

APRIL 2020

terasmitra BERBAGI CERITA

The official newsletter of
Terasmitra

VOL 1



Nutritious and highly nutritious eating is really needed by our body so that our immunity increases and is always healthy. One of the foods we must consume is fruits and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables are believed to have many vitamins and high antioxidants to ward off free radicals from our body so that our bodies stay healthy. In the midst of this pandemic and erratic weather we are also required to continue to apply our lifestyle yes!

Brenjonk, who is a Terasmitra partner, has experience in marketing organic vegetables and fruits, this could be one of the choices for Friends of Terasmitra to get organic fruits and vegetables. At present Brenjonk can only serve orders for surabaya and surrounding areas. Direct booking info contact 0822-3195-6172.

Organic Agriculture has indeed been done by Brenjonk and until now Brenjonk has succeeded in marketing various types of organic vegetables and fruits to meet the needs of vegetables and fruits of the people in Indonesia in particular. At present Brenjonk also has a Biological Agency laboratory, which has been able to produce 9 types of microbes and is formulated into 5 types of formulas with different functions. This is done to support the development and growth of organic plants such as vegetables and fruits.

FOOD SECURITY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN SOME AREAS OF THE GEF SGP PROGRAM

By: Dicky Lopulalan, Rifqi Afdillah, and Mutia Afianti

COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia has brought anxiety on issue of food availability for the whole population. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned that this pandemic could cause food shortages, not only in Indonesia, but throughout the world. This warning is responded by the President of Republic Indonesia Joko Widodo to order the Interior Ministry in a Restricted Meeting on Monday (13/4) to remind each head of the region to be able to maintain the supply of basic goods.

continue to page 2

- 02 SHIFTING OF PROFESSION
- 03 DISTRIBUTION BARRIERS AND PRICE INCREASE
- 04 LOCAL FOOD AVAILABILITY
- 07 COMMUNITY STRATEGY
- 08 CONCLUSION

✉ JAKARTA
JL. BACANG II NO. 8 KEBAYORAN
BARU, SOUTH JAKARTA 12130
+ 62 21 727 905 20
INFO@TERASMITRA.COM

📌 RUMAHTERASMITRA

🌐 WWW.TERASMITRA.COM

📷 TERASMITRA



FOOD SECURITY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN SOME AREAS OF THE GEF SGP PROGRAM ¹

By: Dicky Lopulalan, Rifqi Afdillah, and Mutia Afianti ²



The atmosphere of one of the markets in the Wakatobi Islands

COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia has brought anxiety on issue of food availability for the whole population. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned that this pandemic could cause food shortages, not only in Indonesia, but throughout the world. This warning is responded by the President of Republic Indonesia Joko Widodo to order the Interior Ministry in a Restricted Meeting on Monday (13/4) to remind each head of the region to be able to maintain the supply of basic goods.³

The Terasmitra Association is also wary of the FAO warning. The association with former grantees of the Global Environment Facilities Small Grants Program (GEF SGP) as members then gathers information related to food availability spread in different locations of the members across Indonesia. In gathering the information, several findings were obtained, namely:

➔ Shifting of Profession



Seaweed farmers in Nusa Penida are harvesting

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused closures of many companies and terminations of employment. This situation makes many workers shift professions. Such as the tourism industry workers in Bali Province who stopped working completely. The tourism industry workers on Nusa Penida island mostly switched professions to become cottoni seaweed farmers that has high value in the export market.

This type of seaweed is usually used as cosmetics raw materials. "It is also because they can't farm in the fields because the rain has stopped falling," said Gede Sudiarta from the Wisnu Foundation who is currently hosting the phase 6 GEF SGP program on Nusa Penida Island.

➔ Distribution Barriers and Price Increase



Ship transportation activities at Wakatobi port

Mobility restriction to break the chain of virus spread has an impact on the availability and increase in food prices. In Nusa Penida, the supply of basic needs such as sugar, vegetables, and rice, which has been supplied from Klungkung and Denpasar, has begun to face obstacles with the reduction of almost 90% of boat transportation to the island.

