

The Implementation Process of the People's Palm Oil Rejuvenation Program (PSR) in Sungai Melayu Sub-District, Ketapang Regency



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ABSTRACT: The residents of Sungai Melayu Village mostly make their living as oil palm farmers using old and unfit planting conditions. This research aims to analyze the implementation process of the People's Palm Oil Rejuvenation (PSR) Policy program in Sungai Melayu District, Ketapang Regency. The research method used is a qualitative descriptive approach as sources of information include the Head of Service, Head of Division, Sub-District Head, community leaders, and palm oil heads. The results of this study indicate that the PSR. The program Implementation Process is not yet optimal because the institutions involved still need to be stronger in synergy. In addition, funding and infrastructure support are lacking. The interpretation of the program that was rolled out was poorly understood by the farmers due to the lack of massive and programmed socialization.

KEYWORDS: People's Palm Oil Replanting Program, BPDPKS Assistance Program, Institutional Implementation of the Program

I. INTRODUCTION

Based on the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture Number: 18/Permentan/Kb.330/5/2016 concerning Guidelines for Replanting Palm Oil Plantations, the People's Palm Oil Replanting (PSR) is a program to assist oil palm farmers in renewing their plantations with superior and quality oil palm seeds, reducing the risk of illegal land clearing (Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, 2016). With the PSR Program, productivity and quality can increase without opening new land. The program that was rolled out looks at how the policy environment needs to be considered (Arifin, 2020; Firdaus, 2019; Rochmawati et al., 2022).

Ketapang Regency is one of the regencies in West Kalimantan province, with an area whose most considerable regional income is contributed by the plantation sector, namely oil palm. This is because the geographical conditions, topography, and soil types are very supportive of the growth of oil palm. Sungai Melayu sub-district is a sub-district with most of its area as a plantation area. The percentage of plantation area is 54.05% (Table 1). Environmental problems in plantations or inland areas have complex problems, as well as border areas (Benny & Rifky, 2021; Lang & Fink, 2019; Prasetyo et al., 2020; Sadi et al., 2020).

It is natural that the main programs carried out are those related to the oil palm development program. The main implementing agency of the PSR program is the Office of Food Crops, Horticulture, and Plantations. This office has the responsibility to conduct socialization, monitoring, and evaluation of the PSR program so that it can be known how the implementation of the people's oil palm replanting policy (PSR) can improve the productivity and quality of people's oil palm. This document is a template. An electronic copy can be downloaded from the conference website. For questions on paper guidelines, please contact the conference publications committee as indicated on the conference website. Information about final paper submission is available from the conference website.

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Sources : Kantor Camat Sungai Melayu, November 2023

The implementation of the People's Palm Oil Rejuvenation (PSR) has been running but has yet to be optimal, facing various obstacles. The unachieved realization of the People's Palm Oil Rejuvenation (PSR) is due to farmers' need for more interest in replanting their plantations. Another inhibiting factor is the need for more communication and time to complete the program. These problems need to be explored to find solutions to the causes of program failure.

A lot of research related to program implementation has been conducted. Research on program implementation that has similarities with this research is, for example, research conducted by other researchers who look at the involvement of various actors in program implementation. The involvement is caused by environmental influences. However, the influencing environment is different from the researcher's environment (Basri, 2020; Nova Elsyra, Syah Amin Albadri, 2020; Osei & Zhuang, 2020; Widiastuti & Suryawati, 2021).

Other studies that look at aspects that affect the effectiveness of program implementation are related to the element of resources (Abu Suhud & Islami, 2020; Cahyono et al., 2021; Nopriani et al., 2022). There have been many studies related to the implementation of programs related to the environment, but this research is different from this research in that it focuses on seeing the influence of other institutions or implementors who implement similar programs in the same location. The purpose of this research is to analyze institutions and the policy environment in Malay Village, Ketapang Regency, more deeply.

