

PKM of Dryland Maize Cultivation Laponrong Village Amali Subdistrict, Bone Regency

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Abstract

This service aims to provide knowledge and skills for farmer groups in Laponrong Village, Amali District regarding corn cultivation on dry land. Implementation method with training and demonstration. Implementation of training and mentoring activities for PKM partner groups in Laponrong Village resulted in 85% of partners actively carrying out PKM program training and mentoring. Mitra has understood the technique of cultivating corn on dry land, and the technique of drying corn using sunlight as a heat source.

Keywords: *knowledge, skills, corn cultivation, dry land*

Abstrak

Pengabdian ini bertujuan untuk memberikan pengetahuan dan keterampilan bag kelompok tani di Desa Laponrong Kecamatan Amali mengenai budidaya jagung di lahan kering. Metode pelaksanaan dengan pelatihan dan demonstrasi. Pelaksanaan kegiatan pelatihan dan pendampingan kelompok mitra PKM di Desa Laponrong menghasilkan 85% mitra secara aktif melaksanakan pelatihan dan pendampingan program PKM. Mitra telah memahami teknik budi daya jagung dilahan kering, dan teknik penjemuran jagung dengan memanfaatkan sinar matahari sebagai sumber panas.

Keywords: *pengetahuan, keterampilan, budidaya jagung, lahan kering*

PENDAHULUAN

To achieve success in dryland agriculture, planning and development must lead to the improvement of the welfare of the people who work on it and at the same time must preserve the natural resources being managed. These efforts are in accordance with the objectives of dryland agricultural management (Dumaski, 2001; Georgis. 2003), namely: 1) increase land productivity (Productivity), 2) reduce the risk of failure (Stability or Security), 3) protect the potential of natural resources and prevent soil and water degradation (Protection or Conservation), 4) increase income (Viability), and 5) fulfill social needs (Acceptability).

Sipatokkong Dua is a family or farmer group of corn processors with farmer members from the corn farmer group. The beginning of the group was founded on the desire of members who wanted to help their household economy. It should be noted that the yield from dryland corn cultivation is still very low and cannot meet the needs of farmer households. Therefore we took the initiative to educate in providing counseling to the Sipatokkong farmer group in processing dry land with corn cultivation.

Farmer groups still face problems in planting or cultivating dry land, especially in planting corn in their area, while dry land can be used as a natural resource that is quite adequate if it can be managed properly, especially in the area that is very suitable for the development and increase of crops, especially corn.

Due to a lack of skills and knowledge, the low quality of maize produced by dryland maize farmer groups affects the quality of processed products. In addition to affecting processed products, poor maize quality will also reduce the selling value of maize. Currently, the dry price of shelled maize at the farm level is IDR 2000-3500/kg. The low price of maize due to poor post-harvest processing has caused dryland maize farmer groups to become less interested in maize cultivation. This is evident from the fact that some group members no longer want to cultivate maize and convert their land to rice. If this is left unchecked, maize production may decline and this will impact the processing business. To solve this problem, it is necessary to improve maize quality so that the maize produced by the group can be accepted by the market. Integrated training and mentoring between dryland maize farmer groups and maize

processing groups needs to be carried out to improve the quality of maize products in Laponrong Village to run in an integrated and sustainable manner and to increase household economic income.

METODE PELAKSANA

Preparation Stage

Observing the target area (Laponrong Village), then licensing the authorities (head of Laponrong Village) and agreeing with partners (Laponrong Village Farmers Group). Next is to arrange a schedule for socialization and training on the implementation of the program with farmer groups offline by complying with health protocols. The last stage of preparation is the purchase of supporting tools and materials that will be used in the implementation of activities.

Stage of Implementation

Socialization

The socialization was carried out offline on July 01, 2023 by complying with the health protocol to provide information to farmer groups about the training and demonstration activities carried out, including the benefits, importance of proper cultivation of corn plants.

Training

This stage is the core stage of the implementation of the service, namely demonstrating cultivation techniques to Laponrong Village Farmer group partners offline by showing guidebooks that can be accessed online.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Licensing and Socialization to the Village Government

Licensing and socialization of activities were carried out two weeks before the training and mentoring activities were carried out. Licensing and socialization were carried out in writing (cover letter) and directly meeting the Head of Laponrong Village, Amali District, Bone Regency. In this socialization activity, an overview of the activities, presentation of objectives, and discussions with the Head of Laponrong were carried out so that several responses to community service activities carried out in their work area were obtained. The Laponrong Village Government is very grateful

for the training and mentoring activities carried out, because the community really needs knowledge and skills in cultivating corn on dry land, so that through this activity it is hoped that it can increase the knowledge and skills of the community in cultivating corn.

