

## **Some Factors Influencing The Conversion of Paddy Field Becomes Palm Oilin Helvetia Regency, Medan, Indonesia**

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**Abstract:** *The conversion of agricultural land is a threat to the food security. Land use transfer can also occur due to the lack of farmer's result on wetland farming that is expected to cause land conversion to other agricultural crops. The problem is to threaten the sustainability of national rice production. Land conversion can occur due to various factors that affect it, depending on the situation and conditions of the farmers, the environment around the farmers, natural conditions and other factors. The farmer's income factors partially have a positive and significant effect on the decision to convert rice farming into oil palm in Helvetia Regency, Deliserdang, Indonesia. The farmer has overtaken the land by expecting an increase in the income he receives compared to the previous farm.*

**Keywords:** *paddy field; palm oil; conversion; profit; business*

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### **I. Introduction**

Land is a very important resource for farmers in agricultural activities. An extensive land will enlarge the farmers' expectations to live a decent life. Wetland also has a very important meaning in the effort to maintain food security. But along the development of the times, population growth, and economic demands, the existence food land begins to disturb. One of the quite serious problems at the moment is the increasingly widespread land conversion or land conversion especially for paddy farming land that into other crop such as oil palm. In Indonesia, the conversion of agricultural land is a crucial issue, phenomena. The conversion of agricultural land is a threat to the food security. Land use transfer can also occur due to the lack of farmer's result on wetland farming that is expected to cause land conversion to other agricultural crops. The problem is to threaten the sustainability of national rice production. The issues over the function of rice fields need to get attention because rice is the staple food. Dependence on rice imports will increase if issues. Rice field functions are neglected. Meanwhile the dependence on imports is unstable and will lead to food insecurity which in turn will threaten the stability of the national food. The decline in rice production capacity has resulted in the country's ability to decrease the food supply, one of which resulted from the shifting of poorly affected rice fields. This is considered to lead to decreased productivity of the land due to the diversion of function. This has an impact on the provision of food. If the process of switching the function of rice field is not prevented, then Indonesia could experience a prolonged food crisis. This possibility can be real if the government cannot manage the new fields to replace paddy fields that have switched functions.

Rice is a staple food for most Indonesians because the majority of Indonesians consume rice. The high demand for rice consumption is caused by Indonesians assume majority that rice is a staple food that cannot be replaced. With the decline of land that produces rice, it can make rice production decline and threaten the availability of national rice that can also lead to dependence on other countries to import rice.

### **II. Theoretical Review**

#### **2.1 Decision on Land Conversion**

According to Sumarwan (2008: 289), "decision is the election of one action of two or more alternatives". This means that a person can make decisions should be available several alternative options. Kamdhi (2011: 72) says that decision is the result of disconnection that is everything that has been decided, and considered. With another emphasis, decisions are consolidation or actions that reveal the acknowledgment or denial of a reality, concept, event and also true or false opinion.

#### **2.2 Factors Affecting the Land Conversation**

Land conversion can occur due to various factors that affect it, depending on the situation and conditions of the farmers, the environment around the farmers, natural conditions and other factors. Munir (2008) divides the factors affecting land conversion in relation to farmers are indirect and direct factors.

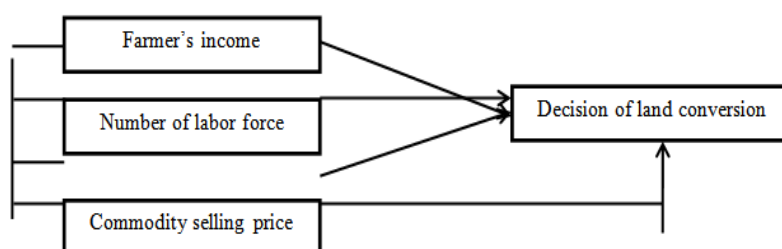
- a. Indirect factors include the changes in economic structure, population growth, urbanization flows and the consistency of spatial planning implementation.
- b. Direct factors are influenced by the growth of transportation infrastructure development, the growth of industrial need for land, the growth of settlement facilities and the wetland distribution of adequate infrastructure and transportation and communication has opened up the insights of the rural population to the new world outside their environment.