Similar thing is also felt by the people of the Wakatobi Islands who are highly dependent on food supplies from outside for rice, sugar and wheat flour. "Currently there are restrictions of number of ships coming in and out of the small islands in Wakatobi. This has made basic needs coming from outside the island to be scarce and expensive," said Tata Yanti, an activist at Forkani who is the host of the phase 6 GEF SGP program at Wakatobi. Currently, the market price of sugar has reached Rp20.000/liter, Rp700,000/50 kg of rice, Rp20.000/piece of brown sugar. The increase in prices ranges from 25% to 36% of the initial price before the pandemic occurred. At the beginning of the pandemic around the beginning of March, when the issue of area closure is circulated, there was even a scarcity of the basic needs, causing public concern.

Kartini Inspiratif Indonesia

Yovita Meta Bastian atau yang akrab disapa Mama Yovita berasal dari Timor Tengah Utara, NTT. Beliau punya segudang pengalaman dalam produksi tenu khas Timor Tengah Utara NTT.

Lewat Tenun inilah ia berhasil mem-berdayakan kaum perempuan didesanya Timor Tengah Utara dan mendirikan sebuah Yayasan Tafean Pah yang merupakan sarana untuk kaum penenun perempuan di TTU untuk membuat tenun dan menjualnya.

Susi Pudjiastuti adalah Menteri Kelautan dan Perikanan ke-6 Republik Indonesia. Kontribusinya pada lingkungan dilakukannya melalui sosialisasi pengurangan sampah plastik.

Langkah yang diambil Susi Pudjiastuti dalam mengurangi sampah plastik adalah dengan cara memberikan jaring pada mulut sungai yang berada di tepi laut. Hal ini dilakukan agar sampah dari darat tidak bermuara di laut.

Yovita Meta Bastian

Susi Pudjiastuti

terasmitra

Other areas, such as Gorontalo (Sulawesi) and Banyumas (Central Java) also experience supplies scarcity and price increase of basic needs coming from outside the area. Price has increased in Gorontalo, such as for rice, from the previous 10,000/kg to Rp13,000/kg, sugar from Rp13.000/kg to Rp.18,000/ kg from the previous; in Banyumas price has increased for sugar, coconut sugar, and spices. "Specifically, for coconut sugar, the price increase of coconut sugar actually benefits farmers producing coconut sugar," said Nartam from the Multipurpose Cooperative (KSU) Nira Satria, partner of GEF SGP. Whereas on Semau Island (East Nusa Tenggara/NTT), which relies on the basic need such as sugar, cooking oil, rice and corn from Kupang City, the price increase hasn't been too significant.



Banyumas residents are in the process of making coconut sugar

➔ Local Food Availability



Asis Lafu, chairman of the farmer group Dalen Mesa, are harvesting sorghum

Whereas on Semau Island, in some places there has been up to 90% crop failed for rice and corn due to the lack of rainfall this year, although they are still available in several other places. As for sorghum agriculture (GEF SGP's leading food security program in Semau), yields are better than last year. "Plants thrive and do not experience pest attacks," said Asis Lafu, chairman of the farmer group Dalen Mesa, partner of GEF SGP. Another abundant commodity in Semau is forest honey.

The GEF SGP from the start of the phase 6 program in 2016, has encouraged activities aimed at building local resilience, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. The result is relatively felt now. In April, local food availability in partners' sites is identified to be suffice in meeting their own needs as they are almost ready for harvest. Farmers in Nusa Penida, for example, have local food stocks, such as corns, beans, coconuts, sweet potatoes, chayotes, sorghums, and others. Farmers in the GEF SGP program area in Nusa Penida predict that harvests can guarantee food availability for the next three to four months.



