THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF GAYO COFFEE CULTIVATION IN RIKIT MUSARA VILLAGE, MERIAH DISTRICT, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aims to investigate how sustainable management of Gayo coffee is managed by farmers in Rikit Musara Village.

Method: This study applied a case study design to investigate the management of Gayo coffee cultivation in Rikit Musara Village, Aceh. The research focused on management, challenges faced, and opportunities for improvement. Data was collected by interviewing several informants who directly influenced Gayo coffee cultivation. Documentation on cooperative relations between related institutions is also carried out to see how related parties work together to cultivate Gayo Coffee.

Results and Discussion: The management of Gayo coffee cultivation in this village has yet to be effective. Several problems were found in the failure to carry out institutional tasks properly, inadequate farmer resources, inadequate government budget allocations, and misaligned visions between farmers and the Department of Agriculture. Institutions that have been formed in different domains already exist. However, management between parties related to Gayo Coffee cultivation, namely farmer institutions, Gayo Coffee farmers, and DPKBM, must still be well established.

Research Implications: There is a need for policy interventions to improve the management of Gayo coffee cultivation. This could include advocating for increased government budget allocations, better coordination between institutions, and the establishment of clearer institutional tasks.

Originality/Value: This study contributes to the literature by providing practical recommendations for improving the management of Gayo coffee cultivation in the village. These recommendations can inform policy interventions, capacity-building efforts, and partnership development strategies aimed at enhancing the sustainability of Gayo coffee cultivation in the village and similar contexts.

Keywords: Coffee Cultivation, Gayo Coffee, Coffee Production Management, Sustainable Coffee Production.

A GESTÃO SUSTENTÁVEL DO CULTIVO DO CAFÉ GAYO NA VILA DE RIKIT MUSARA, DISTRITO DE MERIAH, INDONÉSIA

RESUMO

Objetivo: Este estudo tem como objetivo investigar como o manejo sustentável do café Gayo é administrado pelos agricultores da vila de Rikit Musara.

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Método: Este estudio aplicó un diseño de estudio de caso para investigar el manejo del cultivo de café Gayo en la aldea de Rikit Musara, Aceh. La investigación se centró en la gestión, los desafíos enfrentados y oportunidades de mejora. Los datos se recopilaron mediante entrevistas con diversos informantes que influyeron directamente en el cultivo del café Gayo. También se realizó documentación sobre relaciones de cooperación entre instituciones relacionadas para ver cómo las partes relacionadas trabajan juntas para cultivar el Café Gayo.

Resultados y Discusión: La gestión del cultivo del café Gayo en esta aldea aún no ha sido eficaz. Varios problemas fueron encontrados en la ejecución adecuada de las tareas institucionales, recursos inadecuados para los agricultores, asignaciones presupuestarias gubernamentales inadecuadas y visión desalineada entre los agricultores y el Departamento de Agricultura. Ya existen instituciones formadas en diferentes ámbitos. Sin embargo, la gestión entre las partes relacionadas con el cultivo de Café Gayo, novedades as relacionadas con el cultivo de Café Gayo, nomademente las instituciones agrícolas, los agricultores de Café Gayo y el DPKBM, aún debe estar bien establecida.

Implicaciones de la Pesquisa: Há necessidade de intervençõens polícticas para melhorar a gestão do cultivo do café Gayo. Isto poderia incluir a defesa de maiores dotaçõens orçamentais governamentais, uma melhor coordenação entre as instituições e o estabelecimento de tarefas institucionais mais claras...

Originalidade/Valor: Este estudio contribuye a la literatura proporcionando recomendaciones prácticas para mejorar la gestión del cultivo de café Gayo. Esto podría incluir abogar por mayores asignaciones presupuestarias gubernamentales, una mejor coordinación entre instituciones y el establecimiento de tareas institucionales más claras.


LA GESTIÓN SOSTENIBLE DEL CULTIVO DE CAFÉ GAYO EN LA ALDEA DE RIKIT MUSARA, DISTRITO DE MERIAH, INDONESIA

RESUMEN

Objetivo: Este estudio tiene como objetivo investigar cómo los agricultores de Rikit Musara Village gestionan el manejo sostenible del café Gayo.