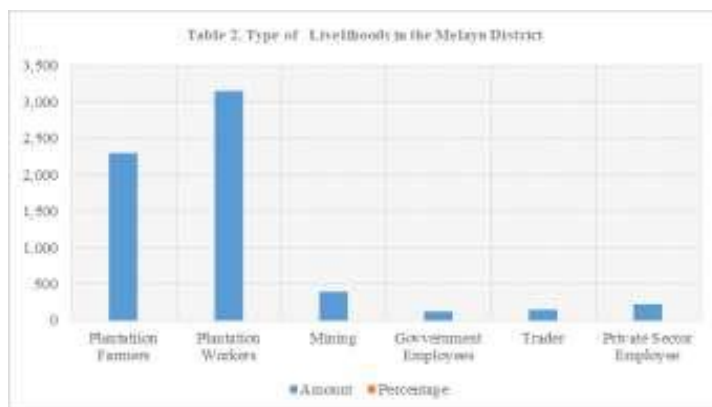
II. METHOD

This research uses descriptive research with a qualitative approach. Descriptive research aims to describe the object of research in depth and as it is (Tohardi, 2020; Yin, 2014). This research was conducted in Sungai Melayu District, Ketapang Regency. The research subject selection technique was used with a purposeful technique with research subjects including the Head of the Plantation Division, the Head of the Sungai Melayu Sub-district, community leaders, and Sub-district oil palm farmers. The data analysis process starts from data triangulation to data presentation. Size 10 & Normal)An easy way to comply with the conference paper formatting requirements is to use this document as a template and simply type your text into it.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Financial Carrying Capacity - Infrastructure And Other Institutional

Most of the population of Sungai Melayu Sub-district earns a living in the plantation sector, namely oil palm plantations, and as oil palm plantation laborers. They are followed by people who work as civil servants, such as teachers, military, sub-district employees, police, and mining, namely gold mining, followed by traders and private employees (Table 2).



Sources: Kantor Camat Sungai Melayu, November 2023

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The main problem for smallholders is that incomes are low as a result of the low productivity of smallholder oil palm plantations. PSR is a program to help smallholders renew their oil palm plantations with more sustainable and quality oil palm and reduce the risk of illegal land clearing. Through PSR, the productivity of smallholders' land can be increased without clearing new land.

The replanting of smallholder oil palm plantations is being carried out in stages throughout the oil palm-producing Ketapang District. The productivity of smallholder oil palm plantations is currently low, ranging from 2 to 3 tons/ha/year, even though oil palm plantations in Indonesia have great potential. The low productivity of smallholder oil palm plantations is partly due to the condition of old and damaged plantations, and some of them use seeds that are not superior and certified. Therefore, it is necessary to rejuvenate oil palm plants by using superior and certified seeds.

In the Sungai Melayu Sub-district, the oil palm plantation rejuvenation business is running and implemented in a fairly broad scope, both during the New Order and the Reform period. Therefore, community welfare guidance is carried out for oil palm plantation farmers, with the aim of reducing the various problems faced by these farmers, such as The existence of an imbalance in the distribution of plantation products, so as to reduce the gap in the level of living between surrounding farmers and companies and most farmers live from the plantation sector, considered to have a tradition that encourages to increase income.

It is organizing the PSR policy through awareness and shaping the behavior of oil palm farmers, such as conducting counseling on information, mentoring, problem-solving, coaching, monitoring, and evaluating farmers' activities to support the development of plantations, especially oil palm plantation farmers, in a sustainable manner.

Oil palm replanting through partnerships is carried out by Pokbun, Gapokbun, Cooperatives, or other Farmer Institutions that have cooperation with Plantation Companies so that community plantations that are included in the replanting criteria can be replanted immediately. The PKSP/PSR partnership pattern makes it possible to accelerate the replanting of smallholder oil palms. Replanting is an effort to sustain plantations by replacing plants that are 25 years old, plants with a height that has exceeded 12 meters, nonsuperior seedlings, productivity levels of less than 10 tons of FFB/ha/year at a minimum plant age of 7 years, and the number of stands per hectare of fewer than 80 trees with new plants.

