



## Community Intervention in Sustainable Food Yard Program for Women Farmer Group in Tigo Koto Diate Village, Indonesia

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### Abstract

This research investigated how community interventions are implemented by the Food Security Agency through the Sustainable Food Yard Program for the Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group. This study describes the implementation of Community interventions in 12 variables using a qualitative approach. Based on the results of the research and analysis performed to examine the community intervention model, it is possible to infer that this program is a type of intervention with the Capacity Development with Substantial Planning / Policy model. This is based on a program practice strategy that develops competencies through pre-planned actions. This study also suggests that future studies look at the program's long-term impact as an endeavor to establish food sovereignty.

**Keywords:** *Community Intervention, Women Farmer Group, Social Program*

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## INTRODUCTION

Community intervention is a change effort undertaken and conducted in practice in collaboration with the community in order to satisfy the needs and overcome difficulties encountered by the community, based on a plan established collaboratively and agreed upon in the form of a program. (Adi, 2013). The process of community empowerment through community intervention can be carried out through several intervention models, including locality development, social planning, and social action (Rothman, 1995).

Community development as a development concept has social and cultural characteristics that emerge dynamically in society and reflects the development paradigm which is people-centered or community-centered as subjects and actors of development. In terms of concept, community development is an effort to improve the honor and dignity of society that are currently unable to escape the trap of poverty and backwardness. In other words, empowerment is a self-sufficient community. (Zubaedi, 2013).

The Women Farmer Group is a forum that provides women to take part in the promotion in the agricultural sector. Female farmer productivity is less than male farmer productivity due to limited access to land and agricultural inputs (Uduji, Okolo-Obasi, & Asongu, 2019). For that reason, Women Farmer Group is used to facilitate coaching activities for farmers in the Cubadak Air community in order to improve the quality of women farmers' resources. Participating in women's organizations is one of the activities that can empower women. The Women Farmer Group's cubadak air is expected to create opportunities for women in the environment to channel their abilities in developing agricultural land and to improve their quality of life in the community through various Women Farmer Group activities.

From 2010 to 2019, the Food Security Agency (Badan Ketahanan Pangan/ BKP) carried out Sustainable Food House Area activities through the Center for Diversity of Consumption and Food Sustainability. In order to broaden beneficiaries and land usage, Sustainable Food House Area activities were renamed Sustainable Food Yard (Pekarangan Pangan Lestari/ P2L), in 2020. Sustainable Food Yard Program actions are carried out to support government programs that address priority areas for stunting intervention, vulnerable areas for food insecurity, or solidifying food security areas. This activity is carried out through the utilization of yard land, idle land, and unproductive unoccupied land, as food producers in fulfilling home food and nutrition, and market-oriented to raise household income. (Melandani, 2021).

Community Intervention is connected to the Sustainable Food Yard Program, which was founded by the Food Security Agency. Where's the creation of the women's farmer group serves as the initiative behind this program to address community needs and resolve issues each participant in this initiative, which was created by the Cubadak Air neighborhood resident. As a result, it will be interesting to see how Sustainable Food Yard Program is used in the Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group as a method of community intervention.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a qualitative approach with narrative research methods to describe and assess community interventions carried out by the Food Security Agency through the Sustainable Food Yard Program to the Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group. This research approach focuses on one or two people, collecting data based on individual stories and experiences that chronologically order the meaning of those encounters. (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Moleong (2017: 6) defines qualitative research as research that aims to comprehend phenomena about what is experienced by research subjects holistically, including behavior, perception, motivation, action, et others.

This study was done from January to April 2023, with data collected through literature reviews and in-depth interviews. Furthermore, this study used a Narrative Research Analysis approach to examine the data generated by the findings.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The information was collected by in-depth interviews with informants, observation, and other secondary data collection techniques. Researchers were able to collect information about Community Interventions carried out by the Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group Community. Rothman (1995) identifies three intervention models (approaches) used in social intervention at the community level for questions to be asked of informants about their opinions utilizing 12 variables.

According to Rothman's (2007) method, the Sustainable Food Yard Program aimed at the Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group can be classed in the capacity development model with substantial planning/policy, in its implementation, after the competency level of the beneficiary group has risen substantially, the group should be able to improve its own conditions of living, using data and analytic procedures they have learned to plan effective actions. The description of the findings of this research can be seen below.