Método: Este estudio aplicó un diseño de estudio de caso para investigar el manejo del cultivo de café Gayo en Rikit Musara Village, Aceh. La investigación se centró en la gestión, los desafíos enfrentados y las oportunidades de mejora. Los datos se recopilaron entrevistando a varios informantes que influyeron directamente en el cultivo del café Gayo. También se realizó documentación sobre las relaciones de cooperación entre instituciones relacionadas para ver cómo las partes relacionadas trabajan juntas para cultivar el Café Gayo.

Resultados y Discusión: El manejo del cultivo de café Gayo en este pueblo aún no ha sido efectivo. Se encontraron varios problemas en la falta de ejecución adecuada de las tareas institucionales, recursos inadecuados para los agricultores, asignaciones presupuestarias gubernamentales inadecuadas y visión desalineada entre los agricultores y el Departamento de Agricultura. Ya existen instituciones que se han formado en diferentes ámbitos. Sin embargo, la gestión entre las partes relacionadas con el cultivo de Café Gayo, a saber, las instituciones de agricultores, los productores de Café Gayo y DPKBM, aún debe estar bien establecida.

Implicaciones de la investigación: Es necesario realizar intervenciones polícticas para mejorar la gestión del cultivo de café Gayo. Esto podría incluir abogar por mayores asignaciones presupuestarias gubernamentales, una mejor coordinación entre instituciones y el establecimiento de tareas institucionales más claras.

Originalidad/Valor: Este estudio contribuye a la literatura proporcionando recomendaciones prácticas para mejorar el manejo del cultivo de café Gayo en el pueblo. Estas recomendaciones pueden informar intervenciones polícticas, esfuerzos de desarrollo de capacidades y estrategias de desarrollo de asociaciones destinadas a mejorar la sostenibilidad del cultivo de café Gayo en la aldea y contextos similares.

Palabras clave: Cultivo De Café, Café Gayo, Manejo De La Producción De Café, Producción De Café Sostenible.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is the world's 4th largest coffee-producing country (Amanda & Rosiana, 2023). This is not surprising when we see that Indonesia's climate is classified as a tropical climate. The same is true for Brazil, Colombia, and Vietnam. These three countries are the three major coffee-producing countries in the world. Brazil is in first position, and according to data from the International Coffee Organization, in 2014, Brazil produced 2.59 million tons of coffee, dominated by Arabica coffee, followed by Robusta. This data also increases every year, and in 2019, Brazil was recorded as producing 3.702 million tons of coffee, so the country is a supplier of 30-40 percent of coffee in the world.

Coffee is also one of the primary commodities produced by Vietnam. The emergence of the Doi Moi reform in 1986 in Vietnam significantly impacted industrial growth. At that time, cooperation between coffee farmers and the government was realized, so many new companies emerged gradually, including the two leading brands of Vietnamese coffee, namely Trung Nguyên and Highlands Coffee. Over time, at the end of the 1990s, Vietnam became the world's second-largest coffee producer. Even in 2020, Vietnam will be able to produce 1.77 million tons of coffee. This increased compared to data in 2019, with a total production of 1.758 million tons.

Before Vietnam became a world coffee producer, Colombia started producing coffee at the end of the 17th century. However, coffee exports to Colombia began in the mid-18th century. Even so, coffee production in Colombia experienced a decline in 2006-2010. This decrease is due to climate change. In addition, coffee is not a prominent commodity Colombian people consume, but tea. Along with these facts, Colombia can still produce as much as 852,000 tons of Arabica coffee in 2019. This data forms the basis for Colombia being the third largest coffee-producing country in the world.

Reflecting on the Indonesian context, coffee has existed in Indonesia since the end of the 16th century during the Dutch colonial era (Oktasari, 2014). At that time, the Dutch brought coffee from Malabar, India, to Indonesia and cultivated it at the Kedawung plantation in Jakarta. However, the cultivation failed due to floods and earthquakes. Then, in 1699 coffee tree cuttings were brought back from Malabar to Indonesia, and their cultivation produced good quality after the results were brought and examined in Amsterdam. Then, this coffee is developed and used as seeds in all plantations in Indonesia. The coffees are Arabica, Robusta, and Liberika coffee.

Although Indonesians are historically familiar with coffee production, Indonesia is currently in the fourth position of coffee producer globally. In 2018, Indonesia produced...
612,000 tons of coffee which is statistically decreased compared to the previous year. Production figures show a significant difference compared to Vietnam, which is geographically located at a similar climatic point. Thus, from the historical record of coffee cultivation, Colombia is similar to Indonesia. However, Colombia still wins the market and the amount of coffee production compared to Indonesia. Especially when compared to Brazil, Indonesia needs to reflect more on coffee production.