Based on the results of interviews with the Head of the Plantation Division, it was obtained information that the existence of the People's Palm Oil Replanting policy in Sungai Melayu District really helped farmers to develop their plantation cultivation such as:

- a. All plantation activities must be readily accepted and maximally utilized by oil palm farmers.
- b. All Smallholder Oil Palm planting activities must be carried out in a measurable manner by oil palm smallholders and beaccountable.
- c. All Smallholder Oil Palm planting activities must be able to increase income and make oil palm smallholders more capable of economic processing activities.
- d. All Smallholder Oil Palm planting activities must be implemented, utilized, maintained, and developed by oil palm smallholders so that they are sustainable.

The statement can be assumed that with the existence of the People's Palm Oil Rejuvenation policy in Sungai Melayu District to increase income and socio-economic status is felt by the farmers themselves through a system of connections or other considerations on the other hand, the local population, in this case, oil palm farmers who manage plantations.

The problems faced by farmers for replanting are generally the costs for operations and investment, including the provision of seeds, maintenance, and cooperation with other parties. To fulfill their needs during replanting, oil palm farmers work as palm oil laborers, plant other crops to supplement their income, such as planting chilies, vegetables, or tubers, and work outside agriculture. Other efforts made by farmers are to minimize family expenses, have savings, and make loans to banks, middlemen, and other financial institutions.

Based on the results of interviews with the Head of the Agriculture, Livestock, and Plantation Service of Ketapang Regency, he stated that high costs are one of the obstacles to rejuvenating smallholder oil palms. The cost of rejuvenating partnership plantations up to the third year is IDR. 51,490,000 per hectare (Decree of the Director General of Plantations Number: 191/Kpts/RC.110/7/2014). The government has provided financial assistance for oil palm rejuvenation through the People's Palm Oil Rejuvenation (PSR) program distributed by the Palm Oil Plantation Fund Management Agency (BPDPKS), but this still makes farmers who only have 1 hectare of land anxious because they will lose their source of income during the rejuvenation period. Only farmers who join farmer groups can apply for PSR program assistance. Other farmers need help with land legality.

This statement shows that the high cost of rejuvenation is also one of the main factors delaying rejuvenation in Sungai Melayu District. The specified technical costs of rejuvenation are quite high for independent oil palm farmers. Farmers lack the capital to rejuvenate fallen trees simultaneously, the costs of which are very high, so they choose to rejuvenate underplanting using a gradual system. Farmers rejuvenate one hectare of the garden first; then, when the new plants have been produced, farmers rejuvenate the rest of the garden. A small number of farmers choose to save first so that their gardens can be rejuvenated simultaneously, making rejuvenation even later.

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One of the obstacles that also influences People's Palm Oil Rejuvenation activities is the problem of farmers who lack knowledge regarding rejuvenation techniques waiting for the joint rejuvenation program to be implemented by the KUD, but the sub-district KUD, which has not carried out the cooperative rejuvenation program makes farmers carry out rejuvenation independently so that the rejuvenation of Sungai Melayu District becomes not simultaneously and not according to standards. Farmers also appreciate the attitude of togetherness in rejuvenation, so they want to do something other than rejuvenation themselves. Rejuvenation carried out by individuals is also a threat if carried out because it will result in substandard gardens and low productivity.

Based on the results of interviews with oil palm plantation farmers, it was stated that farmers already have main jobs other than farming oil palm plantations, so farmers pay less attention to oil palm plantations because the income from oil palm plantations is not greater than their main job. The high cost of rejuvenation means that oil palm plantations that are not a priority should be on time for rejuvenation.

In response to this statement, it can be seen that there are not many farmers who have a main job outside of oil palm plantation farming in Sungai Melayu District because the average farmer's main job is oil palm plantation farming. Oil palm replanting activities cause farmers to have no income from oil palms because young oil palms are not yet producing. When farmers choose to conduct replanting, it means that they are ready to lose income from old oil palms that are dismantled and will lose income during the replanting period; the income sacrificed is the amount of oil palm income before replanting.