On the left, the cassava field belongs to one of the farmers in Wakatobi. Right photo of residents peeling cassava from the harvest

In Wakatobi, the main local food such as cassava and fish are relatively abundant. Local vegetables that are usually only able to be met for two seasons annually, are abundant this year because of the prolonged rainy season from the rain of west season to the east season. The corn however, is a failed crop in the last harvest season because of the attack of armyworms.

The staple food of Wakatobi people is referred as soami (processed cassava) and currently sell well in local markets. The price of this product doesn't increase although the size is smaller than usual. Apart from being processed, cassava as raw material is also high in demand. Many people buy cassava directly to the garden to then be processed and resold.

Cassava trading also occurs among islands. The people of Tomia Island, for example, buy raw materials from Kaledupa. This happens because of different harvest seasons on each island due to soil conditions and the high demand. Inter-community sales also occur between the Bajo people who live in the waters with farmers on land. Bajo people use joint capital to buy the harvest of a cassava plot owned by farmer in Kaledupa to meet the needs of their house. The price of a cassava crop/garden plot is sold at around Rp7,000,000. This is something new that happened because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Usually, farmers in Kaledupa sell cassava per pikulu (a local unit weighing of 60 kg).

Especially for Kaledupa Island, the price of fish and other catches has decreased because there are many community members going fishing aside being farmer. Another thing that encourages many members of the community to shift professions and become fishermen is because of the halt of main activity on land. The fisheries commodities that experienced a drastic price reduction include octopus, sea cucumbers, and seaweed. Before the pandemic, it was very rare for the public to get dried octopus because it had been sold for export purposes in wet/fresh. After the cessation of exports, dried octopus can be obtained easily at very low prices



Residents in Kaledupa are selling octopus on the edge of the pier



Photo on the left, coconut sugar sorting activities in the KSU Nirasatria production room. Photo on the right of one of the sugar farmers in Banyumas is making roomie for making coconut sugar

Scarcity of local food doesn't occur in Banyumas. Community's activities are still ongoing as days before the pandemic despite social restrictions as recommended by the government. The coconut sap tappers still harvest and process coconut sugar every day. Buying and selling activities in traditional markets are also still running as usual. The supply of basic needs of the community can still be fulfilled from their own harvests or from their surrounding areas.

An interesting thing happened at the Transmigration Settlement Unit 3 in Pabuto Hamlet, Tamilo Preparation Village/Saritani Village, Boalemo Regency, Gorontalo Province. In observations by the Agrarian Institute activist, GEF SGP's partner Sugeng Sutrisno, community there planted various types of tubers, bananas, and corn as food reserves to anticipate the possibility of a long crisis. Community also generally has the knowledge and skills to process plants on their land into various forms of food.



The left photo shows the activities of the farmers in Saritani Village working on the fields. Photo to the right of one of the chili fields belonging to residents in Saritani Village.

One of the people who participated in the GEF SGP program, named Edi Pris, even planted a variety of plants to supply kitchen needs, such as a variety of vegetables, chilies, onions, tubers, corn, and others. Additional basic needs purchased from the market are only salt, additives, cooking oil and rice. The money to buy those needs is obtained from the chilli harvest. The income from chili can also be used to finance corn cultivation so Edi is free from loan-shark's debt. From corn sales, Edi was able to buy a motorcycle to transport crops, such as corn, cassava, taro, and bananas.

