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Tubagus Hasanuddin

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UTILIZATION INFORMATION AND PEPPER PRODUCTION IN EAST LAMPUNG

Tubagus Hasanudin and Kiki Ambarwati

Department Of Extention and Community Development
Graduate School, Lampung University
Email : tb_sijati@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The availability of information about farming is needed by farmers. ¹ The purpose of this study was to analyze the correlation between information utilization of farmer and pepper production. This research was conducted ² in Sukadana Baru Village, Marga Tiga District, East Lampung regency. This location was chosen purposively with the consideration that Sukadana Baru Village with the largest amount of pepper production in East Lampung. The number of samples in this study were 43 pepper farmers randomly determined. This study ⁴ used a survey method, and data were analyzed using descriptive analysis and Rank Spearman test. The results showed that there was a significant relationship correlation between the types of information and media information used by farmers and pepper production, while the source of information is not correlated with pepper production.

Keywords: information, pepper, production

INTRODUCTION

Lampung is one of the provinces in Indonesia that has contributed to make Indonesia a major produce of pepper in the world (Ditjenbun 2012). Lampung second ranks largest pepper produce after Bangka Belitung Province. Pepper produced by Lampung is black pepper with distinctive taste and aromatic characteristics that have been known in world market under the name "Lampung Black Pepper".

East Lampung is one of the regencies in Lampung Province, where most of the residents earn a living as farmers with the main agricultural commodity being cultivated as pepper. East Lampung is one of the pepper crop production centers in the province which received support for the development of a national pepper plant of 550 hectares in 2016 and is one of the black pepper centers with a plantation area of 4,815 ha (Ditjenbun 2016).

Area of pepper production in East Lampung decrease every year, so the government through the Department of Plantation promotes the intensification of pepper plants by providing production facilities. These efforts were made in order to improve the quality and quantity of pepper. Dewi (2017) said that "the low productivity is also related to the quality of farmers, such as the low level of education allegedly is one of the causes of low productivity of farmers". Farmer education is related to the knowledge they have, while the involvement of access to information is the key to increasing knowledge, in other words if someone who has adequate information will have an impact on their level of knowledge. ¹ Based on the description above, the purpose of this study is to analyze the relationship between the use of information of farmers to pepper farming and the production of pepper of farmers.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research using a survey method in Sukadana Baru village, Marga Tiga Subdistrict, East Lampung Regency. This location was chosen purposively with the consideration that Sukadana Baru is village the largest amount of pepper production.

Determination of the number of samples refers to the theory of Arikunto (2013), which states that if the population is large then the number of samples can be take between 10-15 percent or 20-25 percent or more. The population in this study was 432 pepper farmers from 18 farmer groups in the village of Sukadana Baru, so the number of pepper farmers can be calculated using the sample measurement formula, Gay and Diehl (1992) in Arikunto (2013):

$$n = 0,1 \times N \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Note:

n = Number of samples

N = Number of population

Based on equation 1, the calculation of the number of samples for pepper farmers is as follows:

$$n = 0.1 \times 432 = 43.2 \approx 43$$

Samples from each population of farmer group members are determined using the formula of sample proportion allocation, Nazir (1988):

$$n_i = \left[\frac{N_i}{N} \right] n \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Note:

n_i = Number of samples for each group

N_i = Total population of each group

N = Total population of the group

n = Total sample size

Determination of the sample using simple random tables so that each unit of the population sample has the same opportunity to be selected as a sample. The type of data used are primary data and secondary data. The primary data collection method was obtained through direct interviews with farmer respondents using a questionnaire. Secondary data were obtained from related institutions or agencies such as the Central Statistics Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Counseling Agency, journals, and other literature publications that are relevant and relevant to research. To determine relationship between the use of information used by farmers with the production of pepper produced used the Spearman rank correlation test (rs).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristic of Respondents

The age of respondents ranged from 30-62 years, with an average age of 42 years. Mantra (2004) explains that the population aged 15 - 64 years is the productive age. Formal education farmers ranging from elementary school to high school. The average farmer is a primary school graduate. The average area of farmers' arable land is 2.00 ha and included in the classification of narrow land. The average number of pepper sticks that the respondents worked for was 1,600

sticks per hectare and the average age of the tree was 19 years. The average farmer respondent has been cultivating pepper for 22 years. The total income of farmers comes from the activities of pepper farming, non-pepper farming, off-farm, and non-farming

Utilization of Pepper Farming Information

Respondents in this study were farmers who worked with pepper in Marga Tiga District in 2018. Variables in information utilization included, types of information find by farmers, media used by farmers, and sources of information by farmers in the past one year. The types of information related to pepper farms find by farmers include pepper varieties, types of medicines, planting techniques, garden maintenance, harvesting and post-harvest activities, as well as pepper sales and prices. Figure 1 shows the percentage of types of information find by farmers.

