

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EMPOWERING WOMEN FARMER'S GROUPS IN
EFFORTS TO INCREASE FAMILY INCOME
(Case Study: Flamboyan Farmer Women's Group
in Laenmanen Subdistrict - Malaka District)**

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ABSTRACT

This study describes, analyzes, and interprets the extent of the role of the Peasant Women's Group in supporting family income in Laenmanen subdistrict, Malaka District. This research is to find out the production process in the Flamboyan Women Farmer's Group in Laenmanen subdistrict, Malacca Regency from work patterns to the distribution process of group results so that they get results in meeting family needs. This study uses qualitative, primary data collected from various relevant parties or stakeholders. In-depth interviews with key persons and competent informants were also conducted, while secondary data were used to enrich the analysis. The results of the study in the Flamboyan Women Farmer's Group, Laenmanen Sub-District, Malaka District contributed to empowering the family's standard of living and as a motivator for women in driving family economic growth.

Keywords: peasant women's group

INTRODUCTION

This research was conducted in Malaka district, which is one of the regencies / cities located on the mainland of Timor, East Nusa Tenggara Province. The population of Malacca district in 2017 was 183,584 people consisting of 96,868 (53%) male and 86,716 (47%) female. Based on the 2015 Sakernas which became the workforce in Malacca district amounted to 77,293 people, including 74,744 people already employed and 3,179 other people in the category of looking for work / unemployment (BPS, 2017). Of the population groups that work, the sector that absorbs the most labor is in agriculture, which is 45,063 workers or 60% with the number of women working in agriculture as many as 20,794 or 65.7% (BPS, 2017). Of this number, there were a group of farmer women in 2015 in the Malacca district, amounting to 16 groups, where the groups carried out several developments such as the farm industry group producing cassava and bananas into chips or other processed foods that provided a selling value.

The focus of this research is a group of farmer women in Oenaek Village, Laenmane subdistrict, Malaka district. Women's farmer group is under study developed a plant known as a spice, as a medicinal ingredient that has benefit and is of sale value. In addition, residents in Malaka district, especially Laenmane sub-district are still said to have low economic levels, which makes it interesting to study.

Based on the background in the introduction that has been described above, the formulation of the problem in this study that can be taken is "How effective the empowerment of women's farmer groups and how supporting factors and obstacles affect to the effectiveness of empowering farmer women's groups in increasing family income in Laenmanen Sub-district, Malacca District"

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Empowering Women
2. Women Farmer's Group
3. Effectiveness of Group Empowerment

RESEARCH METHODS

Qualitative research uses the interpreter / constructivist paradigm of creating new and richer understandings by interpreting the world and social context. This paradigm aims to understand the "world of human experience" which shows that reality is socially constructed. Interpretivism is often referred to as critical realism which was developed as a critique of positivism but was taken from a subjective perspective (Liliweri, 2018).

The research method used is a qualitative method with a qualitative descriptive approach. The purpose of qualitative research is to understand the events or situations of a group with an investigation process in which the researcher will interpret social phenomena

by distinguishing, comparing, analogy and classifying research objects. The data analysis technique used is the qualitative analysis used was proposed by Miles and Hubberman (Sugiyono, 2007). This research was conducted on a group of women farmers in Flamboyan in Laenmanen Sub-District, Oenaek Village, Malacca District in July 2019

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Brief description of research location

Table 1. Malacca in Figures 2015

No	Subdistrict	Number of Village	Area (km ²)	Percentage (%)
1	Kobalima Timur	4	96,11	8,28
2	Laenmanen	9	94,02	8,10
3	Io Kufeu	7	67,79	5,84
4	Kobalima	8	120,28	10,42
5	Malaka Timur	6	83,28	7,18
6	Rinhat	20	151,72	13,07
7	Wewiku	12	97,90	8,44
8	Botin Leobebe	5	39,03	3,36
9	Sasitamean	9	65,48	5,64
10	Malaka Barat	16	87,41	7,53
11	Weliman	14	88,25	7,60
12	Malaka Tengah	17	168,69	14,53
Jumlah		127	1.160,63	100,00

Source: Belu Regency Central Statistics Office

Laenmanen Subdistrict is one of the sub-districts in Malaka Regency. The distance of this sub-district is 28 km from the capital of Malaka Regency, Betun through Botin Leobebe. This sub-district has nine (9) villages, namely Bisesmus Village; Boni Bais Village; Kapitan Meo Village; Meotroi Village; Nauke Kusa Village; Oenaek Village; Tesa Village; Tniumanu Village; and Uabau Village. Most residents of Laenmanen Sub-district have jobs in agriculture.

2. Research Results

Table 2. Educational Qualifications Members of the Flamboyan Women Farmer’s Group in Oenaek Village, Laenmanen subdistrict, Malaka District

Type of Education	Number of Members
Elementary School (SD)	15 Person
Middle School (SMP)	1 Person
High School (SMA)	1 Person
College	1 Person
Total	18 Person

Source: Processed Flamboyant KWT

The products marketed by KWT Flamboyan also vary with the basic ingredients being plants for herbs. As in the following picture:



Figure 1. Example of Products Produced by KWT Flamboyan
Source: Processed Flamboyant KWT

In the picture above, the focus of the product produced by KWT Flamboyan is more focused on the types of traditional medicines. From the products produced, KWT Flamboyan has a profit of Rp. 750,000 per month. These benefits are not counted with the material production, because the material used is quite young developed or found as shown in Figure 1, namely Lantana plants, Papaya Tree Roots, Ginger, Coconut and others.

In addition, KWT Flamboyan also received venture capital assistance, equipment to seeds and fertilizer which will be briefly described in the following table:

Table 3. Government Support to the Flamboyan Women Farmer's Group

No	Type of activity	Description	Year	Information
1	Training	Farm Year Agribusiness / Farmer Competition and Awards	2016	-
		Technical Guidance for Peasant Economic Institutional Farmers (KEP) for Women Farmers in Bogor	2 – 4 Oktober 2017	-
2	Startup Capital	Business Capital Assistance from NTT Province	24 November 2017	Worth help Rp20.900.000,00
3	Equipment	Shopping for equipment and drug manufacturing	-	-
4	Seeds	Hybrid corn seeds and soybeans	2017	-
5	Fertilizers and Medicines	Urea fertilizer	-	1800kg

Source: Processed Flamboyant KWT

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of existing research, the authors concludes that the Flamboyan Women Farmer's Group has understood the meaning of the Business Group by forming an organization of the Flamboyan Women Farmer's Group to contribute in empowering the economy and improving the family's living standard and as motivator for women in moving the family's economic growth.

SUGGESTIONS

For the Local Government of the District of Malaka, the existence of facilities and infrastructure in the promotion and distribution of products has been successfully made by Women's Groups so that it can be known by the people of Malaka until it comes out of the District of Malaka. In addition, the District Government of Malaka also needs to provide

more technical guidance for the Flamboyan Women Farmer's Group so that the products produced are more marketable.

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