

Implementation of Subsidized Fertilizer Policy in Poleonro Village, Gilireng District, Wajo Regency

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify, understand and explain; 1). Implementation of subsidized fertilizer policy in Poleonro Village, Gilireng District, Wajo Regency, and 2). Supporting and inhibiting factors for implementing subsidized fertilizer policy in Poleonro Village, Gilireng District, Wajo Regency. This research is a type of qualitative research, with descriptive analysis methods in order to find facts and interpretations correctly and accurately regarding policy implementation. The data validity testing technique used in this study uses an interactive model from Miles and Huberman to analyze the research data. Activities in qualitative data analysis are carried out interactively and take place continuously until complete and saturated data is obtained. The results showed that; The implementation of the subsidized fertilizer policy in Poleonro Village, Gilireng District, Wajo Regency has generally been running according to the existing regulations, although there are still some things that need to be improved in the implementation process. Supporting factors for the implementation of subsidized fertilizer policy in Poleonro Village, Gilireng District, Wajo Regency, among others, Communication, Resources, Disposition, and Bureaucratic Structure.

Keywords : Implementation; Policy; Subsidized Fertilizer.

INTRODUCTION

The problem of fertilizers in Indonesia is always directly related to the needs and sustainability of farmers in managing their land (Panuju et al., 2013; Rustinsyah, 2015; Silalahi et al., 2019; Thorburn, 2015). Therefore, in the case of the scarcity and high cost of chemical fertilizers, the main victims are farmers (Follmann et al., 2021; Sebby, 2010; Yasar et al., 2017; Yeheyis et al., 2010). The Indonesian government has introduced a fertilizer subsidy policy for farmers. Given the limitations of the government in providing fertilizer subsidies within the framework of government programs (Nilwana et al., 2015; Niswaty et al., 2020; Padatu & Akib, 2018; Radjab et al., 2019), subsidized fertilizers are only available for agricultural businesses, including food farmers, livestock and smallholder plantations (Franke et al., 2014; Ju et al., 2016; Smith & Siciliano, 2015; Snapp & Fisher, 2015). Problems that arise are delays in the distribution of subsidized fertilizers (Duflo et al., 2011; Gulati & Banerjee, 2015; Liverpool-Tasie, 2014; Nyirenda et al., 2021), a delay of one week can have a major impact on crops, and another problem is that prices do not match the Maximum Retail Price (HET). Subsidized fertilizers sold at fertilizer stalls are more expensive. Fertilizer is a strategic means of production and one of the determining factors to increase the output of agricultural products. The policy is expected to protect farmers, thereby increasing productivity and improving the economic level of farmers. Through the Ministry of Agriculture (Kementan), the government allocates fertilizer subsidies to farmers. The program is part of strengthening the country's food security and is needed to support the supply of fertilizers in accordance with the principles of type, quantity, price, location, time

and quality (Alló et al., 2015; Boazar et al., 2020; Lequin et al., 2019; Thennakoon & Anderson, 2015).

Subsidized fertilizers are fertilizers purchased and distributed by the government in accordance with the government's plan to meet the needs of farmers, while non-subsidized fertilizers are fertilizers purchased and circulated outside the government's plan and do not receive subsidies. The types of fertilizer subsidies that have been applied so far are price subsidies or indirect subsidies, where subsidized fertilizers proposed by local governments and determined by the central government are distributed by producers assigned to distributors and handed over to distributors. Retailers, farmers and farmer groups. Based on field observations, currently there are two types of fertilizer prices on the market, namely subsidized and non-subsidized. Raised several issues and potential problems in the field, with many complaints from the public, including duplication of subsidized and non-subsidized fertilizers, the occurrence of counterfeiting of subsidized fertilizers, and the long chain of subsidies weakening the level of regulation. The government subsidizes fertilizer smuggling, and fertilizer quotas are counterfeited from low-priced areas to high-priced areas. Related to some of the points mentioned above, the authors are interested in seeing, and adopting the title "Implementation of Subsidized Fertilizer Policy in Poleonro Village, Gilireng District, Wajo Regency".

METHOD

The method used in this research is a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. This method basically aims to understand the interconnectedness of various external and internal phenomena contained in the implementation of the subsidized fertilizer policy in Poleonro Village, Gilireng District, Wajo Regency. Revealing empirical phenomena as the objective reality of society, the descriptive method will be more emphasized. Qualitative research aims to describe and understand patterns in a society in the context of wholeness as a unified whole. Descriptive research accurately describes the characteristics of certain individuals, conditions, symptoms and groups, determines the frequency of certain relationships between one symptom and another in society.