At least there are three factors, both individually and collectively, which are the causes of the conversion of wetland areas, namely: scarcity of land and water resources, development dynamics, rice selling price, population increase (Pasandaran, 2006). Land and water resources are closely related to the area of the land owned by the farmers and irrigation conditions that strongly support the process of agriculture, the dynamics of development more directed to the availability of facilities and infrastructure available, while the increasing number of population resulting in higher life demands that require farmers to have income that is more sufficient for his life.

### 2.3 Conceptual Framework

Area of rice field which at first was wide enough then lately more shrinks. Wide rice fields are very important to obtain maximum production. However, along with the land conversion occurred in the area of rice fields decreased. In addition, there are some disadvantages that must be taken into account as a negative impact of rice field function, such as loss of rice production potency, loss of job opportunity, and environmental destruction. Estuary of all that is the welfare of society that is difficult to increase. The changes from the land use initially used for rice field farming turned into oil palm plantations are caused by several factors considered by the farmers. The factors that are expected to affect the farmers to convert their rice fields into oil palm plantations are: farmer's income, commodity selling price and number of labor.

**Figure. 1** Conceptual Framework



## III. Methodology

### 3.1 Helvetia Regency Location

This research was conducted in Helvetia, Deliserdang Regency, January 2017. The population is a composite of all the elements that make up the events, things, or people with similar characteristics that are central to the researcher's attention because they are viewed as the universe of research. Helvetia Regency is one of the districts in the region of North Sumatra Province. Helvetia is one of the villages in Labuhan Deli sub-district, Deli Serdang district, North Sumatra province, Indonesia. Helvetia is one of the villages in Labuhan Deli sub-district, Deli Serdang district, North Sumatra province, Indonesia. Medan Helvetia sub-district is located in the West of Medan City with the following limits:

- 1. West side bordering Medan Sunggal District
- 2. East borders Medan Petisah District
- 3. Southern borders Medan Sunggal District
- 4. Regency of Deli Serdang in the north

District of Medan Helvetia with an area of 11.55 KM<sup>2</sup> In the District of Medan Helvetia the population amounted to 144,257 Souls (2011). The population of Medan Helvetia sub-district is 144,257 residents consisting of 70,705 men and 73,552 women. Based on the age group, the population distribution of Medan Helvetia subdistrict is relatively more productive age population. Year 2011 in the District of Medan Helvetia, it turns out the level of population aged 7-12 years of schooling is quite a lot. Noted there are about 15,070 residents aged 7-12 years Medan Helvetia District who attended school in 2011.

The population in this research is all farmers who change the function of rice farming land into oil palm in Helvetia, Deliserdang, Indonesia, amounting to 45 farmers. The sample is part of a population consists of several members of the population. By studying a sample, a researcher can draw conclusions that can be generalized to all populations. For the sample determination, this study uses census method.

### 3.2 Variable Research

The variables in this study are as follows:

Independent Variables (X):

1. X1: Farmers income
2. X2: Commodity Sale Price
3. X3: Number of Workers

### 3.3 Dependent Variables(Y):

1. Y: Land Transfer Function Decision
2. To avoid any misperceptions about this research variable, the researcher provides the following operational definition:
3. Income
4. Income is all the proceeds obtained from farming less the cost incurred in a given period.
5. Commodity selling price
6. The commodity selling price is the selling value of a commodity (in the form of money) in meeting the needs and desires of the consumer
7. Labor
8. Labor is an individual or person employed / used in managing farming to achieve certain results
9. Decision of land conversion
10. The decision to convert land is a decision to change the function of part or the whole of the land area from its original function to another function which is expected to effect the changes from various sides such as income and others.

The instrument test of this research is conducted by using validity test and reliability test. These tests are used to test whether questionnaires (questionnaires) deserve to be used as research instruments. While data validity is a measure that refers to the degree of conformity between the data collected and the actual data. Validity is a measure that indicates the validity level of the instrument. The high degree of instrument validity indicates the extent to which the data collected does not deviate from the description of the validity in question. To calculate the validity, the author uses the product moment correlation formula:

$$r_{xy} = \frac{n \sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{\{n \sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2\} \{n \sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2\}}}$$

- r = correlation coefficient of product moment
- X = Independent variable
- Y = Dependet variable
- n = Number of sample
- $\sum x$  = Number of score in X distribution
- $\sum y$  = number ofr score in Y distribution
- $\sum x^2$  = Number of squares in X distribution scores
- $\sum y^2$  = Number of squares in Y distribution scores