Rikit Musara Village is in Bener Meriah District, Aceh Province, Indonesia. The village is also a mountain with an altitude of 2400-2600 meters above sea level. The population in Rikit Musara Village is around 270 people. The condition of the village area, surrounded by mountains and hills, is suitable for growing coffee plants. Therefore, most people in Rikit Village are coffee farmers, and some are crop farmers.

The coffee produced in Rikit Village is Gayo Coffee. Gayo coffee itself is Arabica coffee, the main commodity in the agricultural land of Bener Meriah Regency in the Gayo highlands (Kaswindi et al., 2017). As one of the superior products, Gayo Coffee has a reasonably high price and has received Geographical Indication (GI) certification since 2010. This GI is designated as a cultivation area in the Regional Spatial Plan for Bener Meriah, Central Aceh, and Gayo Regencies Lues is an area of 151,151.60 ha. Even so, Gayo coffee is prone to be used as a commodity with quality deviations to benefit certain elements, such as mixing Gayo coffee powder with ordinary coffee powder (Suhandy & Yulia, 2021). Even IG deviations occur in the three Gayo highlands; Gayo Lues 2,174.10 Ha, Central Aceh 4,116.70 Ha, and Bener Meriah Regency 3,414.30 Ha. The percentage of Gayo Coffee GI deviations based on the region is 9,705.10 Ha (6.03%) of the Gayo Coffee GI area (Ellyanti & Karim, 2012).

The quality of coffee in Indonesia is generally better than coffee produced in other countries. One example of a type of coffee that has been recognized internationally is Gayo coffee. Gayo coffee is one of the varieties of Arabica coffee originating from the Gayo highlands, Central Aceh, Indonesia. This coffee has been certified Fair Trade Certified and published by International Fair Trade in 2010 (Fajri, 2015). In the certification assessment, Gayo Coffee received the highest Cupping category score. However, this assessment must look at the Gayo coffee cultivation system, which still uses conventional technology.

This fact explains that there is something wrong with Gayo Coffee's management in the area. Moreover, Gayo Coffee is a superior product that is distinctive and has a relatively high price; it does not rule out the possibility of being a counterfeit commodity by certain elements. This is the basis for several researchers investigating the quality and characteristics of Gayo coffee (Sinaga & Julianti, 2021) or the quality of the coffee (Kaswindi et al., 2017).
Apart from being certified, the price of Gayo Coffee is also classified as being above the average price of other coffees. Other average prices for Mild Arabicas are US$ 3.2 (approx. Rp. 45,000) per Kg. Meanwhile, Gayo coffee can reach a price of US $ 4.3 per Kg (Juliaviani et al., 2018). The price difference is very striking, and Gayo Coffee can be categorized as coffee with a relatively high price. Gayo Coffee has also been certified by Geographical Indication, which has been recognized in Europe and America so that Gayo Coffee can determine its price without having to refer to world market prices.

Gayo coffee has been proven to have the quality and uniqueness to compete in the world market. Thus, the simple premise is that Indonesia can become the world's largest coffee producer through the production of Gayo Coffee. However, related agencies have reported that Gayo coffee production only reaches 600-800 kg per hectare. As a benchmark price, the income of Gayo coffee farmers per hectare only reaches Rp. 48,000,000. This is, of course, much lower than the cultivation of income from coffee, such as in Java. Even though the coffee price on Java island is relatively low, they have high coffee productivity, so it impacts the high income of coffee farmers on the island.

Reflecting on major coffee-producing countries, Gayo Coffee culture, especially in the village of Rikit Musara, is still relatively conventional and needs a qualified system. For example, Brazil plays a role in the production, distribution, and consumption sides to maintain its position in the global coffee market. Therefore, they have good management in the three aspects they maintain. Likewise, Vietnam has succeeded in building a cooperative management system between coffee farming communities, private companies, and the government so that they can become the number two coffee producer in the world. These countries, such as Brazil, have also utilized technology in producing coffee (Mulyani, 2020). Suppose these things are also implemented in Rikit Musara Village. In that case, the coffee farmers there may experience prosperity and be able to produce coffee in satisfactory quantity and quality. Although the use of technology takes time due to inadequate human resources, the effectiveness and productivity of Gayo coffee farmers in Rikit Musara Village can also be increased with effective and productive management.

