

**THE ROLE OF WOMEN FARMER GROUPS IN HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN KEDIRI****Erlin Widya Fatmawati\*, Ferica Agustin, and Muhammad Bagus Yulianto**

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Submitted 07 January 2022; Approved 21 March 2022

**ABSTRACT**

The role of women in the household is very important today in the welfare of the family and also the development in society. It is necessary to provide assistance in providing useful activities for women through women farmer groups, so that women are not only seen as a burden on family life but also can contribute to their families and surrounding communities. The purpose of this study was to determine the activities of the women farmer group in Kediri Regency and to determine the role of the women farmer's Group in Kediri Regency. This research was conducted in Kandat Village, Kediri Regency by taking 30 respondents from the women farmers group. Data analysis carried out in this study came from data from interviews, field notes and documentation. Data analysis was done by organizing data into units, synthesizing, compiling into patterns, choosing what is important and what will be studied, and drawing conclusions that are easily accessible. Results of this research regarding the role of members of the women farmer group in Kandat Village were quite varied, where most of them are housewives who take care of family, mothers who work outside, or have a business at home. Their role had changed slightly from those who were initially housewives, now earn additional income. This activity should be fostered in a sustainable manner so that the members of the women farmer group have activities that have a positive impact on the household and also the community.

**Keywords:** *household income, women farmers group, womenrole*

**BACKGROUND**

The role of women both in the family and in community groups must be supported to create a prosperous community economic development and growth. For this reason, the workforce is needed in developing quality human resources and maintaining a healthy and productive environment in rural areas. The role of women in economic activities can be seen from their participation in activities that provide income or benefits with the aim of increasing family income (Sajogyo, 1983).

The potential that women have in creating economic growth, it is very necessary for women in the village to create a group where they can create village economic growth, it is very necessary for village women to create a group where they can create a productivity that is beneficial both for themselves, family, and the local community. One of them is to form a women farmers group. The women farmer group will foster new collaborations and innovations in planting which can then be processed into other products.

Many areas in Kediri already have women farmer groups that have been running well. This women farmer's group in Kediri Regency has several programs for its members such as regular monthly meetings, product processing, organic farming programs in the yard, contestants and competitions, and so on. women farmer's group in Kediri has a vision and mission, namely to improve

the welfare of its members so that these housewives have activities that can help the family's economic welfare.

This research was conducted in Kediri Regency, especially in Kandat Village, Kandat District with the consideration that in Kandat Village there is a woman farming group consisting of farmer housewives. Women farmer group in Kandat Village already has activities such as making sponge cakes, making herbal medicine, and others. In addition, the herbal product processed by members of women farmer group is also the flagship product of Kandat Village. Kandat Village is also one of the villages with the potential for sugarcane farming in Kediri Regency. Problems that occur in women farmer group in Kandat Village include the activities that have been carried out that have not been sustainable, only a few members of the KWT have participated, and the positive impact has not been seen on their household income.

According to Erwinawati (2015) research results that the contribution of housewives' income to the family varies depending on the type of business generated. The contribution of housewives has made a real contribution to improving family welfare. The use of this income is also completely determined by the housewife herself, as is the case with income, the mother's income is mostly used for joint welfare and family meals. The level of family material welfare increases through the economic contribution of working housewives. Based on the description above, it is necessary to have a study entitled "The Role of Women Farmer Groups in Increasing Farmer Household Income in Kediri", The objectives of this research were to find out the activities of the women farmer group in Kediri and analyzed the role of the women farmer group in Kediri.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This research was conducted in Kandat Village, Kandat District, Kediri Regency. The choice of place in the village was done intentionally with the following considerations: 1) Selecting Kandat Village as a village in Kediri which has formed a women farmer group consisting of housewives in the area, 2) The activities of the women farmer group are quite creative, such as the use of yard land, processing of agricultural products, and others, and 3) Some products in Kandat Village are superior products in Kediri. The products that become the flagship of Kandat Village are traditional herbal products made by members of women farming group. Based on the above considerations, the researcher can conduct research in August-October 2021.

### **Sampling Design**

This type of research is descriptive with a qualitative approach, case studies which was carried out in Kediri Regency. The technique of determining the informants used purposive sampling technique and the research subjects were divided into two groups:

1. Basic Interview to the all of member of women farmers group.
2. Interview with field extension workers that Field Agricultural Instructors here foster groups as facilitators, motivators, liaisons and convey regulations relating to the agricultural sector.

### **Data Collection**

The data collected in this study consisted of primary data and secondary data.

