

Role Study of Farmer Groups And the Combination of Maize Farmer Groups in Muna District

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Abstract: The aim of this study is to know the role of institutional group of farmers and the combination maize of Bisi-2 variety of farmer groups in Muna District. This research was conducted in January 2017 until March 2017. The research location was conducted in Muna District. Determination of location of research conducted porposive with consideration of research location is production center of maize of Bisi-2 variety in Muna District. Data analysis used in this research is qualitative descriptive analysis. The result of the research shows that the groups of farmers and group of farmers are formed to get government assistance in the form of seeds, fertilizers, tractors, and grinding machines. The institution of maize farmers has not played well as a vehicle for continuous learning, cooperation, and production units. The combination of maize farmers has not functioned as a manager of maize agribusiness from upstream to downstream. Combined farmer groups formed only limited to the collection of farmers groups more formation as a tool to distribute the program of agricultural development fund agribusiness (PUAP). Institutional development of farmer group as farmer's economic institution is needed by board which have ability to carry out group function as learning class, cooperation vehicle, and as production unit continuously, whereas joint development of maize farmer group is needed by organizers that have ability to organize function of group of farmer as upstream agribusiness unit until unit Downstream agribusiness business ie production facility, production unit, farm unit, corn processing business unit, marketing business unit, and micro finance business unit. Increasing the capacity of farmer groups and group unions needs to be supported by the capacity of the board through extension and training activities, cooperation with banks, input production suppliers, agricultural industries, and BULUOG in an integrated manner.

Keywords: maize, farmer of institution, and roles

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I. Introduction

Maize is a food crop that has an important and strategic role after rice in national development. Maize contributed the second largest gross domestic product after rice in the food crops sub-sector (BPS, 2016). In addition to corn used for food, dry powder can also be used as raw materials for food industry and animal feed. Therefore, many maize cultivated by most of the population of Indonesia. Muna District is the largest maize production supplier region in Southeast Sulawesi. This can be seen from the production of maize produced in 2014 occupies the first position in Southeast Sulawesi. Production of 35,786 tons or 59.05% of total maize production in Southeast Sulawesi (BPS Sulawesi Tenggara, 2015). However, if observed maize production in Muna District in the last five years tends to decrease. This can be seen from the production of corn produced in 2010 that is as many as 49,263 tons, with productivity of 2.52 tons / ha, but in 2011 decreased to 32,679 tons or down 33.66%. In 2012 it increased again to 39,846 tons or increased 21.93% from the previous year, but in the year 2013 declined to 37,275 tons or decreased 6.45% and subsequently in 2014 fell again to 35,786 tons or down 3.99% With an average productivity of 2.48 tons / ha (BPS Kabupaten Muna, 2015).

The decrease of maize production in Muna District can not be separated from the influence of various factors, both technical and non technical factors. Technical influences can be seen from the physical input of production such as fertilizer, seed, land area, labor, and medicine. While the non technical factors can be seen from the institutional side of maize agribusiness itself. One of the maize agribusiness institutions that has a role in increasing production is the farmer institution. Institutional farmers play an important role in supporting the smooth procurement of production inputs to marketing activities produced by farmers. In the context of agribusiness, the management of production factors, production process, up to the processing of the results required the farmer institution. The importance of farmer institutions is recognized in agricultural development, both in industrialized and developing countries such as Indonesia, but the fact shows the tendency of weak farmer institution in developing country, and the obstacles in growing the institute to farmer society.

The farmer institution is expected to be able to help farmers out of the problem of farmer economic disparity, but until now still not functioning optimally (Syahyuti, 2011).

Institutional analysis in agriculture is an analysis aimed at obtaining a description of an agricultural socioeconomic phenomenon related to the relationship between two or more actors of socio-economic interaction, including the dynamics of rules applicable and mutually agreed upon by the actors of the interaction, accompanied by an analysis of The end result obtained from the interaction that occurred. Within certain limits, institutional analysis can be generally applicable in different areas and circumstances, but in many respects the aspects of locality and specific problems must always be emphasized, given the great opportunities for variation by location and problem (Syahyuti, 2011). Agribusiness institutions have a role in encouraging the provision of inputs, cultivation activities, processing activities, production and distribution activities, marketing of farmers, research and development, Therefore, to see the relation of corn production in Muna Regency needs to be seen from various role of agribusiness institute. However, this study is more specific in the study of the role of group and combination of ongoing farmers in Muna Regency.

