

PERSISTENCE OF REMNANT AGRICULTURE IN DESAKOTA REGION; A CASE STUDY OF DEPOK MUNICIPALITY AND NORTHERN PART OF BEKASI DISTRICT

Gesti Saraswati, GPSS, ID 47-156820

Advisor: Professor Makoto Yokohari

Co-advisor: Project Associate Professor Hirotaka Matsuda

ABSTRACT

Jakarta Metropolitan Area (JMA) of Indonesia is the largest and most populous metropolitan area in Southeast Asia. The metropole is undergoing continuous peri-urbanization process that leads to decline in agriculture. Despite of this fact, peri-urban agriculture (PUA) found can manage to persist their proximity to urban core. However, the study about PUA persistence in JMA has not been examined in-depth to see the what leads PUA to persist. This study is trying to understand the persistence of agriculture from two key actors; i.e. agriculture land owner and farmer family from behavioral motivation approach to explain what leads them to persist and their future continuity in qualitative descriptive approach.

Studies of changes have been done by numerous researchers, while persistence is tended to be overlooked. Agriculture persistence in micro level study, with behavioral approach also still limited till recent time. So, why does the remnant agriculture persist in fringe of JMA? This study hypothesized that agriculture persistence influenced by behavioral motivation of both landowner and farmer family, in which it can leads to positive or negative trajectory towards long-term persistence.

This study adopts qualitative study approach. Data collection was done by 69 face-to-face interviews conducted with individual farmers in which 16 in-depth interviews conducted to key informant farmer. Respondent were obtained by snowball sampling methodology. The interviews

were recorded and transcribed, then the data were analyzed through content analysis to found motivation behind the persistence of land owner and farmer family in agriculture and the result is presented in descriptive fashion.

It is found that current persistence of land owner in agriculture is not only 'positive persistence' but also 'persistence leads to decline' that going towards disappearance of agriculture. There are farmer and non-farmer land owner includes developer and non-farmer family. These two non-farmer owners are keeping their land as agriculture for speculation and future development. Some non-farmer owners shown more positive motivation to keep their land as asset and passive income. While farmer owners mostly keeping farmland due to occupational attachment. From key informant interview, it is found that in Depok Municipality farmer landholding is below 30% while in Bekasi District about 40%. This indicate that most of farmland owned by non-farmer owner therefore their future continuity is low. Inheritance and future economic condition also become main factor of land ownership uncertainty among farmer landowner. Many cases found persistence of the farmer parents mostly not followed by the children once the land is inherited.

While in farmer family persistence, it is found that their monetary and non-monetary motivation that leads them to persist until now. It is proven that income is still one of the reason of farmer persist in agriculture. It shown in farmer strategy on generate more income through changing their on-farm practices and adopt direct marketing. Employment diversification is also their way to generate more income while still doing agriculture, since from the study found personal attachment such as farming as livelihood that passed through generation, hobby, and personal belief to agriculture is also motivate them to keep farming. Positive cases of succession found in study areas that the urban employed kids in farmer family likely come back to agriculture once their farmer parents retired. But the concern in farmer family persistence is more into their

inter-generational continuity, since the result shows farmer parents tend to not pro-succession meaning they want their children to work in another field.

These findings shown us that current persistence could hold negative or positive continuity depend on motivation and inter-generational continuity. Urban and rural mixture shows giving positive impact to fringe agriculture since it is providing higher value and nearer market. But through generational changes, the persistence of agriculture is uncertain. The uncertainty is added by low percentage of farmer landholdings. This is concluded that fringe agriculture still need support for sustaining current persistence specially to secure the farmland and encourage younger generation of farmer family as well as farmer family itself to support succession. Since there is a chance that urban people can own farmland for asset accumulation, this study recommends having community supported agriculture in which urban people has the ownership right of the farmland and farmer family has the management rights. Since this is a grassroots scheme, there is a chance for expands this scheme and connects urban people who have money and willingness to preserve agriculture land near city center to farmer family who cannot afford farmland and vulnerable to sell their farmland.

*Key words:* Peri-urban Agriculture, Agriculture Persistence, Farmer Behavior, Desakota