The instrument is said to be valid if the rhitung is greater than the table for each question submitted to the respondent. Reliability shows one sense that the instrument can be trusted enough to be used as a data collection tool because the instrument is good. Reliability test is used to obtain the accuracy of data collection tool (instrument) used. To calculate the relative questionnaire, the author uses the alpha croncbach formula, namely:

$$r_{11} = \frac{K}{K-1} \times \left\{ 1 - \frac{\sum Si}{St} \right\}$$

Note:

- $r_{11}$  = Reliability value
- $\sum Si$  = Number of variance score of each item
- St = Total Variance
- k = Number of items

To calculate the number of grain variants, the value of each item was calculated first with the formula

$$S_i = \frac{\sum X_i^2 - \frac{(\sum X_i)^2}{N}}{N}$$

Note:

- N: number of respondents
- X: value of the selected score

This test aims to test whether in the regression model there is a variance inequality from one observation to another observation. If the variant from observation to other observations remains, then it is called homocedasticity and if different it is called Heterocedasticity. A good regression model is homocedasticity, a variant of one observation of other permanent observations. Multicollinearity test aims to test whether the regression model has a correlation between independent variables. A good regression model should be free of multi-linearity or no correlation between the independent variables. The normality test aims to test whether the regression of the intruder or residual variable has a normal distribution. As it is known that  $t_{test}$  and  $F_{test}$  assume that the residual value follows the normal distribution. There are two ways to detect whether the residuals are normally distributed or not that is with graphical analysis and statistical analysis. To know the influence of variables of farmer's income, commodity selling price and number of labor to the decision of land conversion, multiple linear regression analysis is used because observation consists of several independent variables, where the equation estimation is intended to describe a pattern, the relationship/function that exists among the variables those variables. Multiple linear regression models and equations used in this study are as follows:

$$Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 + e$$

Note:

- a = Constants
- b = Regression Coefficient
- X<sub>1</sub> = Variable Revenue
- X<sub>2</sub> = Commodity Price Selling Variable
- X<sub>3</sub> = Variable Amount of Labor
- Y = Decision of land conversion
- e = error

The hypothesis test partially aims to determine whether the influence of each independent variable to the dependent variable individually (partial). This test is done by comparing the sig value of the research with the significance level of 5% (0.05). If sig research > 0,05 then hypothesis accepted, whereas if sig value of research > 0,05 hence hypothesis rejected. The hypothesis test simultaneously aims to determine the effect together with independent variables with the dependent variable.

This test is done by comparing the sig value of the research with the significance level of 5% (0.05) then the hypothesis is accepted, whereas if the sig value of research > 0.05 then the hypothesis is reject. The R determination coefficient (adjusted R Square) is used to see the ability of independent variables in explaining the dependent variable and the proportion of variation of the dependent variable explained by the variation of the independent variable variables. If R<sup>2</sup> obtained from the calculation shows the greater (close to one), it can be said that the contribution of independent variable to the variation of the dependent variable is greater. This means that the model used is greater to explain the dependent variable. To facilitate data processing then used SPSS tool.

### 3.3 Identification of Respondents

In this study the sample or the respondents are the farmers who change the land function, which once planted with rice and then converted to oil palm in Helvetia Regency. Respondents in this study were 45 farmers. This section describes the identification of respondents by sex, age and land area. The classification to the respondents in this study aims to know clearly about the description of respondents as the object of research. The description of respondents in this study one by one described as follows:

**Table 1: Identification of Respondents**

Identification	Number (Person)	Percentage (%)
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	43	96%
Female	2	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Age (Year)</b>		
20-35	8	18%
36-45	14	31%
46-55	16	36%
> 56	7	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Area Width (Ha)</b>		
< 1 Ha	11	24%
>1-1,5 Ha	14	31%
>1,5-2 Ha	16	36%
>2 Ha	4	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Source: Processed Data

From the table above, it can be seen that:

1. From the 45 respondents to gender identification there were 43 male or 96% and 2 female with 4% percentage.
2. From 45 respondents in age identification there were 18% or 8 respondents with age about 20-35 years old, 31% or 14 respondents with age 36 - 45 years, 36% or 16 respondents with age of 46 - 55 years and 15% or 7 respondents with Age over 55 years.
3. from the 45 respondents in the identification of land area there are 24% or 11 respondents with the land area under 1 Ha, 31% or 14 respondents with the land area 1 - 1.5 Ha, 36% or 16 respondents with a land area of 1.5-2 Ha, and 9% or 4 respondents with land area above 2 Ha.
- 4.