Good coffee production management is crucial to achieving optimal yields and quality. Coffee cultivation involves various practices and considerations to ensure coffee beans’ successful growth and production. Some of these practices vary greatly depending on the aspects involved in the coffee production process itself as follows:

a. Farmer Empowerment
Empowerment of coffee farmers through farmer groups is an effort to strengthen farmer institutions and increase professionalism in the technical aspects of coffee cultivation. This can be done through training and education on good coffee cultivation techniques, land management, and coffee bean processing.

b. Land Processing

Good land management is very important in coffee production. Effective land management practices, such as selecting appropriate coffee varieties and using organic fertilizers, can help improve yields and coffee bean quality. In addition, efficient water management and pest and disease control are essential factors in coffee field management.

c. Coffee Bean Processing

Proper processing of coffee beans is essential in ensuring the quality of coffee beans. Effective coffee bean processing practices, such as natural drying of coffee beans and strict quality control, can help improve the quality of coffee beans (Bracken et al., 2023). In addition, sound coffee bean processing can also help increase competitiveness in the global market.

d. Marketing and Trading

Coffee marketing and trade is an important aspect of coffee production management. Effective marketing strategies, such as establishing good relations with consumers and providing incentives for recommendations, can help increase sales of coffee products. In addition, transparent and fair coffee trade is also an essential factor in increasing the profitability of coffee farmers.

Good coffee production management involves a variety of practices and strategies, including farmer empowerment, land management, coffee bean processing, marketing and trading, and sustainability. By implementing the proper management practices and strategies, coffee producers can achieve optimal crop yields and strengthen their position in the global market.

Gayo coffee is generally cultivated using an agroforestry system (Hartoyo et al., 2023). When viewed in the context of Gayo Coffee management in several regions in Aceh, many aspects still need a conventional production system with clear research guidelines. For example, the unsatisfactory management of Gayo Coffee agribusiness development in Takengon (Siregar & Irawan, 2021). This happened because the coffee beans' quality decreased, and the resources were less competitive and needed better governance. Similar management also occurs in Rikit Village, especially in agribusiness practices between Gayo coffee farmers and agents. Many Gayo coffee farmers in Rikit Village still need to do transactions with unsystematic debt.
practices, such as not using debt notes, deadlines, and transaction agreements (Rahmiati et al., 2021).

Efforts to efficiently manage Gayo coffee production cannot be separated from the role of the parties involved, including the relevant government. Several researchers in several regions in Indonesia also suggested that the government plays an active role in strengthening the coffee supply chain (Siswandi et al., 2019), strengthening coffee producer cooperative institutions (Djuwendah, 2019), marketing Gayo Coffee (Nurul Khansa Fauziyah & Aini Mahara, 2022), and strengthening the resources of coffee farmers (Rowe et al., 2022).

Management of coffee production, including Gayo Coffee in Rikit Village, is important that need to pay attention. Since Gayo Coffee is a source of livelihood for the people of Rikit Musara Village and has become a superior product, producing this coffee should be carried out carefully and correctly as in the largest coffee-producing countries that even pay attention to the management of women's resources in their coffee farming as an essential aspect (Yoshioka Vargas et al., 2023) and consider the role of institutional institutions (Kihoro & Gathungu, 2020).

Efforts to increase effectiveness and productivity do not just happen. Vietnam has set an example of how all parties work together to increase their effectiveness and productivity in producing coffee. Therefore, Gayo coffee production management farmers in Rikit Musara Village also need to be considered to boost a prosperous Gayo Farming community and the quality and quantity of production. Thus, this study discusses the management of coffee cultivation in the village of Rikit Musara, including how the collaboration or institutional system involves several parties, such as the Gayo coffee farming community, the Agriculture Office of Bener District, Aceh Province, and several private parties. This is deemed necessary given the level of productivity and welfare of Gayo coffee farmers in Rikit Musara Village, which is still below average compared to provinces on the island of Java.