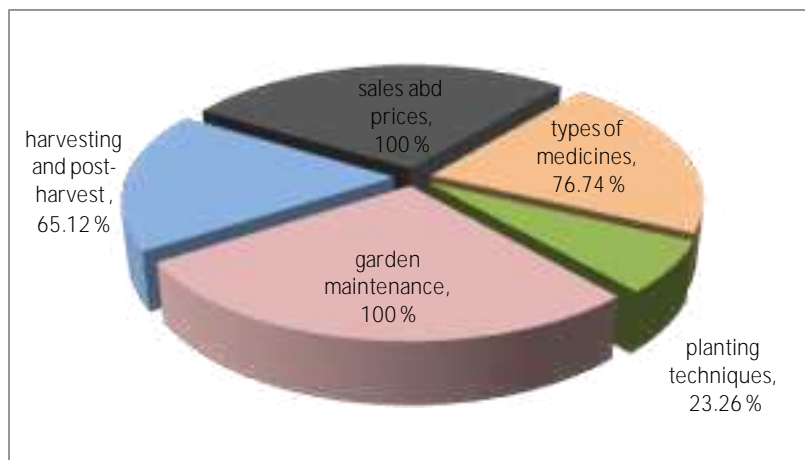


Figure 1. Types of farming information find by farmers.

Based on Figure 1, the information most find after by farmers is information about maintaining the garden and the price and sale of pepper. While information about pepper varieties is not find by farmers. That is because farmers are hereditary and it has been proven that the pepper varieties that are currently used by farmers are the most suitable varieties to be planted in research locations, the type of pepper varieties is Natar 1.

Based on the results of the research, the media used by pepper of farmers to get formation related to pepper farming are internet cellphones, agricultural magazines, and brochures. Figure 2 shows the percentage of information media usage.

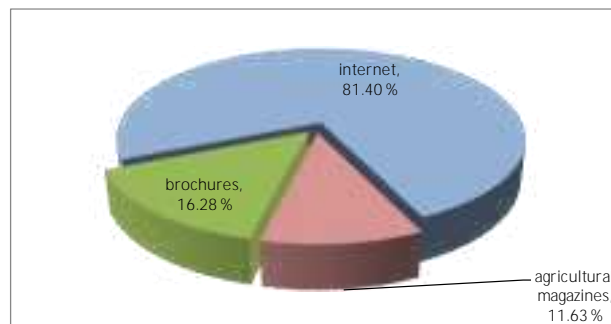


Figure 2. Information media used by farmers.

Most farmers have used the internet to find information related to the pepper farming they run. Information media such as brochures and agricultural magazines are only a few farmers who use, generally farmers rarely read print media (newspapers, brochures, magazines), they read if it is available and claim no information about pepper farming is available in most print media. Even farmers claim that various types of print media are still rarely found by farmers because of access to the research village which far from the city center.

Farmers admit that they get more information that can increase their knowledge through people who can meet and communicate directly than looking for information through the media. This is in line with research by Oktavia, Muljono, Amanah, and Hubeis (2017) that the small number of agribusiness actors always uses mass media to search for information, because information is less relevant to the needs and limited access to the internet network. Fuady, Lubis and Lumintang (2012) stated that the low access of farmers to information through mass media is due to several factors, among others, the lack of agricultural information published in the mass media, farmers lacking sufficient time to access the mass media, especially electronic media whose broadcasts when farmers are still working, and the low interest of farmers to access mass media.

Based on the research results obtained, the information sources of farmers related to pepper farming include middlemen, other farmers, extension, official services, and farmer groups. Figure 3 shows the percentage of pepper farming information sources.

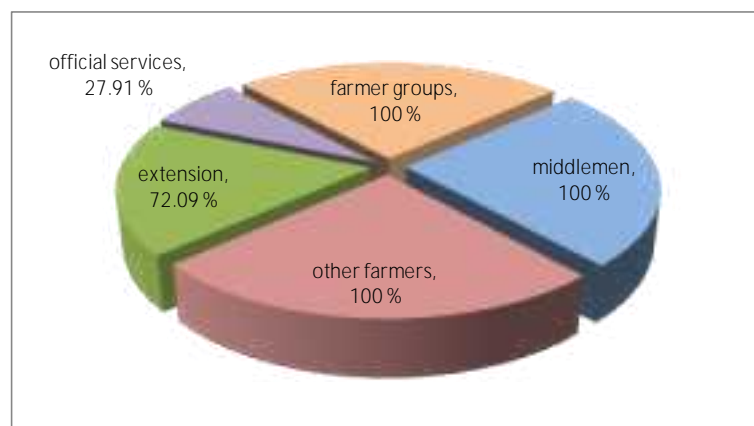


Figure 3. Sources of information on pepper farming.