### 3.4 . Research Instrument Test

Validity and Reliability tests were performed on 45 respondents outside the research sample. After the research instrument is declared valid and reliable then the research instrument can already be continued to the next test. To test the validity of research instrument is conducted by comparing the value of  $r_{\text{count}}$  with  $r_{\text{table}}$  and to test the reliability used Cronbach Alpha formula. The test is conducted with the help of SPSS program. In this study the instrument will be said valid if  $r_{\text{count}} > r_{\text{table}}$  for each item of question asked to the respondent. As for Test Reliability instrument will be said reliable if Cronbach Alpha value  $> r_{\text{table}}$ . The validity test results on the farmers' income variables (XI) can be seen in the following table:

**Table 2 :Validity Test of Farmer's Income Variable (XI)**

No	$r_{\text{count}}$	$r_{\text{table}}$	Status
1	0,640	0,361	Valid
2	0,667	0,361	Valid
3	0,601	0,361	Valid
4	0,707	0,361	Valid
5	0,592	0,361	Valid

Source: Processed Data

Based on the above table, the value of  $r_{\text{count}}$  shows that 5 items of statement in the farmer's income variable (XI) is valid because all statement items fulfill the  $r_{\text{count}} > r_{\text{table}}$ , it can be concluded that all statements in income variable of farmer (XI) for validity test. Meanwhile for the reliability test results can be seen in the following table:

**Table 3 Reliability Test of Farmer's Income Variable (XI)**

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
0,643	5

Based on the above table, it can be stated that 5 item statement for the farmer's income variable (XI) has met the requirements in reliability test because Cronbach Alpha value  $> r_{\text{table}}$ , where  $0.643 > 0.361$ . Having obtained the result ( $0.643 > 0.361$ ) it can be stated that the statement items in the farmer's income variable (XI) are reliable. The validity test results on the commodity selling variable (X2) can be seen in the following table:

**Table 4:Validity Test of Commodity Selling Price Variable (X2)**

No	$r_{\text{count}}$	$r_{\text{table}}$	Status
1	0,611	0,361	Valid
2	0,824	0,361	Valid
3	0,503	0,361	Valid
4	0,730	0,361	Valid
5	0,472	0,361	Valid
6	0,615	0,361	Valid

Source: Processed Data

Based on the above table, the value of  $r_{\text{count}}$  shows that 6 items the statement in the commodity selling price variable (X2) is declared valid because all the statement items are eligible  $r_{\text{count}} > r_{\text{table}}$ . It can be concluded that all statements in the farmer's income variable (XI) have met the requirements for validity test. As for the results of Test Reliability can be seen in the following table:

**Table 5** Reliability Test of Commodity Selling Price Variable (X2)

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
,677	6

Based on the above table, it can be stated that 6 items statement for commodity selling price variable (X2) has met the requirements in reliability test because Cronbach Alpha value  $v > r_{table}$ , where  $0.677 > 0.361$ . After the result ( $0.677 > 0.361$ ) it can be stated that item statement in commodity selling price variable (X2) is reliable. The validity test results on the number of Labor variable (X3) can seen in the following table:

**Table 6** Validity Test of Number of Labor Variable (X3)

No	r <sub>count</sub>	r <sub>table</sub>	Status
1	0,716	0,361	Valid
2	0,605	0,361	Valid
3	0,639	0,361	Valid
4	0,696	0,361	Valid
5	0,502	0,361	Valid

Source: Processed Data

Based on the above table, the value of  $r_{count}$  shows that 5 items of statement in the number of labor variable (X3) are declared valid because all statement items are eligible  $r_{count} > r_{table}$ , it can be concluded that all statements in income variable of farmer (XI) validity test. For the reliability test results, it can be seen in the following table:

**Table 7** Test Reliability on the Number of Labor Variable (X3)

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
,624	5

Based on the above table, it can be stated that the 5 item statement for the Number of Labor variable (X3) has met the requirements in reliability test because Cronbach Alpha value  $> r_{table}$ , where  $0.624 > 0.361$ . After the result ( $0.624 > 0.361$ ) it can be stated that the statement items in the number of labor variable (X3) is reliable. The validity test results on the decision of land conversion variable (Y) can be seen in the following table:

