

THE ROLE OF VILLAGE GOVERNMENT IN EMPOWERING FARMERS' GROUPS IN LANCANG KUNING VILLAGE, BINTAN REGENCY, 2024

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Abstract

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Empowering farmer groups is an effort to support agricultural development in villages. The village government plays a crucial role in empowering farmer groups to increase productivity and community independence. This study aims to analyze the role of the village government in empowering farmer groups in Lancang Kuning Village, Bintan Regency, using Ryaas Rasyid's role theory. This study employed a descriptive qualitative research method with data collection techniques in the form of interviews and documentation. The research informants consisted of the Village Head, Village Secretary, Head of the Village Government Section, Agricultural Extension Officers, Head of the BPD, Community Leaders, and Chairpersons and Members of Farmer Groups. The results show that as a regulator, the village government only issues Village Head Decrees to grant official status to farmer groups. As a dynamic agent, the village government actively involves farmer groups in discussions through deliberations, provides mentoring, training, and conducts field visits with the involvement of PPL as experts. As a facilitator, the village government strives to provide the support needed by farmer groups through the distribution of assistance such as seeds, fertilizers, and simple agricultural tools based on the proposals of each farmer group. Overall, the role of the village government in empowering farmer groups in Lancang Kuning Village has been implemented but is not yet optimal.

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INTRODUCTION

The government, as the primary administrator of the state, has a primary function in supporting the smooth progress of development stages to achieve social



progress and prosperity (Nain, 2017). The level of societal growth and progress can be measured by the quality of government services to its citizens. The government plays a crucial role and responsibility in enhancing the level of competitiveness of the community (Windasai et al., 2021). Society is developing rapidly, requiring the government to play an active role in assisting the community in achieving prosperity (Ramli, 2024a). Government functions consist of three functions: service, empowerment, and development (Thahir, 2019).

The role of village officials is inseparable from their responsibility for farmer development. Roles are a dynamic aspect of status; individuals or organizations can be said to play a role when carrying out tasks in accordance with their status (Putri & Anzari, 2021). Village governments play a vital role in providing services to improve community welfare (Tarigan et al., 2024). Village governments have complete sovereignty in managing and administering the lives of their communities. Indonesia is a country where the majority of its population works in agriculture (Risnawati, 2023). One of the keys to the Indonesian economy is the agricultural sector, as it can provide income for the community, especially in rural areas (Sihombing, 2021). Most rural communities still depend on the agricultural sector, so the government should provide facilities and support for the economic development of its communities (Masrurah & Suprianik, 2023).

The enactment of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages establishes village policies in providing services, increasing the role and empowerment of village communities for public welfare. The government is obliged to provide the best quality services and facilitate community empowerment so that they can actively participate in the development of their region. Communities will better understand what is needed and will have a sense of responsibility for the development and progress of their village. Community empowerment is an activity aimed at strengthening the power or authority of groups and individuals experiencing difficulties and problems so that they can achieve prosperity (Affrian, 2022). The agricultural sector can help improve the economy and community welfare (Syahputri et al., 2023). The agricultural sector has the potential to increase the income of rural communities, especially farmer groups. Farmer groups are expected to play a role in driving the progress of village development.

The active role of the village government is crucial in realizing empowerment for farmer groups in Lancang Kuning Village. The village government needs to ensure that development in the agricultural sector is carried out appropriately by utilizing all available potential. Community empowerment aims to optimize community welfare by developing community insight, competence, and understanding. Empowerment is an effort to increase capabilities to develop potential that can advance the community. One form of implementation of farmer empowerment at the village level is the formation of farmer groups, which will strengthen the relationship between farmers and the village government. According to Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 44 of 2016 concerning Village Authority, the village government is tasked with establishing farmer groups to support increased farmer productivity. Farmer groups serve as a forum for discussion or negotiation between farmers who share the same vision, mission, and interests (Sugiarno et al., 2024).