Socialization and Preparation of Training and Mentoring Activities

At this stage, the Implementation Team visited partners to socialize training and mentoring activities, explaining the role of partners in the activities. The socialization that has been carried out to partners is a training plan for corn cultivation techniques on dry land and drying techniques for corn harvest on dry land. In addition to the socialization of training and mentoring activities, the socialization also discussed the readiness of partners in the implementation of training and mentoring, the place for training and mentoring, and the readiness of group members to carry out training and mentoring. Documentation of the training and mentoring socialization is shown in Figure 1.



During the socialization, there were no significant obstacles because the community expected training and mentoring activities to be carried out in Laponrong Village. The impact of this socialization is that the partners understand the purpose of the training and mentoring program, and the partners understand the main tasks and functions before the training and mentoring activities are carried out. Pramudyo (2007) explains that training is a learning process designed to change people's performance in doing their work. The training process refers to a change that must occur in the trainees. In the training process, poor performance is improved in such a way that it becomes better. So that a set of tasks that have been waiting can be done well by workers who have attended training.

Dessler (2006) explains that training is the process of teaching skills that employees need to do their jobs. Mangkuprawira (2002) explains that training is the process of teaching certain knowledge and skills as well as attitudes so that employees are increasingly skilled and able to carry out responsibilities better, in accordance with standards. In this activity, the training aims to improve the knowledge and skills of hybrid corn cultivation techniques and corn drying techniques. Training and mentoring activities for partners consisted of: training on dryland corn cultivation techniques and corn drying techniques.

On the first day, training on dryland corn cultivation techniques and corn drying techniques by utilizing sunlight as a heat source. In this activity, partners were taught how to select quality maize seeds, planting techniques, and maize drying techniques by placing the shelled maize on tarpaulins and drying it for a few days to reduce the maize's moisture content so that the maize can survive when stored for a certain period of time. Documentation of the first day's activities is shown in Figures 2 and 3.



2. Evaluation and Monitoring

Evaluation is the systematic use of social research methods to investigate program

effectiveness/assess the program's contribution to change (goals/objectives) and assess the need for program improvement, continuation or expansion (recommendations). Meanwhile, monitoring is the routine process of collecting data and measuring progress on program objectives/monitoring change, focusing on processes and outputs.



In this training and mentoring activity, the evaluation aims to measure the success rate of the activity. The evaluation stage includes evaluation of each stage of activity implementation and overall evaluation. Evaluation of each stage of the activity is carried out after the completion of the activity stage to see the level of success and become a consideration for the next activity. The overall evaluation is carried out after the program or activity has been completed. Evaluation is carried out on the level of participation and knowledge of partners. Evaluation of the level of partner participation in each series of activities is carried out by monitoring and evaluating the attendance of partner group members (training participants).

Table 1
Results of Training and Mentoring Activities

No.	Assessment Components	Before Training	After Training	Increase Percentage
1.	Attendance at training	0%	100%	100%
2.	Knowledge about cultivation	50%	90%	40%
3.	Corn drying skills	50%	90%	40%
4.	Skill in processing corn waste	0%	70%	70%

Source: Activity Evaluation Results, 2023

The evaluation results showed that the level of partner participation was very high as evidenced by the level

of attendance of the participants as expected. There were 25 participants (100%) who participated in the activities from start to finish. The level of knowledge of partners in conducting corn cultivation and processing as well as marketing the results of this evaluation was carried out at the initial and final stages of the training activities to review the level of knowledge of the partner groups before and after the activities using questionnaires and interviews. Based on interviews and observations during the implementation of training activities, it appears that the community understands and is able to cultivate, process, and market processed corn products. 90 □ members of the dryland corn farmer group have been able to do corn cultivation and corn drying well, 90 □ members of the dryland corn processing group have been able and understand how to process corn waste by 70%.

CONCLUSIONS

The implementation of training and mentoring activities for PKM partner groups in Laponrong Village resulted in 85% of partners actively carrying out training and mentoring PKM programs. Partners have understood corn cultivation techniques on dry land, and corn drying techniques by utilizing sunlight as a heat source.

SUGGESTION

It is recommended to PKM partners in Laponrong Village to implement the results of the service in a sustainable manner.

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