**Table 8** Validity Test on Decision of Land Conversion Variable (Y)

No	r <sub>count</sub>	r <sub>table</sub>	Status
1	0,749	0,361	Valid
2	0,738	0,361	Valid
3	0,632	0,361	Valid
4	0,689	0,361	Valid
5	0,584	0,361	Valid
6	0,584	0,361	Valid

Source: Processed Data

Based on the above table, the value of  $r_{count}$  shows that 6 items of statement in the decision of land conversion variable (Y) is declared valid because all the statement items meet  $r_{count} > r_{table}$ , it can be concluded that all statements in decision of land conversion variable (Y) has met the requirements for the validity test. As for the results of Test Reliability can be seen in the following table:

**Table 9** Test Reliability on Decision of Land Conversion Variable (Y)

Cronbach's Alpha	Nof Items
,737	6

The purpose of normality test is to find out whether the residual value has been normally distributed or not. A good regression model is to have a residual value that is normally distributed or close to normal. One way to test the normality is using the kolmogorov-smirnov test and see the visual results of the normality test in SPSS in the form of drawings or graphs.

**Table 10** Normality Test of Kolmogorov-Smirnov

		Unstandardized Residual
N		45
Normal Parameters <sup>ab</sup>	Mean	0E-7
	Std. Deviation	2,04165365
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	,106
	Positive	,106
	Negative	-,072
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z		,714
Asymp. Sig. (2-Tailed)		,688

In the kolmogorov-smirnov test, the data is said to be normally distributed if the significance value is greater than 0.05 and if it is smaller than 0.05 then the data is not normally distributed. From the above test results obtained n significance value is greater than 0.05 that is equal to 0.688. Then it can be concluded that the data used has been normal distribution. Another way that can be used is by seeing the pictures or graphs. The picture above shows the point that spreads around the diagonal line and its distribution follows the diagonal line so it can be concluded that the residual data is normally distributed.

A regression model can be said to be free from heterokedasticity if:

- > Data points spread is above and below or around 0 (zero).
- > Data points do not gather just above or below only.
- > The spread of data points should not form waves, widened and then narrow and widen again.
- > The spread of data points should not be patterned. Multiple regression model with one dependent variable (Y) is decision of land conversion and 3 independent variables that is farmer's income (X1), commodity selling price (X2) and number of labor (X3) are formulated as follows:

$$Y = a + b_1 X_1 + b_2 X_2 + b_3 X_3 + e$$

#### IV. Discussion

From the research result obtained, the farmer's variable affects the decision of land conversion variable. With the influence of farmer's income on decision of land conversion of 5.728, this shows that every additional income increment will influence the decision of rice land conversion into oil palm with a value of 5,728. One of the main objectives of farmers overtaking the land use is to increase their income so that their living needs are more fulfilled. From the research result, it is found that the commodity selling price variable influences the decision of land conversion variable. With the influence of the commodity selling price to the decision of land conversion is 3.470. This shows that every increase in commodity selling price will influence the decision of rice land conversion into palm with a value of 3,470. The farmers overturned land use in the hope that the selling price of the commodity to be converted is higher than the previous commodity. From the result of the research, it is found that the variable of the number of labor does not affect the decision of land conversion variable. This indicates that the farmers change the function of rice farming land into palm oil not because of the large amount of labor force used. And also do not expect the use of fewer manpower compared to previous commodities. From the results of research by using the  $F_{test}$  or simultaneous test found that variables of the farmer's income, the selling price of commodities and the number of labor together have a positive and significant to the decision of the rice land conversion into oil palm. Based on the results of data analysis simultaneously, it is proved that there is a positive and significant influence between the farmer's income, commodity selling price and the number of labor to the decision of the rice land conversion into palm oil. And based on determination coefficient analysis obtained by R Square value equal to 0,478 or equal to 47%, hence can be concluded that 47% decision of land conversion function influenced by earnings of farmer, commodity selling price and amount of labor and the rest equal to 53% influenced by other factors where these factors are not discussed or researched in this study.

#### V. Conclusion

Based on the results and discussion on the research, it can be concluded that farmer's income factors partially have a positive and significant effect on the decision to convert rice farming into oil palm in Helvetia Regency. The farmer has overtaken the land by expecting an increase in the income he receives compared to the previous farm. The commodity selling price factor partially has a positive and significant effect on the decision to convert the rice paddy farm into a coconut tree in Helvetia. By converting the land, farmers expect the price of the new farming commodity to have a high and stable selling price, so that the farmer can more easily manage and utilize the income he receives.

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