A study conducted by Nurjannah & Revida (2024) stated that the government's role in empowering farmer groups in Wonosari Village, Tanjung Morawa District, Deli

Serdang Regency is not optimal, either as a regulator, dynamic agent, or facilitator. This can be seen from the ineffectiveness of regulatory mechanisms and policies, and the lack of support in socialization, mentoring, training, and the provision of production facilities for farmers. A study conducted by Tambuwun et al. (2022) indicates that the role of the village government in empowering the Matuari farmer group in Tounelet Satu Village, Sonder District has been effective and running well. Research by Lubis (2020) shows that the role of the village government in empowering farmer groups in Tualene Village is not optimal due to the absence of specific policies and the distribution of production facility assistance is not optimal.

As seen in table 1 below, there are various previous research results that show variations in the implementation of the role of village government in empowering farmer groups in various regions.

Table 1. Review of Previous Research

No	Researchers	Year	Title	Research result
1.	Nina Nurjannah & Erika Revida	2024	The Role of Village Government in Empowering Farmer Groups in Wonosari Village, Tanjung Morawa District, Deli Serdang Regency	The government's role in empowering farmer groups has not been running optimally, either as a regulator, dynamic agent, or facilitator.
2.	Marthinus Tambuwun, Steeva Tumundo, Very Regar	2022	The Role of Village Government in Empowering the Matuari Farmer Group in Tounelet Satu Village, Sonder District, Minahasa Regency	The role of village government has been effective and running well in empowering farmer groups.
3.	Princess Amaliatul Azizah & Ilmi Usrotin Choiriyah	2023	The Role of Village Government in the Existence of Farmers' Group Associations (GAPOKTAN) in Kedung Banteng Village, Tanggulangin District, Sidoarjo Regency	The village government has played a maximum role as a dynamic and catalyst but has not been optimal as a facilitator.
4.	Imel Meliana Br Sebayang, Audrey Julia Maria Maweikere & Jane Sulinda Tambas	2024	The Role of Village Government in the Sombor Wanua Talumengan Farmers Group in Kakaskasen Tiga Subdistrict, North Tomohon District, Tomohon City	The village government has not played an active role as a regulator and is less than optimal as a facilitator, but is quite good as a dynamic agent.
5.	Muhammad Robiansyah Lubis	2020	The Role of Village Heads in Empowering Farmer Groups in Tualene Village, North Central Timor District	The village head plays a fairly good role as a facilitator, mediator, and motivator, but has not been optimal in providing infrastructure.

Source: Researcher's Processed Results, 2025

Based on a review of previous research, this study is relevant to the role of village government in empowering farmer groups. The difference between this study and previous studies is the focus on the role of village government in empowering farmer groups in Lancang Kuning Village, Bintan Regency, as well as differences in location, time, population, and sample. This study aims to analyze the role of village government in empowering farmer groups in Lancang Kuning Village, Bintan Regency, using the role theory according to Ryaas Rasyid, which has 3 indicators: regulator, dynamic, and facilitator.

REVIEW LIBRARY

Role

The Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language defines a role as the behavior expected of someone with a position in society. Roles are described as obligations and responsibilities for individuals or groups. According to Abdilsyani (2012:92) in Raintung et al. (2021), a role is a person's behavior in carrying out authority and duties according to their position. A person can be considered to have a role when they have carried out their responsibilities based on their position in society. The definition of a role according to Soerjono Soekanto (2012:212) in Amiman et al. (2022) is a dynamic part of status or position. If an individual fulfills their duties and responsibilities according to their position, they can be said to have carried out a role.

According to Davey (2008) in Ramli (2024), the government has 5 roles or functions, namely as a service provider, regulatory function, development function, as a representative, and has a coordinating function. The government has a role to foster or guide the community according to its function so that it can achieve the expected goals and can realize welfare for the community. The government should play an optimal role in fostering and developing the community. According to Ryaas Rasyid (1999), the role of the government is divided into three, namely as a regulator or policy holder, as a dynamic or driving force, and as a facilitator or provider of facilities.