II. Methodology

This research was conducted in Muna District. The subject of research is the role of group of farmers and the combination of maize farmers in Muna District. The location of the research is determined porpositive with consideration of the location of research is the corn production center of Bisi-2 variety in Muna District. The study was conducted in January 2017 until March 2017. The data obtained were analyzed descriptively qualitative. Descriptive analysis is a simple form of analysis that aims to describe and simplify the interpretation done by giving exposure in the form of tables, graphs, and diagrams. Nazir (1998), states that descriptive method is a way of examining the status of human groups, an object, a set of conditions, a system of thought or an event class in the present moment. The purpose of descriptive research is to make description, picture or painting systematically, factually and accurately about facts, properties and relationship between phenomena investigated. Descriptive research studies the problems in society as well as the prevailing procedures in particular societies and situations, including the relationships of activities, attitudes and ongoing processes and the effects of a phenomenon.

III. Results And Discussion

1. Identity of Farmer Group and Combined of Maize Group

Combined farmer group (gapoktan) of maize that is running in Kabangka District in the year 2017 that is as much as 6 group. The number of groups (poktan) who joined the 17 groups, with the total number of members as many as 479 people. The total area of corn cultivated is 474 hectares. The distribution of farmer groups and the combination of maize farmers in Kabangka District is described in Table 1.

Table 1. Joint Distribution of Maize Farmer Group in Kabangka District

Village	Name Combined Farmer Group	Name Farmer Group	Amount Members (People)	Large Land (Hectare)
Lupia	Semangat Baru	Lambalari	25	25
		Lanosangia	26	25
		Sabiahano	25	25
Wakobalu Agung	Sarana Makmur	Sumber Hasil	21	25
		Campu Sari	28	25
		Sumber Sari	26	25
		Karya Bakti 1	35	25
		Karya Bakti 2	40	50
		Sarana Makmur	40	50
		Sumber Makmur	20	25
Komba-Komba	Sumber Tani	Hulu Sangia	25	25
		Tunas Baru	25	25
Wansugi	Tunas Harapan	Gudang Jaya	27	25
Kabangka	Sangia Jaya	Latinda Jaya	32	25
		Tani Makmur	30	25
Sarimulyo	Sejahtera	Guyup Rukun	25	24
		Makmur Santoso	29	25
Total	6	17	479	474

2. Characteristics of Farmers Group

The characteristics of maize farmers that are running in Kabangka Sub-District of Muna District are described in Table 2.

Table 2. Characteristic of Maize Group in Kabangka Sub-District of Muna District

No	Characteristic	Score
1	Know each other, close and trust each other among the members of the farmer group.	3
2	Have the same views and interests and goals in the corn farming endeavor.	3
3	Having traditions and / or settlements, farms, farming, economic and social status, culture / culture, customs, languages and ecology are relatively similar.	3
4	The existence of a farming area that is a shared responsibility among its members.	3
5	The existence of a dedicated farmer cadre to mobilize farmers with leadership received by other farmers.	3
6	The existence of activities that benefit can be felt by most of its members.	3
7	There is encouragement or motivation from local community leaders to support the established program.	3
8	The existence of division of duties and responsibilities among members based on mutual agreement.	3
	Average	3

Description: score 1 = very low, score 2 = low, score 3 = medium, score 4 = high, score 5 = very high

In Table 2, in general the characteristics of the established groups have shown a shared awareness of the members to achieve common goals, thus having the potential to be developed as an independent maize group. The farmers that are formed based on mutual interest by their members can be sustained sustainably, if they always get continuous mentoring. However, such farmers can change their program besides corn farming, if corn farming no longer provides economic welfare for its members. Therefore, the role of farmer groups as class of learning becomes very important to facilitate farmers to get the learning from outsiders such as learning from extension workers and other training institutions so that corn business activities still provide economical welfare for farmers.