2 MATERIAL AND METHOD

This study uses a case study design to investigate the management of Gayo coffee cultivation in Rikit Musara Village, Aceh. The research focused on management, challenges faced, and opportunities for improvement. Data will be collected through interviews with Gayo coffee cultivators, observation, and review of production and action records and documents related to Gayo coffee cultivation in the village of Rikit Musara. Qualitative analysis techniques (Creswell, 2014) such as content analysis (Ezzy, 2013) used to analyze the data. Data was
collected by interviewing several informants who directly influenced Gayo coffee cultivation. Documentation on cooperative relations between related institutions is also carried out to see how related parties work together to cultivate Gayo Coffee. The Agriculture Office of Bener Meriah Regency, Aceh Province, is also included as a data source. Institutional groups of Gayo coffee farmers are also used as data sources.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The data analysis results show that three parties are involved in the cultivation of Gayo Coffee in Rikit Musara Village, Bener Meriah Regency, Aceh. Two of them are none other than Gayo coffee farmers and the Department of Agriculture. Meanwhile, the other party is the farmer group institution. These three parties have their respective roles in cultivating Gayo Coffee in Rikit Village. In the following, the researcher explains the results of the interviews, documentation, and observations for each party.

3.1 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BENER MERIAH DISTRICT, ACEH

The Bener Meriah Regency Agriculture Service (DPKBM) is an official government agency that plays a role in agricultural activities in Bener Meriah Regency, including Rikit Musara Village. Based on the results of interviews conducted with the DPKBM regarding the cultivation of Gayo Coffee, several things have been implemented, such as:

3.2 IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SUBSUBSECTION

The agriculture service conducts direct coaching through training and counseling conducted by the agriculture service employees (Hien et al., 2023). The extension includes farming guidance; cultivation of coffee plants by applying appropriate technology; sharing information with farmers about agriculture; and awareness raising of coffee farmers.

Information was also obtained from interviews with the DPKBM. In this case, the Head of the Agriculture Office of the Bener Meriah Regency Agriculture Service was used as a resource person.

"It is understood that the extension activities carried out by the Department of Agriculture for farmers are intended so that farmers can be independent in dealing with
agricultural affairs and are given training on technological guidance on coffee cultivation so that farmers can be more empowered and it is hoped that this will lead to innovations in the plantation sector."

From the interview results above, the government through the Agriculture Office of Bener Meriah Regency, has conducted counseling to provide assistance and guidance, including seeding assistance, farming equipment assistance to counseling, but the problem is that farmers sometimes need to take advantage of this assistance.

3.3 OPTIMIZATION OF BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

The Department of Agriculture has allocated the budget, but it could be more optimal because it needs to provide coffee farmers with capital. This happens because the budget allocation is certainly not only for the coffee farming community, but many other agricultural sectors still need a budget. Even so, there is a contradiction stated by the Department of Agriculture that the budget allocation also requires careful consideration. According to them, budget allocations can be well-spent if farming communities properly utilize the assistance provided.

The statement was confirmed during the interview by the Head of General Affairs, DPRK, Bener Meriah Regency. Here are his words,

"The government through the Agriculture Service has indeed allocated various assistance to farmers, and even every year the assistance is there, then what we see in the field is that no people are prosperous with this assistance program; I even see that the allocated assistance is not used. The farmers, so I also hope that in this program, the community will be empowered first and then supported by assistance programs from the government, such as nurseries. Educate the farmers first so they know how to use the nurseries, and then give the seeds so they are relevant and useful programs and can be right on target”.

From the interview results above, the Head of General Affairs DPRK of Bener Meriah Regency suggests that the government should empower farmers so that farming communities can be independent and professional. Thus, the assistance given to farmers is not in vain. This does not mean that the DPKBM is reluctant to assist but that farmer resources must be re-educated so that the two parties' goals are distinct.
3.4 DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

This action is still categorized as immature because the facilities and infrastructure for Gayo Coffee cultivation in Rikit Musara Village still need to be effective. To overcome this obstacle, DPKBM coordinates in an integrated manner with related parties regarding the Provision of agricultural infrastructure. Given the need to provide agricultural equipment and other supporting infrastructure, the Ministry of Agriculture requested that the government assist in allocating funds to improve the quality of the largest agricultural producing plants.

3.5 INCREASED MARKETING OF YIELDS

DPKBM is trying to improve the marketing of agricultural production by promoting the production of agricultural products to outsiders and working with the Bener Meriah District Trade Office. DPKBM views this action as helping coffee farmers in their marketing efforts. As a concrete action, the Bener Meriah District Agriculture Office has started managing coffee marketing locations. If this marketing is successful, DPKBM believes that the welfare of coffee farmers can increase.

