INDONESIAN WOMEN AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR

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Abstract
This study focuses on the Indonesian women and agricultural sector. Agriculture contributes to Indonesia’s economy. The agricultural products have decreased from time to time. Therefore, women need to join in developing this sector. Women can make a changing rapidly within regions and in many parts of the world. Even though, in national accounts, the activities of women are not defined as economically active employment but only activities of rural households. The aim of research is to explore the Indonesian women participation in the agricultural sector. The finding in this study indicates that women need empowered because women are the major stakeholders. Women will be more active participants in agricultural development because the technology appropriate to rural women and it carries benefit the women. Technology has significantly to improve food security because Indonesian still living in poverty and using the traditional technology. The conclusion has shown that Indonesian government needs to address rural women’s priorities in agricultural and rural development programmes.

Key Words: Agricultural Sector, Rural Women, Rural Development, Technology, The Indonesian Women.

Introduction
Total area and number of islands by province in Indonesia in 2014 are 1,910,931.32 sq.km and 17,504 island (Statistics Indonesia, 2015). The provinces of Indonesia are Aceh, North Sumatera, West Sumatera, Riau, Riau Island, Jambi, South Sumatera, Bangka Belitung Island, Bengkulu, Lampung, DKI Jakarta, West Java, Banten, DI Yogyakarta, East Java, Bali, West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, North Kalimantan, North Sulawesi, Gorontolo, Central Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, West Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, Maluku, North Maluku, Papua, and West Papua. Indonesian population in 2015 is 255,461,700 (Statistics Indonesia, 2015). For the agricultural sector especially productivity of paddy for all provinces in 2015 is 52.80 quintal/ha (Statistics Indonesia, 2015).
Significantly, agriculture contributes to Indonesia’s economy. Agriculture sector is the second largest contribution up to 2013 behind manufacturing industry sector (Statistics Indonesia, 2014:2). Even though, the agricultural products have decreased from time to time. Therefore, women need to join in developing agriculture sector. Women have great contribution in reducing of poverty through their roles in promoting agriculture products. Indonesian promotional programmes can help Indonesian producers in an increasingly competitive world. Promotional programmes are connections between farmers and consumers which both benefit from improved access to fresh, healthy, local food in communities across the country. These important programmes give small and mid-sized family farmers in increasing their grow economic opportunities because consumer has choice and access to fresh and healthy food. Furthermore, these programmes also improve rural livelihoods and communities. Local food promotion is a strategy as intermediaries between producers and consumers by aggregating, storing, processing, and distributing locally or regionally produced food products to meet market demand.

The percentage of Indonesian land area between the mid-1960s and mid 1980s was used for agriculture stayed constant at around 21 percent of Indonesia’s total land area. This number rose to almost 25 percent in the mid-1980s to the late 1990s. This number reaches the current level of 30 percent starting from 1998. Growing of Indonesia’s agriculture sector is forecast to continue post economic crisis.

Table 1. The Growing of Indonesia’s Agriculture Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growth (annual percent change)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


There are two parts of the Indonesian agricultural sector namely large plantations (both state-owned and private) and smallholder production modes. Important export products such as palm oil and rubber are the large plantations, while rice soybeans, corn, fruits and vegetables focus for small hold farmers. There are several the important agricultural sector...
products in Indonesia such as palm oil, rubber, cocoa, coffee, tea, cassava, rice, and tropical spices. The Indonesian government has placed promotional programmes on the agenda to raise production. Therefore, the Indonesian government needs to increase women's participation.

Figure 1. Women's workforce participation rate 2009-2013

Due to institutional and power frameworks (Cornwall, 2007; Sachs, 1996). Another concept in rural communities related visibility and value within natural resource management is development paradigms (Mosse, 1993). There is links between gender and the agriculture area that men and women have same strategies in designing and implementing a development programme.

Dankelman and Davidson said that women have concern for the environment (Dankelman and Davidson, 1988). Historically, the Indonesian government focused on achieving food self-sufficiency and price stability. Therefore, government also should give attention to the role of women. The role of women is needed through promotion programmes in trade and marketing of agricultural products.


The figure above shows the participation of Indonesian women. Cornwall and Sachs said that in development programmes, we need concepts of equity, equality, marginalization and subordination...
Table 2. Indonesian Poverty and Inequality Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Relative Poverty (% of population)</th>
<th>Absolute Poverty (in millions)</th>
<th>Gini Coefficient</th>
<th>Gini Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The above table shows the poverty figures of Indonesia's population for relative and absolute. As a developing country, Indonesia needs an essential contribution from women to the agricultural and rural economies.

Problem Statement

Women can make a changing rapidly within regions and in many parts of the world. The complex households are managed by them and the multiple livelihood strategies are also pursued. The other activities of women are producing agricultural crops and engaging in trade and marketing of agricultural products.

Research Question

What are the current levels of participation of women in agriculture in Indonesia?

Method

The research was based on secondary data such as from journals, articles, academic literature, reports the comprehensive measure of the participation of women in promoting agriculture is available in data on the economically active population. In this measure, women report her
activities related agriculture especially in promoting agricultural products.