3. Characteristic of Combined Group Farmers

The combined characteristics of maize farmers that are running in Kabangka Sub-District of Muna District are described in Table 3.

Table 3. Characteristics of Combined Maize Farmers in Kabangka District Of Muna District

No	Characteristic	Score
1	Meetings / meetings of members, board meetings held regularly and sustainably	2
2	The drafting of gapoktan work plan collectively and implemented by the implementers in accordance with the agreement, and evaluating the implementation of each participant in the end;	2
3	The drafting of gapoktan work plan collectively and implemented by the implementers in accordance with the agreement, and evaluating the implementation of each participant in the end;	2
4	Have a neat administration and financial records for each member;	2
5	Facilitate joint business activities from upstream to downstream sectors;	2
6	Facilitating commercial and agribusiness-oriented farming	2
7	As a source of information services and technology for farmers of farmer group members who join in gapoktan;	2
8	The existence of a network of partnership through business partnership between gapoktan with other parties;	2
9	The existence of the capital fertilization of business either sourced from membership fees or from the allowance result of gapoktan business	2
	Average	2

Description: score 1 = very low, score 2 = low, score 3 = medium, score 4 = high, score 5 = very high

In Table 3 indicates that the combined group of farmers who have not formed the function of corn agribusiness activities from upstream to downstream. This is due to the combination of farmers formed only as a medium of association of maize farming groups. The formation of joint groups of farmers is based on the need as a container of fund distribution of agricultural agribusiness development (PUAP). The joint management group of farmers has no vision and mission as the holder of the management role of agribusiness activities from upstream to downstream. The combined role of the small group of farmers can cause the difficulty of combining the growing groups of farmers as corn agribusiness managers.

4. Role Of Farmer Group As Study Class

The group of farmers is an institution that serves as a learning class, cooperation vehicle, and as a unit of production. As a class of learning, means farmers can take advantage of a group of farmers as a place to learn together to solve the problems faced in farming activities. As a means of cooperation, it is a place for farmers to cooperate in learning activities and production activities, thus generating intimacy among them for mutual help and strengthening to achieve common prosperity. Such strength will lead to the strengthening of the collective economy within the farmer group. As a production unit, it means being a place of collective business activities so kebersaam always well established to realize the planned production and welfare targets. The results of research on the role of maize farmers as a learning class that is running in District Kabuna Muna is described in Table 4.

Table 4. The Role of Farmers As A Member Learning Class in Kabangka Sub-District of Muna District

No	Role	Score
1	Digging and formulating learning needs	2
2	Plan and prepare for learning needs	2
3	Grow the discipline and motivation of poktan members	2
4	Conducting the process of meeting and learning in a conducive and orderly manner	2
5	Establish cooperation with sources of information needed in the learning process, whether from peer farmers, agencies builder or other parties	2
6	Create an appropriate learning environment / environment	2
7	Active in the teaching and learning process, including bringing and consulting to agricultural extension institutes, and other sources of information	2
8	Express and understand the wishes, opinions and problems facing poktan members	2
9	Formulate mutual agreement, either in solving problems or to perform various activities poktan	2
10	Planning and conducting regular meetings in poktan, inter poktan or with related agencies	2
Average		2

Description: score 1 = very low, score 2 = low, score 3 = medium, score 4 = high, score 5 = very high

In Table 4, it appears that the role of farmer group as a learning class in Kabangka District has not been done well, where the farmer groups that have formed have not formulated the learning requirement concerning planned scheduled learning meeting, structured, and learning materials according to the needs of the members. This is due to the ability of the board in planning the learning materials of its members is still minimal and the lack of assistance of extension workers to empower the farmers as a class of learning. This condition leads farmers to get out of the problems of corn farming activities to increase their income, and consequently farmers as rational human beings of course look for farming activities in addition to corn commodities that provide better income. The role of the ongoing farmers in Kabangka District, Muna Regency as a learning class is in low condition. This can cause corn farming activities can not be maintained sustainably, because farmers do not get the learning to overcome the problems faced in corn farming activities, so that farmers are vulnerable to switch business on farming activities in addition to corn or other business activities that are more economically profitable for their households. These conditions may be successful in decreasing maize production in Muna District.

