimally by all *gapoktan*, because the current main priority is processing the organic fertilizer. This finding is similar to the results of research conducted by Sanjaya (2013) in the *Simantri* group 2009 and 2010 still lack of diversification conducted by the group so it does not create new business units based on local potential that can increase the job opportunity in the village.

For groups that process livestock manure, women farmer groups have been established and are already active in *gapoktan*, especially in assisting the process of fertilizers. Even in some *gapoktan*, women have entered the board of committee. While in the group that did not process the fertilizer, the women farmer group has not been actively carrying out activities in the *Simantri* group.

## V. CONCLUSION

Social capital has a direct and positive effect on job opportunity. This means that the better social capital of farmers as *Simantri* group members, the job opportunity obtained by farmer members of the *Simantri* group in Bali Province will be higher as well. High social capital is shown by strong inter-farmer relations, as farmers still hold firmly the values of local wisdom that exist in Balinese social life. High job opportunity is shown by providing jobs in the *Simantri* group in the form of division of tasks to all farmers to be responsible for one cow in *gapoktan*. Even in groups that process livestock manure, family members of both child and wife groups are also included to assist the processing of fertilizers. However, the productive economy sector has not been running yet due to the lack of diversification within the group, therefore the government needs to conduct guidance and counseling on management and entrepreneurship materials to create new business units so that the objective of creating productive economy within the group can be achieved, guidance on how to increase the production of the farming.

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