1. Primary data

Primary data were obtained from interviews with members of women's farmer groups using a list of questions and direct observations about the activities carried out by women's farmer groups in Kandat Village such as making traditional herbal medicine and regular monthly meetings. Questionnaires that have been prepared in advance.

## 2. Secondary Data

Secondary data in this study are theories related to the research title obtained from various media such as books, journal literature, internet, and so on.

## Data Analysis

Data analysis is the process of systematically searching and compiling data obtained from interviews, field notes and documentation, by organizing data into units, synthesizing, compiling into patterns, choosing which ones are important and what will be studied, and making conclusions so that they are easily understood by themselves and others. This data analysis is used to compile, process, and relate all data obtained from the field so that it becomes a conclusion or theory. Data analysis in this study will go through several stages:

### 1. Data Reduction

The researcher reduced the data by focusing the interviews only on the role of members of the women farmer group in Kandat Village in the household and surrounding communities. Researchers collected data using questionnaires to make it easier to reduce data.

### 2. Data Presentation

The researcher presented the data by recapitulating the data from the interviews through questionnaires. The data from the interview results were recapitulated in excel and then presented in a Word table for easier reading and understanding.

### 3. Conclusion Drawing/verification

In this step, the researcher draws conclusions from the results of interviews that have been conducted with members of the women farmer group in Kandat Village, then verification will be carried out to the PPL on duty in Kandat Village regarding the data that has been obtained. Data verification is intended to determine the final data of the entire process of analysis stages

### 4. For the presentation of data analysis, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative research, where this method is used by the author to analyze data in the form of statements and information from members women farming group dan field extension officer.

## Validity

The technique used in this research is triangulation. Triangulation is checking data from various sources in various ways, and at various times.

1. Source Triangulation. Testing the credibility of this data is done by checking the data obtained from members of the women farmer group, then confirming the field extension officer of Kandat Village as the coach of the group.
2. Technique Triangulation. Technical triangulation testing is done by checking data from the respondents in a different way from before. The first, the researchers conducted direct interviews with questionnaires, the second the researcher conducted interviews via Whatsapp.
3. Time Triangulation. Researchers tested time triangulation by conducting interviews when members of the women's farmer group in the morning when they started their activities and conducting interviews in the evening via Whatsapp.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The roles and division of labor based on gender display an agreement of views in certain societies and cultures regarding the appropriateness and prevalence of acting for certain sexes and certain societies, gender roles are classified into three main roles, namely (Hubeis 2010):

1. Productive roles are roles that involve work that produces goods and services for consumption and trade. Productive work can be done by men and women who can earn wages.
2. Reproductive roles are roles related to household activities. It generally takes a long time and is the responsibility of women and girls.
3. The role of the community (social) is a role related to service activities and political participation. Community social activities can be carried out by women or men. Activities carried out by women are usually posyandu, meetings, PKK gatherings and others. Activities carried out by men are usually related to politics and power in the organization.

**Table 1.** The Role of Women Farmers' Group Members

| No | Statement   | Response  |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Members always play an active role in participating in the activities of the women farmer group (Statement 1) | Very Agree = 10<br>Agree = 20<br>Sometimes = 0<br>Disagree = 0<br>Very Disagree = 0 |
| 2. | Members always take part in routine KWT activities that are held every month (Statement 3)                    | Very Agree = 14<br>Agree = 16<br>Sometimes = 0<br>Disagree = 0<br>Very Disagree = 0 |
| 3. | Members feel happy to participate in KWT activities (Statement 6)   | Very Agree = 6<br>Agree = 24<br>Sometimes = 0<br>Disagree = 0<br>Very Disagree = 0  |
| 4. | Good KWT cooperation can provide convenience in carrying out activities (Statement 10)                        | Very Agree = 0<br>Agree = 30<br>Sometimes = 0<br>Disagree = 0<br>Very Disagree = 0  |

Based on the Table 1, it can be concluded that 20 respondents answered agree that each member always plays an active role in participating in the activities of the women Farmers Group. The majority of women farmer groups in Kandat Village, Kandat District, Kediri Regency are housewives. The daily activities of housewives include cleaning the house, washing, cooking, take care of children and husband, and others. Based on the results of interviews from the questionnaire given to members of the women farmer group, these housewives play an active role in the activities of the women farmer group because they want to take advantage of their free time. Most of the activities at home are finished in the morning. in the afternoon and evening they have a lot of free time because the husband has left for work and the housework has also been completed. The activities

of the women farmer group in Kandat Village are felt by the housewives to provide extraordinary benefits and their lives

A total of 16 respondents answered that they agreed that members always participate in routine activities which are held once a month on the 2nd of each month. Through routine meetings held by the women farmer group every 02 of every month, the aim is to share information with each other, to establish good relations between members for future cooperation. The members of the women's farmer group agreed with the group meeting which was held on the 2nd of every month on the grounds that on that date most of their husbands who had jobs other than farmers had already received their salaries. This has an effect because members have to pay a contribution to the group cash amounting to Rp. 15,000 per month

A total of 24 respondents answered that they agreed that they felt happy in participating in the activities of the women Farmers Group. The housewives feel happy because they are experienced with various activities such as using the yard of the house with the aquaponics system (packcoy and mustard), vegetable cultivation, and food processing. These activities provide experience for housewives so that they have the knowledge and skills from these activities.

