

Editorial Article

Book Review 'Indonesia's Agricultural Potential: Analysis of the Complete Enumeration Results of the 2013 Agricultural Census' (Indonesian Version)

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1. Introduction

Written by Rustam, Ema Tusianti, Dr. Anang Laksono, Drs. Waris Marsisno, Dr. Ir. Haerani Natali Agustini, Dyah Retno Prihatiningsih, Kartiana Siregar, Yoyo Karyono, Taufan Tirtayasa, Dimas Hari Santoso, Indah Budiati, Riyadi, Siti Aisyah, Bambang Tri Budhi Mulyanto, Yeshri Rahayu & Yuniarti, as a tropical country with two seasons, Indonesia is blessed with soil fertility that supports the growth of various types of plants. Apart from that with the extent of maritime control and the abundance of fishery products cannot be denied. Even some of the agricultural products produced have comparative advantages and become a favorite for exports. Not only the agricultural sector becomes a source of food, it also brings foreign exchange and supporting the economic activities of most people. Most of Indonesia society in rural areas depends on this sector. Unfortunately, most of them live below the poverty line. The low exchange rate for farmers' welfare illustrates this has not been as expected.

Currently Indonesian agriculture is still facing obstacles both from within and from outside. From within, the obstacles faced are related to optimization and resource quality of people, business scale, regeneration and import dependence. Apart from that along with the exploration of agricultural products increases, various natural phenomena have disrupted the productivity of agricultural products. From outside, the flood of imported products is a challenge for local commodities. Facing these various challenges, comprehensive and innovative development policies are urgently needed. A deeper exploration of the picture of Indonesian agriculture is a means to create appropriate agricultural policies. Explore the potential of each region or economic corridor is the first step in sectoral and regional policy formulation. The hope is that each corridor can develop agriculture according to its potential so that economic disparities between regions can be minimized. The results of the 2013 Agricultural Cen-

sus (ST2013) provide a portrait of Indonesian agriculture mainly related to the characteristics of agricultural business households and population products produced both nationally and by island. On a national scale, the ST2013 results show that Indonesian agriculture characterized by a shift in business actors, where the number of agricultural business households decreased from the previous census period. On the other hand, the population of agricultural companies actually increased. Another characteristic is related to the characteristics of the business actor at home where the majority of Indonesian farmers are men in their late productive years.

It is still rare for the younger generation to be involved in this sector. Regarding land for a decade, the area of agricultural land holding per agricultural household is increasing accompanied by a reduction in the number of smallholder farmers. Meanwhile, food plants of agricultural subsector are the one most cultivated by farmers in almost all regions of Indonesia. Until now the agricultural sector is still concentrated on the island of Java, which is also the center of the Indonesian economy. A number of strategic commodities are still dominantly produced on this island such as rice, corn, soybeans and sugar cane. No exception in fulfilling meat self-sufficiency, Java Island is still the main producer. However, the carrying capacity of nature and land on this island is decreasing so it makes sense to direct agricultural development to other areas. The Bali and Nusa Tenggara corridor has quite large potential for development of livestock subsector especially beef cattle farming. Apart from cattle farming, plantation and forestry businesses are also quite bright in this corridor. Coffee has great potential to be developed in Bali, while in West Nusa Tenggara tobacco is still a mainstay besides forest honey. Meanwhile East Nusa Tenggara is the main producer of sandalwood [1].

Meanwhile from the Dutch colonial era until now, plantations have been the main support for agriculture in Sumatra. Rubber, palm oil and coconut are the three main commodities most cultivated by households in this region. The same thing happens in Sulawesi where plantations have great potential even though the majority of agricultural households cultivate food crops. Plantation commodities such as cocoa, coconut and coffee are superior on Celebes Island. On the other hand, Kalimantan is an area with sufficient and unique agricultural development. Amidst the pressure of mining business which is much more popular for the community, the agricultural sector is increasingly facing challenges. However, plantations and forestry can still be improved. Acacia, bamboo, teak and mahogany are agricultural products that are widely cultivated besides rubber, coconut and palm oil. As an archipelagic country, Indonesia's fisheries potential is reflected in the Maluku archipelago. In this region, fisheries activities have brilliant potential even though the number of agricultural households involved is not as large as other agricultural sectors. Capture fishing is a business for the majority of fishermen in these islands. Discussing Indonesia's agricultural prospects cannot be separated from Papua Island. This fertile Island land has great potential for the development of food crops and horticulture and plantations. Some com-

modities that have the potential to be developed are corn, sago, nutmeg, coffee, coconut and vegetables. Apart from that, this corridor also has potential for the development of pigs and cattle. The problem is that the obstacles faced by agricultural development in this area are quite numerous such as problems with human resources, transportation and infrastructure in this area. In conclusion, one of the goals of Indonesia's agricultural development is increasing farmer productivity through increasing the added value of farmer produced. Many efforts can be made including through further processing of agricultural products produced by farmers. Unfortunately, this effort has only been carried out by a small number of agricultural households and is still concentrated on the island of Java. Most agricultural households sell their agricultural products in basic form. Apart from that, there are still few agricultural business households engaged in agricultural services, even though business opportunities in this sector are quite wide open.

References

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