Village Government

According to Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, a village is a legal community unit that has territorial boundaries that are authorized to regulate and manage government affairs, the interests of the local community based on community initiatives, ancestral rights, and traditions that are recognized and respected in the government system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. According to HAW Widjaja in Marit et al. (2021) a village is described as a collection of legal communities that have an order based on customary rights of a special nature. The village government is the village head or those referred to by other names, assisted by village officials as elements of the village government administration. The village government is the closest part that has direct contact with the community.

The village government has duties that must be carried out based on existing regulations and rules. The core obligations or duties of the village government are to carry out government affairs, development, community services and community empowerment, as well as carrying out assistance tasks from the provincial or district government (Purnomo, 2016). According to Government Regulation Number 43 of 2014 as a technical regulation for the implementation of Law Number 6 of 2014

concerning Villages, it has the meaning that the organization and implementation of development in villages aims to improve the quality of life and welfare of village communities through the implementation of program regulations that are in accordance with the priority needs of the community.

Empowerment

Conceptually, empowerment comes from the word "power," which means authority or capacity. According to Suharto (2009), empowerment is a series of activities aimed at optimizing the strength or independence of groups with limited power within the community, enabling them to meet basic needs, obtain productive resources that provide opportunities to optimize their income, and participate in decision-making and development processes that influence them. Community empowerment has a substantial impact on individuals or a community group and can create positive transformation in various aspects of community life (Hasdiansyah, 2023).

According to Chambers (1995) in Pakpahan et al. (2024), the concept of empowerment is a new perspective on development and is characterized by being people-centered, participatory, empowering, and sustainable. Community empowerment focuses on the community as the primary actor in development. The empowerment process begins with community participation. The objectives of empowerment programs include improving institutional aspects, improving development efforts, improving community income, improving quality of life, and improving environmental conditions.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach that aims to identify and describe an event and present it according to what happened in the field (Harahap TK, 2022). Qualitative research methods can also be called naturalistic research methods because in its implementation it is carried out in real situations (Sugiyono, 2013). This study intends to collect information and obtain data regarding the role of the village government in empowering farmer groups in Lancang Kuning Village, Bintan Regency. This study focuses on the role of the village government in empowering farmer groups in Lancang Kuning Village, Bintan Regency. Primary data was obtained from interviews with informants who have more knowledge about the role of the village government in empowering farmer groups. Secondary data is data obtained from individuals, bodies, or institutions related to the village government in empowering farmer groups in the form of a Village Head Decree concerning the Establishment of Farmer Groups, and the 2024 Lancang Kuning Village Revenue and Expenditure Budget report.

This study used a purposive technique to identify informants, based on specific assessments and objectives that address the research topic. The following is a list of informants:

Table 2. Research Informants

No	Informant Name	Job/Position	Amount
1	Yuane Risky Febrika, SE	Village head	1 Person
2	Joy	Village Secretary	1 Person
3	Suparman	Head of Village Government Section	1 Person



No	Informant Name	Job/Position	Amount
4	M. Fadholi Yulhendri, SP, M.Si	Field Agricultural Extension Officer	1 Person
5	Praise the Grace	Chairman of BPD	1 Person
6	Yenny Listriawati, Misgiman	Community Leaders (RT/RW)	2 persons
7	Manun, Rusdi, Sadakiang	Head of Farmers Group	3 People
8	Suparman, Toro	Members of the Farmers Group	2 persons
Total			12 People

Source: Researcher Processed Data, 2025

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of Village Government as a Regulator

The government as a regulator means that the government not only carries out its function as an implementer, but also becomes a driver of the development process and community participation so that the government is obliged to formulate policies and regulate the provisions necessary to create policies, increase efficiency, and ensure that the implementation of development and community development takes place in a directed and sustainable manner. Based on the results of interviews with the Head of Lancang Kuning Village, the Village Government has so far not issued specific regulations for the empowerment of farmer groups. The Village Government only issues a Village Head Decree as a legal basis to provide legality for the formation and implementation of farmer group activities in Lancang Kuning Village.