5. The Role Of Farmer Groups As A Means Of Cooperation

The role of farmers group as a means of cooperation can increase the cohesiveness of members to solve together the problems faced in the activities of farming. The role of the farmer group is very important to facilitate the members of the farmers to work together to solve the problems faced. The results of the role of maize farmer group as a means of cooperation of members in the Kabuna Sub-District of Muna District is described in Table 5.

Table 5. The Role of Maize Group As the Forum for Members Cooperation

No	Role	Score
1	Creating an atmosphere of mutual trust, trusting each other and always willing to cooperate.	2
2	Create an atmosphere of openness in expressing opinions and views among members of the group to achieve common goals.	2
3	Organize and implement the division of tasks / work among fellow members of the farmers group in accordance with mutual agreement.	2
4	Develop discipline and sense of responsibility among fellow corn group members.	2
5	Plan and implement deliberations in order to reach agreement that is beneficial to the members of the maize group.	2

6	Carry out cooperation in the provision of agricultural facilities and services.	2
7	Carry out environmental conservation activities	2
8	Obey and implement collective agreements in maize and other groups.	2
9	Establish cooperation and business partnerships with providers of production facilities, processing, marketing of results and / or capital;	2
10	Conducting capital cultivation for the business development needs of members of the farmer group	2
Average		2

Description: score 1 = very low, score 2 = low, score 3 = medium, score 4 = high, score 5 = very high

In Table 5, it appears that the role of farmer groups as a means of cooperation has not shown a good role. This is because the board of farmers has not had the ability to organize the farmer's institute to establish cooperation with the parties of the means of production, processing, marketing, and strengthening of farmers' capital. Therefore, it is necessary to assist the extension staff so that the board has the ability to cooperate with related parties, so that the farmers have the power to determine the planned production targets together in the group of farmers. The role of farmer group as a means of cooperation is in the low category, so that the farmer always accepts the determination from the erratic from other agribusiness business institutions.

6. Role Of Farmer Group As Activity Of Production Unit

The role of farmer groups as a production unit is to plan and implement production targets to be achieved together. The role of the farmers here plays a role in determining the amount of production produced in a group. If the role of the farmers goes well, then the bargaining power of farmers is higher, because the farmers have the role of managing the production to be produced in one group. The results of the research of the role of maize farmer group as a production unit in Kabangka District of Muna Regency are described in Table 6.

Table 6. The Role of Maize Group as the Activity of the Corn Production Unit

No	Role	Score
1	Make decisions in determining the development of profitable corn production based on available information in the fields of technology, social, capital, production facilities and other natural resources.	2
2	Formulate plans and carry out joint activities, as well as plans for the needs of farmers on the basis of efficiency considerations.	2
3	Facilitate the application of corn farming technology (materials, tools, means) by the members of the farmer group in accordance with the plans of the farmer's activities.	2
4	Establish cooperation and partnership with other related parties in the implementation of maize farming.	2
5	Obey and implement collective agreements in corn groups, as well as agreements with others.	2
6	Increase the sustainability of productivity and sustainability of natural resources and environment.	2
7	Manage administration properly and correctly.	2
Average		2

Description: score 1 = very low, score 2 = low, score 3 = medium, score 4 = high, score 5 = very high

In Table 6, it appears that the role of group farmers as a unit of production is already running well. However, seen from the plan to implement the needs of farmers on the basis of efficiency considerations, the facilitation of the application of technology (materials, tools, and ways) has not been as planned. The farmer group has not acted as a mediator of cooperation, and as the executor of mutual agreement with other parties. This may cause group members to plan their own production and to cooperate with others who are vulnerable to price fluctuations that traders pay. Farmers are always the recipients of prices not as price determinants, so farmers are always in a weak position.