There are several criteria set by the researcher as informants who meet one of the following requirements:

1. Informants are farmers who are users of subsidized fertilizers in Poleonro Village, Gilireng District, Wajo Regency (Farmers Group)
 2. Informants are managers/distributors of subsidized fertilizers in Poleonro Village, Gilireng District, Wajo Regency (Agents/Retailers)
 3. The informant is the local government (Kades, Kadus, BPD)
- From the criteria above, the following informants were obtained:
- Subsidized Fertilizer Agent : 1 Person, Village Head : 1 Person, Hamlet Head : 1 Person, Chairman/Member of BPD : 1 Person, Chairperson/Member of Farmer Group : 3 Persons.

To obtain the data needed in this study, several steps were taken in obtaining data by:

1. The first stage, is observation, as the scientific method of observation is defined as "Systematic observation and recording of the phenomena being investigated" stronger

emphasis on observing symptoms or phenomena (events or events), not just looking for data and information. Andi Agustang, 2011: 131).

2. The second stage, semi-structured interviews, this type of interview is included in the in-dep interview category, where the implementation is more in-depth and free. Interviews are “data collection by means of questions and answers” (2010).
3. The third stage, is documentation, researchers take pictures or photos to complete the data source to make it clear.
4. The last stage is triangulation. Triangulation is defined as a data collection technique that combines various data collection techniques and data sources with triangulation, meaning that researchers actually collect data by triangulation, researchers collect data which simultaneously tests the credibility of the data, namely checking the credibility of the data with various data collection techniques and various data source.

Data were collected and processed to develop a participatory model that summarized all the symptoms of the case. To draw conclusions, the collected data is processed through three processes, namely: *the reduction process, data presentation and verification*. Such a data analysis method is an interactive model from Miles and Huberman (1984: 15).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Policy implementation focus

Policy implementation in principle is a way for a policy to achieve its goals. Policy implementation is the most important stage important in the policy process, **characteristics** Focus on policy implementation is :

a. Communication

Communication is one of the important variables that affect the implementation of public policy, communication will determine the success of achieving the goals of implementing public policy. Effective implementation will take place, if decision makers know what they are going to do. Information known to decision makers can only be obtained through good communication. The communication factor is very influential on the acceptance of policies by the target group, so that the quality of communication will influence in achieving the effectiveness of the implementation of public policies. Thus, socialization or dissemination of policy content through a good communication process will affect policy implementation. In this case, the communication media used to disseminate the contents of the policy to the target group will play a very important role.

The results of this study indicate that the communication used to convey matters related to the implementation of subsidized fertilizers in Poleonro Village is that the coordination between Sub-district Agricultural Extension and Field Agricultural Extension which is an extension of the Department of Agriculture and Food Security in Wajo Regency with agents distributing subsidized fertilizers and also farmer groups in the village Poleonro runs in harmony, so that the implementation of the subsidized

fertilizer policy goes without any significant obstacles, but continuous and intense socialization is still very much needed. This research also suggests the importance of communication or socialization that specifically discusses subsidized fertilizer policy regulations from upstream to downstream, this coordination or socialization must be carried out holistically thoroughly, be it top down or bottom up.

b. Resource

The second factor that influences the successful implementation of a policy is resources. Resources are important in implementing a policy. This study suggests that the District Agriculture and Food Security Service in implementing the subsidized fertilizer policy in Poleonro Village in this case the placement of District Agricultural Extension Officers (PPK) and PPL (Field Agricultural Extension Officers) who are extensions of the District Agriculture and Food Security Service at the sub-district and sub-district levels. The village, including the appointment of a subsidized fertilizer retailer in Poleonro Village, has been supported by adequate human resources. This study also illustrates that resources have an important influence in implementing a policy, as well as in implementing subsidized fertilizer policies in poleonro village ranging from legality to human resource development which is now insufficient in terms of quantity, but has fulfilled in terms of quality. At the stage of legality we are still able to implement the policy. However, at the monitoring and evaluation stage, there will be several obstacles due to the limited number of human resources at the village level. It would be better if the current condition of the District Agriculture Office thought about meeting the resources needed for optimizing the implementation of policies that still need improvement in both human and financial resources, especially agricultural development in Wajo Regency, especially in Poleonro Village in the future , it will be supported by irrigation with the existence of Peselloreng Dam and Gilireng Weir.

c. Disposition

Disposition is the character and character possessed by the implementor such as commitment, honesty, democratic nature and so on. Basically the character and character possessed by both the Wajo Regency Agriculture Service supports the implementation of development policies. Agriculture can be seen from understanding. Community and farmer groups as a whole. In this study, the Department of Agriculture, in the process of agricultural development , in this case the implementation of subsidized fertilizer policies in the village of Poleonro, is always guided by the existing laws and regulations that all requirements and those required by these regulations are fulfilled with full responsibility.