### 1. Goal Categories

Based on the findings of interviews and observations, Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group was established as a form facing an issue of poverty. The lack of managed land area makes most farmers do not get more profit when harvesting. Due to a lack of managed land area, most farmers do not make a profit during harvesting. For that reason, the Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group participates in the Sustainable Food Yard Program, which is designed to empower the community by increasing the area of producing land, which is projected to provide food for the family and additional revenue. As a form of capacity development with substantial planning/policy

(Rothman, 2007), the program run by the government runs in a top-down path. The program's goal is not expressed as a process, but rather as a task because little effort is made to have a sustainable impact. Therefore, it can be shown from this research that the spirit of empowerment does not prevail compared to the spirit of executing a program. Nonetheless, top-down programs may encourage community empowerment more conventionally by offering provide a parallel 'empowerment' path if there is level of control and choice over life decisions (Laverack & Labonte, 2000).

## 2. Assumption Concerning Community Structure and Problem Conditions

The Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group was created as a farmer organisation to address the agricultural difficulties of its members. The Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group is a government-sponsored agricultural assist group with a management team of 5 persons and 25 members. Of course, the challenges that farmers face have multiple layers. Even though this program is regarded as a kind of traditional innovation due to its use of farmer yard land, it has demonstrated how the state is able to break through the paradigm that identifies farmers or impoverished people only as recipients of official development assistance with monetary indicators. (García-Guerrero, et. al, 2021).

## 3. Basic Change Strategy

The involvement of the Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group in the Sustainable Food Yard Program is a government program that includes farmer communities by utilizing yard land to produce agricultural products. As with the economic development model, a program begins with concrete agenda and organizing mechanisms (Laverack & Labonte, 2000), The government manages the Sustainable Food Yard Program by choosing various farmer groups as participants. In terms of program administration, the government bears a great deal of responsibility in carrying out social services and community empowerment through developing creative and innovative enterprises (Rojikinnor, 2020). It will be easier to implement the program if women's farmer organizations are chosen as beneficiaries. This is related to the existence of social connections among its members, which, as an outcome strategy, makes it easier when it comes to organizing the beneficiaries. (Jones, et. al, 2018).

## 4. Characteristic Change Tactics and Techniques

Empowerment strategies are used to promote independence, improve devotion toward the assigned assignment and improve the quality of services provided at every level of the organization (Ismail et al, 2011). Based on the research results, Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group's leader capacity to adopt a transformational style among group members and program providers has increased the confidence of all group members to participate in the program The government, on the other hand, additionally utilizes the social capital change that the farmer community ownedThe important role of mobilizing local social capital, which entails demonstrating concern by involving people at the grassroots level in order to support economic development. (Jones, et. al, 2018).

## 5. Salient practitioner roles

Based on the findings of the research, the Food Security Agency arranges thematic training and funding assistance for backyard agricultural operations, as well as collaborating with the agricultural office on the accessibility of extension agents to farmers (how to make plants grow well). According to these findings, the Food Security Agency acts as a provider. According to Toomey (2011), providers focus on giving charity 'gifts' to impoverished communities and individuals, with this role being apparent when the majority of those affected by the project perceive themselves as benefiting materially from development organizations. Toomey (2011). The Food Security Agency partnership with the Agriculture Office demonstrates how the administrative hierarchy played a role in the interactions of extension agents with farmers.

These duties operate in a political chain from the team leader reaches to the frontline social worker, which implements by the extension agent. The issue that is frequently encountered is how to regulate agents, especially opportunistic agents such as professionals who may have pretensions of autonomy (Marston & McDonald, 2012). Moreover, as is well-known, each farmer group is assigned only one extension agent under this program. Although the number of extension agents per farmer is not an indicator of adequate performance (Ragasa et al, 2016), given that there is no gender limit in determining extension agents for the farmer, so recruiting and training female extension agents is the best way to increase access of women farmers to agricultural services, particularly in areas where culture limits male-female interaction (Quisumbing & Pandolfelli, 2010).