**Discussion and Analysis**

Since the agricultural sector is the major strategy in reduction of poverty, the role of women in this sector is vital as they make up the majority of people living in poverty. This study focuses the roles of gender in specific farming activities. In general, the role of women in land preparation was lower than men. Therefore, in accessing and controlling over factors of agricultural production, women need to be empowered because women are the major stakeholders.

Gender and agriculture is a hard issue up to know. However, only few papers are published in this area. Satyavathi *et al.* in their research “Role of Women in Agriculture: Lesson Learned” wrote about a new agricultural research related the role of women in agriculture that integrate gender in technology generation (Satyavathi, 2010). Moreover, Songsanphan in his writing “Contestation on Gender and Sexuality: Problematizing Gender in Thai Politics” and Cecilia Ng in her research “The Hazi New Dawn: Democracy, Women and Politics in Malaysia” focus on away to far from technology and politics (Songsanphan, 2010; Ng, 2010). Furthermore, Geetha and R. Indra in their work “Women, Income Generation, Political Capital in the Silk Industry in Karnataka” explore about politics, income generation and technology related the role of women to develop the agricultural sector (Geetha and Indra, 2010). The below figure show the activity of women in agriculture sector.

**Figure 2. The activity of Indonesian women in agriculture sector**

The above picture shows the women’s role and contribution in farming. Wijaya in her research “Gender sensitive agricultural technology development in the
Indonesian Timor Semi-Arid farming system said that rural woman needs technology as a tool to her work that should ease women’s burden and agriculture productivity could be improved (Wijaya, 2014:2). Women will be more active participants in agricultural development because the technology appropriate to rural women and it carries benefit the women. 

Figure 3. The Indonesian Women activity with the traditional technology

In Southeast Asia, Indonesia has position as the largest economy. Therefore, gender and technology in farming are considerable because related human resource. Technology has significantly to improve food security because many Indonesian still living in poverty and using the traditional technology as above picture.

Therefore, Indonesian government recognizes gender differences within households in the context of agricultural, such as 1)local data is disaggregated by gender and a gender sensitive agriculture census is conducted with incorporates estimates of women’s un-paid labor. In participating in economic opportunities, women are generally less able than men because women face a work burden that men do not. Moreover, for most of the household and child-rearing activities, women are responsible as well rearing of small livestock. This additional work burden is unpaid. Furthermore, in engaging in income-earning activities, the women’s capacity is limited. Several researchers said that “gender differences become clearer when looking at women’s workloads. It is estimated that women provide 85 to 90 percent of the time spent on household food processing and preparation across a wide range of countries” (Wrangham, 2009).

The following table describes in all the agricultural processes in 6 rural areas of the Bengkulu province,
the women farmers are involved (Eugenia, 2015).

Table 3. Six rural areas of the Bengkulu Province and The role of men and women in paddy farming, cow farming and farm product processing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Average percentage (%)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M en</td>
<td>Wo me n</td>
<td>Men &amp; Wo me n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Paddy farming</td>
<td>52,5</td>
<td>18,3</td>
<td>29,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Determination of activities</td>
<td>69,9</td>
<td>12,5</td>
<td>17,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Providing capital</td>
<td>40,4</td>
<td>41,6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farming activities</td>
<td>20,5</td>
<td>52,6</td>
<td>26,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harvesting</td>
<td>20,5</td>
<td>52,6</td>
<td>26,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post harvest activities</td>
<td>11,5</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>19,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>36,4</td>
<td>41,3</td>
<td>22,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>35,9</td>
<td>41,3</td>
<td>22,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cow farming</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>16,3</td>
<td>29,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Providing capital</td>
<td>63,7</td>
<td>10,5</td>
<td>25,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Providing seeds</td>
<td>67,3</td>
<td>10,1</td>
<td>22,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cow farming</td>
<td>45,5</td>
<td>24,3</td>
<td>30,2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The above case study shows the roles of women farmers are marginal in farming, harvesting, post harvesting and marketing activities. Agricultural products are an important source of exports because this sector directly supports the rural population.
2) A rural technology and training agenda is developed to improve rural women's productivity and household income; 3) Gender sensitive is integrated into all aspects of programmes; 4) Government conducted several actions to support and strengthen the formulate gender sensitive based on gender disaggregated need assessment at provincial and district agencies; 5) Government needs to reform land policy to ensure more equitable access to land and provision of secure ownership. In agriculture sector, in line with women's empowerment is control over decision making on land use which according to Allendorf "is the main source of livelihoods as well as power and status" (Allendorf, 2007). Mutangadura said that "emphasized the importance of land to women's economic empowerment" (Mutangadura, 2004). This is the case of Indonesia because Indonesia depends on agriculture. 6) Government plans policies based on gender roles such as strategies related household livelihood, rural poverty and food security.

Acknowledgements
We are grateful for comments and advised from reviewer teams of Hasanuddin University. We also acknowledge for rector of Hasanuddin University who gave us funding to support our conference and to publish our research in the journal international.

Conclusion
The research has shown that Indonesian government needs to address rural women's priorities in agricultural and rural development programmes such as in increasing agricultural productivity, transfer gender responsive technology to rural women are needed; in increasing production inputs, the women's access to programmes are developed. This programmes also support women in their marketing activities because there are collaboration with researchers, implementing agencies and grassroots workers.

References