This study also suggests that the village government is very supportive and responds to the efforts of the Agriculture Service in this case the sub-district agriculture and PPL who are the extensions of the district office in the village by providing recommendations and facilitating in terms of eRDKK data collection in Poleonro Village. Department of Agriculture in this case. Agricultural extension workers assigned to the village. Not forcing the will to fulfill the requirements to obtain legal membership in farmer groups,

meanwhile. The village government responded by facilitating so that timeliness was in the process. Data collection and distribution of subsidized fertilizers can run well. This is in line with Edward III's opinion regarding the character and character that influence policy implementation. The Department of Agriculture as an interested party or parties who need legality and mutual support synergize with the Village Government in data collection to implement subsidized fertilizer policies in Poleonro Village.

d. Bureaucratic Structure

The Wajo Regency Agriculture Service has an ideal organizational structure. In supporting the implementation of subsidized fertilizer policy. Now there is one field that has the main task and function of handling subsidies. Judging from the bureaucratic structure, the Department of Agriculture of Wajo Regency is one of the supporters in implementing the Minister of Agriculture Regulation on subsidized fertilizers. This study suggests that the Village Government also has an ideal organizational structure in implementing the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture. Government The village government has a structure that is tasked with and has the authority to implement subsidized fertilizer policies in Poleonro Village, in this case the regional head or the hamlet head. The village government in implementing the regulation of the Minister of Agriculture regarding the policy of subsidized fertilizer has referred to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in order to obtain legality in carrying out every action and activity to avoid things that are not desirable. We have completed the Wajo Regency Agriculture Service. Also has a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in implementing the subsidized fertilizer policy, as stipulated in the regulation of the minister of agriculture. The steps taken in implementing and carrying out their main duties and functions are incidental, namely responding to all the needs of the community in general, especially to the farming community as expected. This research shows that in general the Agriculture Service of Wajo Regency through Agricultural Extension Officers assigned to Poleonro Village has been able to implement the Minister of Agriculture's regulations regarding guidelines for implementing subsidized fertilizer policies. Supported by 4 factors in accordance with the opinion of George C. Edward III, namely: Communication, Resources, Disposition, and Bureaucratic Structure. In addition to these four factors, to explain the subsidized fertilizer policy in Poleonro Village, it is necessary to pay attention to the culture and local wisdom of the people in Poleonro Village.

Focus on Policy Supporting and Inhibiting Factors

a. Obstacle

Every implementation of a policy, at least there must be obstacles or obstacles experienced, not to mention the implementation of the subsidized fertilizer policy in Poleonro Village, moreover this subsidized fertilizer policy is implemented nationally which will be applied to people who have different cultural backgrounds. This research shows that the Department of Agriculture of Wajo Regency through Agricultural

Extension Officers with the Village Government always collaborates in an effort to maximize the implementation of subsidized fertilizer policies in Poleoonro Village, but there are obstacles that are often encountered, especially problems, namely: Invalid data collection, the completeness of farmers' files as targets for the distribution of subsidized fertilizers *are* obstacles. In addition to the constraints mentioned above, *Mobilization*, in this case the distance traveled by vehicles carrying subsidized fertilizers from distributor warehouses, also has obstacles that hinder optimization efforts in implementing subsidized fertilizer policies in Poelonro Village, Gilireng District, Wajo Regency. In addition, the amount of *Fertilizer Quota Subsidized* in Poloenro Village is also never enough, because basically what is called a subsidy must have limitations, especially related to the budget and automatically affects the amount of government allocation of subsidized goods, including fertilizer for farmers.

b. Supporter

As in general a policy can run ideally, of course it requires support to support the implementation of a policy, as well as the implementation of a subsidized fertilizer policy in Poleonro Village, Kecamatan Gilireng, Wajo Regency. This study suggests that local government support and community acceptance are the most urgent things in implementing a policy because the object of the implementation of this subsidized fertilizer policy is targeting the farming community, the attitude of the farmers who are responsive to change and efforts to solve the problems experienced are resolved together. In addition to local government support and good community response, openness between all related elements also supports efforts to optimize the implementation of a policy, including the implementation of a subsidized fertilizer policy in Poleonro Village, Gilireng District, Wajo Regency.

CONCLUSION

Implementation of the Subsidized Fertilizer Policy in Poleonro Village, Gilireng District, Wajo Regency, from the research results obtained, the suggestions that can be put forward from the implementation of the subsidized fertilizer policy are as follows: (1) The Department of Agriculture should allocate a budget and increase human resources both in quality and quantity, especially technical personnel in order to increase support for the implementation of subsidized fertilizer policies. (b) It is hoped that the government can protect farmers, which in the end can increase productivity and improve the economic level of the farming community, by providing complete fertilizer assistance instead of a subsidy program, which has several conditions for farmers to claim their quota or allotment of fertilizer. (c) It is necessary to optimize support for the provision of subsidized fertilizer quotas that meet the principles in terms of type, quantity, price, place, time, and quality. (d) The Department of Agriculture should think about socialization techniques for the delivery of more intense and in-depth information, such as individual or group coordination meetings and the establishment of a call center so that the public can understand in more detail and more quickly regarding regulations that are not yet fully understood.

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