➔ Community Strategy

To anticipate the possibility of a food crisis as a result of the predicted COVID 19 pandemic that will last long, the GEF SGP assisted communities in the sites identified in this report developed several strategies, namely:

- Familiarize yourself with consuming local food to replace food that must be supplied from outside the region. For example, people in Wakatobi deal with the scarcity of rice by switching to cassava even though they have to really persuade their children who are not accustomed to eating cassava as a staple food.
- Optimizing the use of garden land and house yards to plant various types of plants that can be used for household needs. In that way, community hope to reduce spending, while increasing income from the sale of commodities.
- Prioritizing the storage of a large portion of garden products for future self- stock. If it excess, then it will be sold. In Semau, for example, especially for corn and sorghum which were prioritized for sale, now they are reconsidered as stock for the people.
- Processing variety of plentiful commodities. For example, processing rice or sorghum into flour (Semau), fresh fish into smoked fish or pindang (salted and boiled) fish, cassava into soami (Wakatobi), coconut into virgin coconut oil (VCO/Gorontalo).
- Processing commodities that have been neglected to anticipate or replace staples supplied from outside the region, as people in Pabuto Hamlet do. They began harvesting palm tree sap, which grows wild around settlement, processing them into sugar to anticipate the increase price of sugar cane.
- Developing a marketing strategy for harvests through the "one door" route to increase the bargaining position of the traders/middlemen who are currently coming directly to the people.
- Village government transfers village budget to fulfil basic needs and community health. For example, in North Tamaila Village, Tolanghula Sub-District, Gorontalo Regency, the village budget is used to buy supplies such as rice, eggs, supplements, masks, and disinfectants in preparation for this COVID-19 pandemic.
- Building social entrepreneurship in the city as a marketing channel, in collaboration with a network of counterparts. One of them was carried out by Jappesda, host of the GEF SGP program in Gorontalo who bought chili, lime, banana and cassava and then sold it online.



➔ Conclusion

Until this mid-April 2020, the availability and fulfilment of basic needs for food from plantations has not been a problem for agricultural villages that are included in the GEF SGP program. The community has also begun to develop creative strategies to anticipate basic needs' scarcity in the future. The obstacle is the sales of the produces due to mobility restrictions and low prices given by middlemen coming directly to the villages. Collaborative design of strategies is needed to overcome this problem so that it does not become a burden on society in the future when the COVID-19 pandemic lasts long.

1. This paper is written on April 14, 2020 and is still an initial identification with a limited location, not yet reflecting the situation in the whole program area.
2. Terasmitra Team
3. Indra Arief Pribadi. "President Jokowi: Perhatikan Peringatan FAO, Jaga Ketersediaan Pangan". Kantor Berita Antara, Sunday, 13 April 2020. URL: <https://www.antaraneews.com/berita/1417539/presiden-jokowi-perhatikan-peringatan-fao-jaga-ketersediaan-pangan>. Accessed on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.



LOCKDOWN itu Apa Sih?

LOCKDOWN artinya situasi yang melarang warga untuk masuk ke suatu tempat karena kondisi darurat. Lockdown juga bisa berarti negara yang menutup perbatasannya, agar tidak ada orang yang masuk atau keluar dari negaranya.

Lockdown diterapkan jika sudah banyak orang yang terinfeksi virus / penyakit di dalam sebuah wilayah / Negara.

Sumber : Suara.com

terasmitra

Apa Itu Physical Distancing?

Physical Distancing adalah sebuah cara atau tindakan pengendalian infeksi yang dimaksudkan untuk menghentikan atau memperlambat penyebaran penyakit menular dengan cara menghindari hadir di pertemuan besar atau kerumunan orang. Jika Anda harus berada di sekitar orang, jaga jarak dengan orang lain sekitar 6 kaki (2 meter).

Apa itu Karantina & Isolasi Diri?

Karantina itu berarti menerapkan tindakan pencegahan untuk mengurangi penularan penyakit. Hal ini biasanya bisa dilakukan di rumah sendiri.

Isolasi Diri adalah istilah perawatan kesehatan yang berarti menjauhkan orang-orang yang terinfeksi penyakit menular dari mereka yang tidak terinfeksi. Tindakan ini biasanya dilakukan di rumah sakit yang memiliki ruang Isolasi.

Sumber : wartaekonomi.co.id - tirta.id

terasmitra

WE CREATE, CONNECT, COLLABORATE,
AND CHANGE THE WORLD