The Lancang Kuning Village Government's role as a regulator in empowering farmer groups is carried out by issuing a Decree on the establishment of farmer groups, which serves as the legal basis for farmer groups, allowing farmer group activities to proceed officially and in a directed manner. The issuance of the Village Head's Decree on the Establishment of Farmer Groups indicates that the village government has fulfilled its regulatory role. The village government's role is still limited to administrative aspects because it has not been strengthened by other regulations or regulations specifically governing the development and empowerment of farmer groups as a whole. Based on Table 3 below, there are 7 farmer groups in Lancang Kuning Village that have obtained legal status through a Village Head Decree.

Table 3. List of Farmer Groups That Have a Village Head Decree

Name of Farmer Group	Number of Members
Hope for Glory	10 People
Go Forth	24 People
family	15 People
Sidodadi	15 People
Creative Millennials	16 People
Progress 2	10 People
Jaya Mandiri	15 People

Source: Research Processed 2025

The Role of Village Government as a Dynamic Agent

The government as a dynamic force means that the government plays a role in providing support, encouraging, or mobilizing the community to participate in village development. This dynamic force is generally carried out by the government or field extension workers who provide mentoring, capacity building, and monitoring community activities. The Lancang Kuning Village Government consistently invites farmer groups to actively participate in village deliberations. Participation in these deliberations provides an opportunity for farmer groups to express their aspirations, needs, and challenges they encounter in the field.

The role of a dynamic facilitator is implemented through mentoring, training, and field visits. The village government collaborates with Agricultural Extension Officers (AFFs) to provide technical guidance to farmer groups. Training activities are carried out routinely, involving Field Extension Officers (PPL) as experts to provide knowledge and skills regarding cultivation techniques, pest and disease management, and the use of agricultural technology. The village government's role as a dynamic facilitator has been implemented quite well through mentoring, training, and field visits conducted by the village government. These efforts contribute to increasing the capacity of farmer groups in terms of knowledge, skills, and motivation in agricultural activities.

The Role of Village Government as a Facilitator

The government, as a facilitator, should be a competent representative in providing facilities appropriate to the needs of farmer groups. The government, as a facilitator, also plays a role in bridging community interests in maximizing empowerment and development. The Lancang Kuning Village Government is able to create conditions that support the sustainability of farmer groups' activities by distributing assistance for supporting agricultural facilities and infrastructure, such as seeds, fertilizers, and simple agricultural tools. Aid distribution to farmer groups is carried out through Village Fund allocations based on the level of activity and the suitability of farmer group proposals to needs in the field, so that assistance is more targeted.

The village government also provides access to necessary guidance for farmer groups through Agricultural Extension Officers. The Lancang Kuning Village Government can be categorized as a good facilitator. The village government strives to provide the support needed by farmer groups by providing agricultural facilities and infrastructure, conducting training tailored to their needs, and recruiting Agricultural Extension Officers. The village government distributes assistance such as seeds, fertilizer, and agricultural tools through Village Funds as a form of support to increase the productivity and independence of farmer groups.

CONCLUSION

Research on the Role of Village Government in Empowering Farmer Groups in Lancang Kuning Village, Bintan Regency, shows that the village government's role as a regulator is implemented through the issuance of Village Head Decrees, but is not yet supported by other regulations that regulate comprehensive empowerment. The role as a dynamic agent has been implemented quite well through mentoring, training, and field visits involving Agricultural Extension Officers to increase the capacity of farmer groups. The role as a facilitator has been running well through the provision of agricultural facilities and infrastructure, implementation of training, and distribution of

assistance such as seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural tools allocated through Village Funds. Overall, the role of the village government in empowering farmer groups in Lancang Kuning Village has been implemented but cannot be said to be running optimally.

Village governments must enhance the empowerment of farmer groups by strengthening supporting regulations through village regulations or other policies, as well as increasing regular mentoring, training, and monitoring to ensure more effective farmer group activities. Farmer group administrators and members must increase their participation in empowerment activities organized by the village government, actively communicate their needs, and effectively utilize any assistance or facilities provided. Field Extension Officers must improve mentoring and communication with farmer groups to ensure regular management of field needs and provide relevant training to encourage more active farmer group activities.

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