Then, the Head of the Sungai Melayu Sub-District provided information that the efforts made by oil palm farmers in implementing the people's oil palm replanting policy in Sungai Melayu Sub-District in meeting their needs during replanting are working as oil palm laborers, planting other crops to increase income, such as planting chilies, vegetables or tubers and working outside the agricultural sector. Other efforts made by farmers include minimizing family expenses, having savings, and making loans to banks, intermediaries, and other financial institutions. Farmers in Sungai Melayu Sub-district do not only have one source of income but there are two or even up to three sources of income, ranging from income from oil palm plantations and other jobs apart from farming.

Based on the results of interviews with Community Leaders in Sungai Melayu District, information was obtained that oil palm farmers who joined the Dusun Unit Cooperative (KUD) in Sungai Melayu District received training assistance, assistance with operational activities, and financing. This assistance came from BPDPKS (Palm Oil Plantation Fund Management Agency). The goal is that farmers can obtain higher productivity of smallholder palm oil than before it matured. The existence of an oil palm rejuvenation policy will really help the oil palm farming community's economy and increase regional income in the Sungai Melayu District.

This statement shows that in the context of implementing the policy of rejuvenating people's oil palms organizationally through assistance. Assistance activities include fostering cooperative administration management, land preparation, use of superior oil palm seeds, and management of the best and most sustainable oil palm cultivation. This stage, which is still not optimal, is the linkage with other institutions as one of the supporters of the PSR program.

Organizationally or institutionally, in palm oil farmer plantations, apart from government agencies, there are also other farmer institutions, which are village community institutions related to business activities in the plantation sector and are confirmed through notarial deeds. Stakeholder involvement in oil palm rejuvenation plays a very important role; the relevant institutions certainly have their respective roles and functions in achieving oil palm rejuvenation in the Sungai Melayu District KUD. The form and role of these institutions are determined based on the form of training, counseling, or socialization related to the implementation of oil palm rejuvenation or cultivation techniques, ease of access to information and technology related to the implementation of oil palm rejuvenation in supporting farmers' levels of palm oil productivity, as well as access to FFB sales. Appropriate, especially for the suitability of prices and transportation costs for FFB.

B. Lack Of Interpretation Of Program Implementation

In implementing the policy on rejuvenating smallholder palm oil, the central government gives authority to the village unit cooperatives (KUD) to manage the implementation, where the central government only monitors the progress of implementing rejuvenating smallholder oil palm. With this policy, it is easier for oil palm farming communities to obtain quality palm oil production and produce maximum harvests which results in an increase in local income.

Another problem is the role of KUD when farmers harvest. When the palm oil has started to be harvested, the palm oil farming community sells the palm fruit bunches to their respective palm oil tengkulang because the village unit cooperative (KUD) does not want to accommodate the palm oil bunch fruit, because the village unit cooperative (KUD) does not cooperate with the company or farmer group middlemen.

Based on the results of interviews with the Head of the Plantation Division, it was stated that the aim of socializing the People's Palm Oil Rejuvenation policy was to provide an understanding of the People's Palm Oil Rejuvenation policy in improving the ability of Gapokbun administrators through Village Unit Cooperatives (KUD) in managing capital. Then to cultivate farmer institutions and the rural economy, especially in Sungai Melayu District in order to develop People's Palm Oil Rejuvenation activities, as well

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as improve the function of farmers' economic institutions to become partners with financial institutions in order to access the economy.

Responding to this statement, the implementation of the socialization and inviting all parties to jointly strengthen synergy, coordination, understanding and equalize perceptions in realizing the implementation of the people's oil palm replanting program. The importance of this socialization activity is that the plantation sector, especially oil palm, is often faced with many problems, such as unstable prices, land ownership conflicts, environmental problems and others, but the oil palm plantation sector is still very prospective and exists in Ketapang Regency. Currently, oil palm is one of the important plantation commodities in this area which in the future is expected to become a superior commodity besides oil and gas.