3.6 DEVELOPING PLANTATION COMMODITY AREAS

The government has carried out activities to develop plantation commodity areas in 2020. The development of this area is also carried out for several types of seeds, including coffee seeds. The data can be seen in the table below.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Group Name</th>
<th>Amount/Ha</th>
<th>Lamtoro</th>
<th>Coffee Seed</th>
<th>Organic Fertilizer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sumber Rejeki</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.800</td>
<td>8.000</td>
<td>2.400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Karya Jaya</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.500</td>
<td>10.000</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ingin Jaya</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10.500</td>
<td>30.000</td>
<td>9.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Temas Miko</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5.950</td>
<td>17.000</td>
<td>5.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Genap Mupakat</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33.000</td>
<td>9.900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mutuah</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31.000</td>
<td>9.300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Amount</strong></td>
<td><strong>129</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.750 St</strong></td>
<td><strong>129,000 St</strong></td>
<td><strong>38,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even though the development of this area has been carried out, many still need to be put on target. For example, nurseries are not fully planted by farmers and do not plant from
upstream to downstream. Some farmer groups also still use a lot of self-planted nurseries. This obstacle is caused by the misunderstanding of farmers who think that nursery allocation activities only need to be accepted without supervision from the government.

4 INSTITUTION OF GAYO COFFEE FARMERS IN RIKIT MUSARA VILLAGE

Gayo Coffee farmer institutions in Rikit Village have been formed based on the investigations conducted, but these institutions should be running better. Some of these institutions are associations/groups of coffee farmers and cooperatives. The Bener Meriah Regency Government has formed a cooperative that provides production facilities and infrastructure such as fertilizer, seeds and accommodates farmers’ crops.

Farmer groups provide answers to farmers' problems and strengthen the bargaining position of farmers so that they can compete in farming activities and improve their welfare. However, this has not been seen to have its complete application considering the condition of Gayo coffee farmers who are still focused on production (on the farm).

The researcher saw that the people in the village of Rikit Musara did not know who the people who participated in the farmer groups were, what programs they received, and what counseling the farmer groups had received. This is actually very contrary to the information provided by DPKBM which has provided assistance and counseling. In fact, with farmer institutions, farmers are expected to be independent and professional so that they only sometimes depend on assistance from the government alone. Institutions must also be independent because there is no full government intervention in these institutions, but the government only acts as a facilitator and makes policies when necessary.

The FGD results also show that farmer institutions still need to run better, especially in empowering farmers. In that way, the Regent of Bener Meriah said that in 2023 the focus will be on empowering Gayo Arabica coffee farmers because most people in Bener Meriah Regency are coffee farmers. Even though the institution already exists, researchers see that the existence of the institution needs to be fixed due to the lack of education of the Gayo coffee farmers about what and for which the institution was formed.

5 GAYO COFFEE FARMERS IN RIKIT MUSARA VILLAGE

Most of people in Rikit Musara Village are coffee farmers. Even so, coffee farmers in this village still need to be able to compete. Based on the observations of researchers, coffee
farmers in Rikit Village have several problems, such as a lack of insight and knowledge of
farmers on production management and marketing network issues, not fully involved in
agribusiness activities; Farmer activities are still focused on production activities (on the farm);
the role and function of farmers as part of farmer organizations have not run optimally; lack of
information and technology of coffee cultivation.

Conventional cultivation, such as planting seeds without considering the counseling
results, has prevented Gayo coffee farmers in Rikit Village from obtaining satisfactory
production results. The attitude of the farmers is also more concerned with production without
studying good procedures so that production can increase better. This is the reason why Gayo
coffee farmers have not been able to be directly involved in the agribusiness sector. As a result,
Gayo coffee farmers in this village only depend on government assistance and land without
taking advantage of opportunities through existing institutions.

The results of interviews with several farmers also stated that most farmers focused
more on production (on the farm) compared to participating in the activities of farmer
organizations or the like. This information aligns with what Bahri, one of the Gayo coffee
farmers in Rikit Village, said,

"I sometimes get help with fertilizers and sometimes I buy them myself. Assistance with
coffee seeds also sometimes gets help, making it yourself. When it comes to joining
farmer groups, my friends and I have also participated, but we do not know why. In
essence, we usually go to our respective gardens to clean up pests or tend to the coffee
plants. We harvest and sell directly to coffee collectors when it is harvest time. It is
faster. If we have to sell it ourselves, we cannot afford it, and it is a long process. It is
better if I plant and harvest. After that, sell it to collectors. Even though the price is
sometimes cheaper, I do not have to worry."