7. The Role of the Combined Group

Combined farmers can act as business units of production facilities and infrastructure, farming activities, production processing business units, marketing business units, and micro finance business units. The combination of Kelompok Tani is an institution that acts as a mediator of production facilities and production facilities, farming activities, processing business units, marketing business units, and as a microfinance business unit. The combination of farmers who play the role can be said as an agribusiness system that can solve corn agribusiness problems, from upstream to downstream. Applying the combined role of the farmers to the maximum can increase the economic strength and welfare of its members. The result of research of combination role of corn farmer group as business activity of corn production facility and infrastructure at District of Kabuna of Muna Regency is described in Table 7.

Table 7. The Role of the Association of Maize Farmers as a Production Facility and Infrastructure Effort

No	Role	Score
1	Arrange planning needs of production facilities and infrastructure of each member of the farmer group.	2
2	Establish joint ventures / partnerships with providers of agricultural equipment and production facilities providers.	2
3	Establish cooperation / business partnership with providers of agricultural production facilities and infrastructure (factories and kiosks saprodi);	2
4	Organizing the activities of providing agricultural production facilities and infrastructure with related agencies and institutions of means of agricultural production facilities and infrastructure;	2
5	Establish cooperation / business partnership with providers of facilities and infrastructure production, processing, marketing results and / or capital.	2
Average		2

Description: score 1 = very low, score2 = low, score 3 = medium, score 4 = high, score 5 = very high

The results of the combined role of maize farm groups as farming activities in Kabangka Sub-District of Muna District are presented in Table 8.

Table 8. The Role of Combined Maize Farmers as Farming Activities

No	Role	Score
1	Make decisions in determining the development of profitable maize farming based on available information in the fields of technology, social, capital, production facilities and other natural resources.	2
2	Formulate the group's definitive plans and carry out activities on the basis of efficiency considerations.	2
3	Facilitate the application of technology (materials, tools, ways) of maize farming group in accordance with the plan of group activities.	2
4	Establish cooperation / partnership with other related parties in the implementation of maize farming.	2
5	Obey and implement agreements generated together in groups and agreements with others.	2
6	Evaluate the joint activities and plans for the needs of maize farmers, as a material for future activity plans.	2
7	Improve the sustainability of productivity and sustainability of natural resources and environment.	2
8	Manage administration well.	3
9	Formulate collective agreements, both in solving problems and for carrying out various groups of activities.	3
10	Planning and conducting regular meetings within groups, between groups or with farmer groups, as well as with relevant agencies / institutions	3
Average		2,3

Description: score 1 = very low, score2 = low, score 3 = medium, score 4 = high, score 5 = very high

The results of the combined role of maize farm groups as business processing activities in Kabangka Sub-District of Muna District are described in Table 9.

Table 9. Joint Function of Kelompoktani as Business Unit of Maize Processing

No	Role	Score
1	Arrange the planning needs of maize processing equipment that joins the farmer group.	2
2	Establish cooperation / business partnership with entrepreneurs processing of agricultural products.	2
3	Establish cooperation / business partnership with the provider of corn processing equipment.	2
4	Developing the ability of the members of the farmer group in the processing of maize.	2
5	Organizing the production activities of members of the group into the business units of processing and marketing of maize.	2
Average		2

Description: score 1 = very low, score2 = low, score 3 = medium, score 4 = high, score 5 = very high

The results of the combined role of maize farm group as business activities of corn marketing in Kabangka Sub-District of Muna District are presented in Table 10.

Table 10. Joint Function of Farmer Group as Business Unit of Corn Marketing

No	Role	Score
1	Identify, analyze potentials and market opportunities based on the resources they have to develop maize to provide a more optimum business advantage.	2
2	Plan the market needs based on the resources it has by taking into account the segmentation	2

	of the corn market.	
3	Establish joint ventures / partnerships with corn market suppliers.	2
4	Developing the supply of corn market needs.	2
5	Developing the ability to market corn.	2
6	Establish cooperation / business partnership with corn supplier businessman.	2
7	Improve the ability to analyze the business potential of each member to serve as a business unit that ensures the market demand of corn seen from the quantity, quality and continuity.	2
	Average	2

Description: score 1 = very low, score2 = low, score 3 = medium, score 4 = high, score 5 = very high

The result of research on the combined role of farmers group as a unit of micro finance business in Kabangka Sub-District, Muna District is described in Table 11.

