

Community Empowerment Through Increasing Productive Land Use for Sustainable Food Houses

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Abstract

The Rumah Pangan Lestari program is a program to utilize limited land potential, especially yards. This program aims to ensure the maximum nutritional value of the food consumed by the family and make the best use of limited yard land, so as to minimize expenses and become a source of income for the local community. Therefore, we implement and run this sustainable food house program, which provides socialization and training, field visits, and food crop nurseries for the Gelasar village community. This activity took place during the implementation of the 38th KKN T period 2024.

Keywords : Yard, Food, Family

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, as an agricultural country, is known to have an abundant diversity of flora and fauna which can be used as food for its people. However, a mismatch between the availability of food and the demand for food can cause a food crisis. A food crisis is a condition of food scarcity experienced by the majority of people in a region which is caused by, among other things, difficulties in food distribution, the impact of climate change, natural and environmental disasters, and social conflict, including as a result of war (Article 1 number 29 of the Food Law).

Food management in Indonesia is regulated in Law Number 18 of 2012 concerning Food which emphasizes the potential for beneficial use of natural, human, social, economic and local wisdom resources to meet food needs. One of the agricultural development priorities is to develop the potential of productive homestead land with a planned program that aims to provide benefits to land managers.

The Ministry of Agriculture has initiated the optimization of yard use through the Sustainable Food House (RPL) concept. RPL is an agricultural program that utilizes people's home gardens to use various local resources wisely which ensures the continuity of providing quality and varied household food. The Sustainable Food House (RPL) was built with the principle of using environmentally friendly yards to fulfill the family's food and nutritional needs, as well as

increasing community income and welfare. The aim of developing Sustainable Food Home Areas (KRPL) by the government is to improve the skills of families and communities in utilizing yard land in urban and rural areas for cultivating food crops, fruit, vegetables and family medicinal plants (toga). Apart from that, the Sustainable Food House area can also be used for raising livestock and fish, as well as food diversification, processing produce and processing household waste into compost.

Sustainable Food House Area (KRPL) is a program to develop food house models built in an area (hamlet, village, sub-district) with the principle of using environmentally friendly yards to fulfill the family's food and nutritional needs by providing a variety of vegetables and fruit as well as sources of animal protein. Apart from that, the construction of KRPL is expected to be able to increase family income so that it can reduce costs for meeting daily needs and increase costs for education. KRPL is also intended to encourage people to consume food that is diverse, nutritionally balanced and safe (B2SA).

The Sustainable Food Home Area Program is an initiative that encourages residents to cultivate food crops as well as small-scale animal husbandry and fisheries; they use their home gardens for these purposes. This is significant progress in overcoming changes in land conversion through the use of yards to facilitate food accessibility and

variety. Even though they have limited yard space, people can make and obtain healthy and quality food ingredients by applying the method Verti culture i.e. agricultural cultivation system or gardening method using planting media carried out vertically or in tiers, both indoors and outdoors.

METHOD

The implementation of community service activities was carried out over a period of 34 days located in Gelangsar Hamlet, Gelangsar Village, Gunungsari District, West Lombok Regency. This location is approximately 10 km from the Al-Azhar Islamic University Mataram campus. This community service activity, especially RPL, was carried out by Lecturers at the Faculty of Agriculture, Al-Azhar Islamic University in collaboration with the West Lombok Regency

Agricultural Service and students participating in the 38th Thematic Real Work Lecture (KKN-T) at Al-Azhar Islamic University 2024 (Group 3) who helped starting from preparation until the end of this activity.

This method of implementing community service includes several steps, including location surveys, data collection regarding target communities, formation of target groups in one hamlet or village, socialization, training and assistance to households or community members regarding target services, all of which are carried out by KKN-participants. The 38th T of Al-Azhar Islamic University Mataram, and the objectives and methodology of the activities carried out will be evaluated and monitored by Field Supervisors (DPL) from Al-Azhar Islamic University Mataram.



Figure 1. Socialization and Training for Making RPL

DISCUSSION

The target group is households in Gelangsar Village, Gunungsari District, West Lombok Regency. The use of yard land in the village is still less than optimal, this is due to the low awareness of households and the community regarding the importance of using yards and productive land around the residence as a source of food and nutrition.

The concept of food security is always synonymous with indicators of food self-sufficiency (efforts to meet one's own needs). This means fulfilling food needs (national or local) independently by empowering the human, social and economic capital they own

(including gardens and agricultural land and surrounding areas) to influence the improvement of the social and economic life of the community so that it can support household welfare. Food independence can only be achieved if its development and growth is based on the community's own initiative (active participation) as a growing awareness to build reliable food security.

The Sustainable Food House (KRPL) concept is planting and utilizing the yard to meet the family's food and nutritional needs in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner based on local resources which is expected to increase the economic and social

capacity of the family and community. A land can be categorized as a large yard if it has a land area of more than 400 m², a medium land category if it has a land area of 120 m², a narrow land category if it has a land area of less than 120 m² and a very narrow land category, namely if it does not have a yard area.

KRPL activities use the concept of family and community empowerment through the participation of all family members and group members. Implementing food security requires in-depth planning in the use of homestead land and cross-sectoral support.



Figure 2. Seed collection for the RPL Program

The technique used in RPL is usually referred to as *Verti culture*, a combination of two words *vertical* and *culture*. *Vertical* means upwards and *culture* means culture. If interpreted literally, *Verti culture* is a culture of farming vertically, namely upwards. More precisely, in stages.

The advantage of *Verti culture* is efficient land use which allows plants to be planted and cultivated and even ease of mobility (*Verti culture* allows media and plants to be moved freely from one place to another). However, too frequent transplanting should be avoided, as it will affect sunlight and plant growth). Apart from that, vertical cultivation has very few pests and is safe from animals (pesticides are saved and plants are healthier), less fertilizer is needed (the planting medium is not large, so fertilizer application is more efficient) and shopping costs are more economical.



Figure 3. (Seedling Garden/Land resulting from RPL using the *Verti culture* method)

The KRPL approach is implemented through sustainable agricultural development, where the community is actively involved in providing production facilities in the form of village nurseries (KBD) as suppliers of seeds for various vegetables in providing horticultural crops. Village nurseries play a very important role in the sustainability of KRPL activities because they can optimize the use of yard land.



Figure 4. Distribution of seeds is a form of active community participation in implementing the RPL program

Proper garden management and arrangement can provide benefits for the environment and beauty of the garden, creating a beautiful, pleasant and productive environment. This is an attraction for other regions to imitate or apply the KRPL concept that has been implemented. The arrangement of plants in the garden can be arranged together with the entire community involved in the KRPL concept activities or individually, taking into account the aesthetics and interests of the residents. The community will choose the plants to be planted according to the characteristics of the local land; the community needs to meet consumption needs or food ingredients that are commonly consumed and liked by the target community of the KRPL concept in Gelangsar Village.



Figure 5. Implementation of RPL program seed planting

Efforts to plant food plant seeds in every house are a form of citizen concern for the environment.

CONCLUSION

Community empowerment through the use of productive land at the Sustainable Food House (RPL) in Gelangsar Village, Gunungsari District, West Lombok Regency aims to increase community knowledge and skills in managing limited homestead land

through the Verti culture planting method so that it can produce quality food and nutrition sources, in addition to processing RPL results. can also have economic value, for example processing tomatoes and chilies can be made into sauce or processing mustard greens into snacks in the form of mustard greens sticks,

processing eggplant into crispy eggplant chips which can be sold to increase public income.

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