Bahri's words above explain that he and some of his fellow farmers have participated in
a farmer group, but they still need to learn its function and what the group was formed for. In
addition, Bahri emphasized that he prefers farming activities rather than going into marketing.
One of the other farmers also explained that not all coffee farmers in Rikit Village can be
involved in agribusiness. This is due to differences in economic factors and the stability of
coffee prices which some elements could easily monopolize. Meutia's statement regarding this
matter is as follows,

Not all farmers here have their land. Some live on other people's land and later, the
harvest will be divided according to the agreement with the land owner. So not all farmers dare
to buy the coffee harvested here because it requires a lot of money. We are also sometimes
afraid to sell coffee to people outside the village because later collectors who can subscribe to us will no longer want to buy our crops. If you want to sell outside the village, you need more travel and access costs. That is tantamount to wasting time. Apart from wasting time, collectors here will not buy our crops later, so working like other friends is better. The important thing is that we buy our crops; we can buy food or send our children to school."

Information from Meutia is also similar to that mentioned by Bahri. However, Meutia has indirectly explained that small farmers have a monopoly on collector power. The existence of a monopoly on coffee collectors can also cause fear for farmers, tiny farmers. This is certainly an obstacle for farmers to get involved in agribusiness and independence in producing coffee.

6 DESCRIPTION OF MANAGEMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTIES IN GAYO

After seeing some information from the parties involved in the cultivation of Gayo Coffee, the cooperation between these parties can be described as follows.

**Figure 1**

*Diagram of Cooperation in Gayo Coffee Cultivation in Rikit Village, Bener Meriah Regency*

In the diagram, all parties take their respective roles. However, some actions taken by certain parties, such as farmer groups and farming communities, actually deviated and were different from what they should have been. This makes the gap between the government's vision
and the vision of the coffee farming community. The government has carried out its goals and roles in cultivating Gayo Coffee, by providing counseling and assistance. However, farmers only receive assistance if they do what should be done by what has been conveyed by the government in extension activities. As a result, the assistance provided by DPKBM needed to be appropriately utilized by farmers.

The existence of farmer groups also did not significantly contribute to coffee cultivation in Rikit village. This is caused by the focus of farmers who are still fixated on the culture of farming. This forum only appears when government programs through DPKBM (such as counseling and providing assistance) are implemented. In fact, farmer groups can be a bridge between farmers and the government or private institutions that play a role in the production or consumption of Gayo Coffee.

7 CONCLUSION

Based on the results of data analysis, it can be concluded that institutions that have been formed in different domains already exist. However, management between parties related to Gayo Coffee cultivation, namely farmer institutions, Gayo Coffee farmers, and DPKBM, must still be well established. DPKBM has budgeted for assistance and allocated facilities and infrastructure, and formed a cooperative that can provide some of the needs of farmers in Gayo coffee cultivation. They have also provided training, counseling, and assistance from the nursery to the post-harvest coffee. However, many farmers still need to do what has been conveyed by DPKBM during counseling and assistance. Farmers still adhere to conventional cultivation patterns and do not apply the concept of planting from upstream to downstream. Assistance from DPKBM could have been used more effectively by farming communities. This causes a mismatch between the government's vision and Gayo coffee farmers. If this continues to happen, then the management of Gayo coffee cultivation can get worse and impact unsatisfactory production results.

It is not surprising that Gayo coffee production in the village of Rikit Musara is still in the low category when compared to coffee production in other regions in Indonesia. This village still needs a lot of improvement, especially when compared to the largest coffee-producing countries such as Brazil, Vietnam, or Colombia, which already have a good management system and have their respective duties and roles. Researchers suggest improvements that might be carried out following the direction of the Agriculture Service, namely strengthening farmer resources. Of course, this strengthening must also be accompanied by technology education.
related to the effectiveness of Gayo coffee cultivation and its sustainability. The development of inter-agency cooperation institutions also needs to be made more effective so that these institutions are more than just associations that receive government assistance or groups that need to know the vision and mission of the association being formed.

REFERENCES


The Sustainable Management of Gayo Coffee Cultivation in Rikit Musara Village, Meriah District, Indonesia


