Household Food Security: 
A Sociological Study on Household as Social System of Two Types of Agro-ecosystem in Maros District, South Sulawesi

Sitti Bulkis
Department of Socio-economics of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Hasanuddin

ABSTRACT

Household as one food security element of a given society comprises a social system which interacts (adaptation) with its environment. As an outcome of this interaction is the fulfillment of household food need. However, this is not always the case. Many factors affect the fulfillment of household needs for food. One of them is the difference in the types of agro-ecosystem.

This research aims describe the rate of household food security and analyze determinant factors that influence of each type of Agro-ecosystem.

The study proves that household based on rice field agro-ecosystem has a better food security than the ones based on dry field agro-ecosystem. This proves that household interaction with a different environment will result in a different level of food security. The differences are mainly caused by differences in income, purchasing power, food availability, and food distribution in the region.

Among the two types of Agro-ecosystem, the most significant determinant variable which affect the attainment of household food security are food availability, purchasing power (adaptation function), work and consumption motivation (goal attainment function), the role of household members for income generating and the role in decision making (integration function), knowledge about food and nutrition, food norms and the level of application technology (latency function).

The study reveals that among the two agro-ecosystems, the adaptation function has the most dominant influence on household food security. Meanwhile other functions (goal attainment, integration, and latency) only serve as a supportive function on food security. This is in line with Parson (1951) who states that the economic system and food security as well in a given society is a compulsory prerequisite. This means that adaptation function is a manifest function and has a dominant influence on food security and other functions such as goal attainment, integrative, pattern maintenance are latent functions (Merton, 1956).

Ky Word : Food Security, Household, Agro-ecosystem