#### 6. Media of change

As well-known, the Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group is one of the various groups that implement this Sustainable Food Yard Program. Basically, the Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group takes advantage of the existence of government programs. Where the commitment of state organizations as mediator frequently attempts to demonstrate the implications of good governance (Rojikinnor, 2020). Even though the program's paradigm is top-down, the dialogical media remained viable, both between farmer groups and the state (program owners) as well as between fellow farmers who are associated with farmer organizations. In the words of Laverack & Labonte (2000), a top-down program approach involving parallel dialogical media can also encourage community empowerment. The importance of multiscale interactions that drive change, and recognising uncertainty in socio-environmental change is also underlined by Cote and Nightingale (2012).

#### 7. Orientation towards power structure(s)

Based on the research findings, the Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group sees the state as a program provider that benefits the community. It is clear from this that the program had an impact on the community. Toomey (2011) explains that if the program owner, mainly the government, acts as a provider, the community will be perceived as a gift giver who can profit materially.

#### 8. Boundary Definition of The Beneficiary System

According to the research's findings, the selection of women's groups as program beneficiaries are related to the program's purpose, which sees the use of house-yard land as an effort to add additional sources, both as food sources and sources of financial resources. So, the major source is going to stay to be managed by the men as the head of the family, yet the supplementary resources will remain to be taken care of by the women. Uduji, Okolo-Obasi, and Asongu (2019) explained, rural women's unequal access to agricultural resources and opportunities is a major barrier to their ability to produce as much food as men. Furthermore, women appear to be less adaptable due to financial or resource constraints, as well as male dominance in information reception (Jost et al, 2016). However, this gender imbalance does not rule out the possibility of successful women-focused agricultural programs. According to a Guatemalan study, elder women generate employment more than younger women or older males. (Quisumbing & Pandolfelli, 2010).

#### 9. Assumptions regarding interests of community subparts

According to the results of the research, the Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group frequently does consultations in order to map out program plans and manage problems caused by members' differences of opinion. Furthermore, while this program is confined to the group's existence, the group's involvement is based on the participation of all members in order to create a conducive collective atmosphere. According to Dolinska and d'Aquino (2016), agricultural programs should allow farmers to collectively expand their participation in platform activities in order to establish an environment conducive to shared knowledge construction.

#### 10. Conception of beneficiary

According to the research's results, the beneficiaries of this research are farmer organizations made up of women farmers. The program considers the selection of farmer groups as recipients to be effective. According to Agarwal (2010), a collective approach to agricultural investment and production that promotes poor collectivity will be more effective in all these ways than the old individual-oriented approach. However, because the group includes women farmers, as noted by Hirway and Jose (2011), additional programs to improve the skills and productivity of women farmers are required.

#### 11. Conception of Beneficiary role

Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group take on the role of beneficiaries, responsible for carrying out duties in accordance with the previously established work plan. According to Uduji, Okolo-Obasi, and Asongu (2019), women farmers typically have uneven access to productive resources and opportunities as compared to men. However, women can play a vital and diverse role in agriculture. As a result, the findings of research that disclose farmers' roles in executing the program after learning become a factor of the program's effectiveness. According to Dolinska and d'Aquino (2016), empowering farmers necessitates efforts to set individual norms and behaviors developed collectively through community learning in order to encourage farmers to participate as change agents in agricultural practices.

#### 12. Use of empowerment

This program was built to empower women farmers to be able to use agricultural land. In the process, the program budget is fully borne by the Food Security Agency. This is important for how to maintain the economic activity of program beneficiaries. This program was created to empower female farmers by utilizing their yards for agricultural purposes. The Food Security Agency covers the whole program cost during this period. This is important to maintaining program participants' financial endeavors. Hirway and Jose (2011) claim that establishing employment programs for women without considering their unpaid work will merely increase their workload, which can have a negative impact on women's well-being and human resources. Furthermore, concentrating on the existence of women farmers is also a use of gender and cultural norms in the Minang tribe that place land access by women. As Muduge et al. (2015) describe, underlying gender and cultural norms can affect women's ability to actively participate in groups and capitalize on the potential of group empowerment.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the research and analysis to identify the community intervention model, it is possible to conclude that the Sustainable Food Yard Program by Food Security Agency to the Dahlia Sakato Women Farmer Group is a form of intervention with the Capacity Development with Substantial Planning/Policy. This is based on a program practice approach that develops competencies through pre-planned activities. Although this program is top-down, the existence of a dialogical space established in parallel makes it very easy for the farmers to accept as beneficiaries. However, this research finds weaknesses in the program's long-term impact, particularly how the program might be developed to support efforts to increase food sovereignty.

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