Based on the results of an interview with the Head of the Ketapang Regency Agriculture, Livestock and Plantation Service Office, stated that smallholder oil palm plantations in Ketapang Regency also have problems, one of which is that their productivity has not yet reached the best results, making our farmers not yet truly prosperous. This is caused by many things ranging from the low quality of production, the lack of use of certified superior seeds, the low application of good / appropriate cultivation technology, the condition of old or damaged plants, the lack of supporting infrastructure and facilities and the limited capital of farmers and the support of external parties. The Ketapang Regency Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has issued a major policy by opening up opportunities, especially for smallholder oil palm farmers, to increase their productivity, by carrying out various activities, one of which is the oil palm plantation rejuvenation program, the funding source of which is through the Palm Oil Plantation Fund Management Agency (BPDPKS).

An important factor that causes the PSR program to be less successful is the community's understanding of the rules and regulations regarding smallholder oil palm rejuvenation policies. The community still lacks understanding in making breakthroughs to access the implementation of the PSR program in order to facilitate community activities as farmers.

The Head of Sungai Melayu Subdistrict stated that implementing the people's oil palm rejuvenation policy would only be successful with support from human resources, both in quality and quantity. Human resources relate to skills, dedication, professionalism and competence in their field, while quantity relates to the number of human resources involved in an activity. Cooperatives as parties that directly accommodate farmers must also have competent human resources, namely people who have long experience in oil palm plantations. This statement shows that the government, as a policy maker, must be able to optimally protect and increase the empowerment of oil palm farmers and help resolve the problem of low productivity and quality of palm oil.

The results of interviews with community leaders stated that to increase the community's understanding of the policy of the People's Palm Oil Rejuvenation Program or PSR, socialization needs to be carried out more massively by bringing in various components of society, including farmers, farmer groups, cooperatives, village governments, sub-district heads, and regional governments. Apart from that, based on the results of interviews with oil palm farmers in Sungai Melayu District, it was stated that farmers in Sungai Melayu District had participated in socialization activities carried out by the Ketapang Regency government through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Plantation. , how to cultivate high oil palm and rejuvenate savings to minimize risks when rejuvenation is carried out with a priority value of 0.262.

It is hoped that this socialization activity can prevent farmers from debt and other threats because farmers can carry out rejuvenation according to their respective abilities and limitations. TBS marketing is carried out by KUD as a forum for farmers and payments are made using a salary system given to farmers every month. Carrying out socialization to rejuvenate smallholder oil palms with BPDPKS funds, by providing guidance, monitoring and evaluation to the Agriculture, Livestock and Plantation Service of Ketapang Regency in the context of technical recommendations, and coordinating with related agencies, as an effort to strengthen synergy between multi-stakeholders, signed the pact integrity between the Directorate General of Plantation, BPDPKS, and the company. The implementation of the policy of rejuvenating smallholder oil palms, especially the PSR program for oil palm farmers in Ketapang Regency, has become a momentum for improving the governance of smallholder oil palm plantations in a sustainable manner through the PSR program.

The PSR program as a form of joint commitment to increase the productivity of community plantations which ultimately provides an increase in the welfare of oil palm farmers can accelerate the achievements of the community oil palm rejuvenation program in Sungai Melayu District while also helping to unravel the problems and obstacles faced by farmers both in proposing and implementing the community oil palm rejuvenation program.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The implementation of the PSR program has actively involved government agencies. The KUD, as the other party implementing the program, has yet to show optimal activity in achieving the program's goals. In addition, the aspects of funding and infrastructure as essential elements in the success of program achievement still need to be adequately fulfilled.

The ability to interpret the implementation of the PSR program has not been maximized. It can be seen that the implementation of the People's Palm Oil Replanting PSR program still has many farmers who need help understanding the legal standards of the

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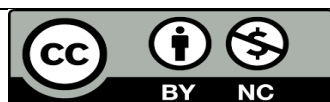
SOP (Standard Operating Procedure).

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