Table 11. The Role of Combined Maize Farmers as Microfinance Business Unit

No	Role	Score
1	Growing creativity and initiative of the members of the farmer group to utilize every available information and access to capital.	2
2	Establish cooperation / business partnership with the capital.	2
3	Improve the ability of group members to be able to manage commercial microfinance.	2
4	Developing the ability of the members of the group to explore the sources of business that can increase capital.	2
5	Encourage and advocate the members of the group to be willing and able to set aside the results of the business for the development of venture capital.	2
6	Encourage and advocate group members to be willing and able to implement savings and loan activities in order to facilitate the development of venture capital	2
	Average	2

Description: score 1 = very low, score2 = low, score 3 = medium, score 4 = high, score 5 = very high

The result of the research on the combined role of maize farmers as providers of production facilities and infrastructures in Kabangka Sub-District of Muna District as described in Table 7 shows that the combined role of group of farmer as the unit of production facilities and infrastructure has not been well run as presented in Table 7, as in Table 8 The combined role of farmer groups as farming activities has not gone well. In Table 9, the combined role of group farmers as a processing business unit has not proceeded well, as is the case in Table 10, the combined role of group of farmers as a marketing business unit has not gone well, and in Table 11 the combination of kelpoktani as a microfinance business unit has not run well. The low role of group of farmers as the business of production facilities and infrastructures, farming activities, processing business, marketing business activity and micro finance business activity is caused by group of farmer association formed only as media of farmer group to get funding program of agribusiness agribusiness development (PUAP). The joint management of group of farmers does not have the vision and mission to manage the agro-group as an integrated corn agribusiness business. The development of the group's combined roles needs to be enhanced through government policy, by continuously strengthening extension and counseling activities so as to achieve members 'awareness to cooperate in a mix of farmers' groups. Besides, it needs to be supported with banking, BULOG, and wholesale traders in an integrated manner.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the results of research and field studies conducted in the area of research, can be concluded as follows:

1. The role of the farmer group as a class of learning has not gone well due to the lack of ability of the management of the farmers group and the limited resources of the extension agents to assist the group of farmers.
2. The combination of maize farming group has not shown the role as manager of corn agribusiness from upstream to downstream. Joint groups are formed only limited to the collection of farmer groups that its formation is based on the distribution function of agricultural development fund agribusiness (PUAP).
3. The development of institutional role of farmer group is required by the board that has the ability to run the role of farmer group as the learning class, cooperation vehicle, and as the production unit continuously.
4. The development of the combined role of maize farmers is required by the board that has the ability to organize the combined functions of farmer group as business units of production facilities and infrastructure, farming unit, processing business unit, marketing business unit, and as micro finance business unit.
5. Increasing the ability of the management of farmers and group of farmers in managing the farmer's institution needs to be supported by government policy, counseling, banking, BULUOG, and maize merchant.

VI. Suggestion

Based on the results of research and field studies conducted, it can be suggested as follows:

1. Farmer groups should be established as a learning class, cooperation vehicle, and as a unit of production that is run continuously. Group of farmers can be used as a container for the distribution of input needs and distribution of farm output in the combined group of farmers. Improvement of group management skills required continuous assistance from extension workers.
2. Combined farmer groups should be established as a business unit of production facilities and infrastructure, farming activities, processing business units, marketing, and as a microfinance business unit. Combined farmer groups can be used as an agribusiness institution from upstream to downstream, which is operated in an integrated manner, with binding norms. A joint group of farmers needs to be managed by a board that has the ability to organize business activities from upstream to downstream, by embracing the principles of openness, integrity, commitment, and mutual benefit.
3. To the government needed policy of institutional strengthening of farmer groups and the combination of groups, through increasing skill resource board, capital, and partnership with related parties.

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