Figure 3 shows that all farmers use middlemen, farmer groups and other farmers as sources of information related to pepper farming. The role of farmers and farmer groups is the main source of farmers to obtain information about pepper varieties, types of medicines, planting techniques, garden maintenance, harvesting and post-harvest activities, while the role of middlemen is to be a source of information on pepper sales and prices. Agricultural extension workers are also a source of information, extension activities that are often followed by farmers in the study area range from 2-4 times a year. The offices that have visited the research villages related to pepper farming include, the plantation office, the tourism office and the industrial office.

Pepper Production The smallest land area of farmers is 0.25 ha and the largest area is 7.00 ha with a spacing of trees 2.5x2 meters. Based on the results in the field that overall pepper production produced by farmers can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of respondent farmers based on pepper production per kg / ha / year

Classification	Production/Kg	Σ	%
Low	228,57 – 619,05	31	72,09
Middle	619,06 – 1.009,52	10	23,26
High	1.009,53 – 1.400,00	2	4,65
Total		43	100,00

Source: Primary data of research results

Table 1 showed that production of pepper is mostly in the low classification, (72.09%). The average pepper production is 902.50 kg / year and is still relatively low, given the potential for pepper production can reach 4 tons per hectare (BPTP Lampung, 2016). Suwanto (2017), Pepper production in East Lampung has decreased in recent years. The problem faced by East Lampung pepper farmers is that most of the management of smallholder plantations on a small scale and limited capital capability. This has an impact on the lack of application of technological recommendations including the use of superior seeds, cultivation methods and post-harvest handling. Actually, to increase the number and quality of pepper there are guidelines for the production of good and right peppers, namely IPC (International Pepper Community) based on GAP (Good Agriculture Practice) which includes how to select plants to store dried pepper products, but there are still many farmers who have not know the guidelines.

Relationship of Information Utilization that is Used by Farmers with Pepper Production

The hypothesis of this study is that there is a relationship between the use of information used by farmers with the production of pepper produced. Utilization of information includes, types of information find by farmers, information media and sources of information by farmers. The results of data processing using the SPSS 16.0 For Windows application using the Spearman Test (rs) at an alpha level of 0.05 can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Results of an analysis of the relationship between the use of information used by farmers and pepper production

Variable Y	Variable X	Coefficient correlation (r)	Significance (p-value)
Pepper Production	- types of information	0,333*	0,029
	-information media	0,301*	0,050
	- sources of information	0,037	0,815

Note: * Real at the α level of 0.05

Table 2 showed that there is a relationship between the information utilization variable used by farmers and the pepper production variable, including the type of information and information media used by farmers. Based on statistical test results obtained by the correlation coefficient of 0.333 significance of 0.029 less than alpha 0.05, it can be concluded conclusions accept H1. The type of information is significantly related to the production of pepper, meaning that the more the type of information find by farmers increases the pepper

production produced. This is because the main job of farmers is pepper farming and farmers realize that the amount of information find by farmers is crucial to the production achieved. Therefore farmers try to obtain information about pepper farming as much as possible from various sources to be able to develop their farming.

Based on the results of statistical tests obtained by the correlation coefficient of 0.301 significance of 0.050 less than alpha 0.05, it can be concluded conclusions accept H1. Media information is significantly related to pepper production, meaning that the more information media used by farmers, the more pepper production is produced. This is supported by the fact in the field that most farmers have used information technology facilities easily. Specifically for mobile phones, all farmers have and use them to make phone calls or send messages. Besides being used to call and send messages, mobile phones are used by farmers to access the internet because it is easy, complete and diverse, and fast.

Based on statistical test results obtained by the correlation coefficient of 0.037 significance of 0.815 more than alpha 0.05, it can be concluded accept H0. Information sources do not have a real relationship with pepper production, the data indicates that there is a grouping of data on the information source variable. The results of the research in the field of farmers admitted that in general they started farming activities "since childhood" and continues to this day. The average farm length of respondents is 22 years and no followed by the development of farming because farmers claimed to have been quite satisfied follow the way of farming that has been taught for generations, as well as information obtained from various sources have all been applied by farmers in farm management.

CONCLUSION

The information of the price and sale of pepper are information most important by pepper farmer. As many as 81.40 percent of pepper farmers have used the internet to find information related to the pepper farming. Tengkulak institution (marketing agency), farmer groups and the other farmers as a source of information to pepper farming of farmers. The average production of pepper farmers are 902.50 kg/ha/years. There is a significant relationship between the type of information find by farmers and the media used by farmers with the production of pepper produced, while the source of information is not related to the production of pepper produced.

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