A total of 30 respondents answered that they agreed that cooperation in the women farmer group could provide convenience in carrying out activities. Through regular meetings held by the women farmer group every 02 of every month, the aim is to share information related to the cultivation of a better hidroponic system (for example related to the use of nutrition, pest & disease control, and maintenance the hidroponik), to establish a relationship between members so that relationships can be established. which is good for cooperation in activities such as food processing in groups or together, cooperation in making future work programs even more interesting and other collaborations. According to Marganingsih (2020) the roles of women farmer groups in the millennial era include:

1. As a Learning Class

Women farmer group is a place for society, especially people women to manage as well compressing various agricultural thinking, as well as a means gain knowledge with the group.

2. As a vehicle for cooperation Group

Women also play a role as a container for provide experience-new experience in the field agriculture, as well as a place for the community for each other cooperate in maximizing potential of agriculture.

3. As a Production Unit

Produce product what is useful is one focus of the role women farmer group as production units.

Based on the results of interviews that have been conducted, the members of the women farmer group in Kandat Village feel that their participation in becoming a member of the women farmer group has benefits in addition to gaining knowledge and experience, they also benefit from selling processed products that they make, from vegetable cultivation in their yards and other economic activities. Of the 30 respondents who are members of the women farmer group in Kandat Village, 23 people answered that they agreed that the activities of the women farmer group provided benefits and positive economic impacts for housewives. Before the member existence of women's farmer groups, most of the activities of these housewives were only at home. they just do housework. but after joining this women farmer group, every month they have activities such as regular meetings, training on making processed products guided by field extension officers and other activities.

Activities in groups are only carried out once a month so that they will not interfere with members' household activities. The results of this study can be seen in the Table 2.

**Table 2.** Benefits of Participating in Women Farmers' Groups

| No | Statement  | Response                                     |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | KWT activities provide positive economic benefits and impacts (Statement 2)                            | Very Agree = 2<br>Agree =23<br>Sometimes = 5 |
| 2. | Members get benefits after participating in KWT activities and can increase family income (Question 5) | Very Agree = 1<br>Agree =20<br>Sometimes = 9 |

Based on the Table 2, it can be concluded that more than 50% of respondents responded to questions from the research questionnaire that participating in the activities of the women farmer group provided positive economic benefits and impacts. In addition, members also get benefits after participating in the activities of the women farmer group and can increase family income (will be explained in the next discussion). According to the results of research from Camalin (2017), it shows that women's farmer groups have a social role for their members. Facilitation of production inputs, capital, and marketing is carried out by groups in order to carry out their role in developing member businesses. Although not yet comprehensive, there has been an increase in the welfare of family members in terms of income, health, and education through women farmer groups. The role of the group is: Useful in improvement of education and knowledge, a platform for business increase income, a forum for collaboration in businesses welfare, a platform for increasing productivity, and improving employment. (Pasaribu in Fatmawati, 2018).

Extension officers from Kandat Sub-district take an active role in assisting the activities of the women farmers group. Extension workers always provide direction, motivation and encouragement to members of the women farmer group to always actively participate in activities and create creativity in product processing and other activities. The results of the research regarding the role of extension workers in the activities of the women farmer group can be seen in the Table 3.

**Table 3.** The Role of Extension Workers in Women Farmers' Groups

| No | Statements  | Response                      |
|----|---|-------------------------------|
| 1  | Extension workers always provide motivation and encouragement to members to participate in KWT activities (Statement 7) | Very Agree = 12<br>Agree =18  |
| 2  | Extension workers are always active in providing examples of how to process products, use the yard, etc. (Statement 8)  | Very Agree = 12<br>Agree = 18 |
| 3  | Extension workers always provide up-to-date information on government programs that support KWT (Statement 9)           | Very Agree = 6<br>Agree = 24  |

Based on Table 3, it can be concluded that 18 respondents answered agree on the statement that the extension worker provided motivation and encouragement to members to participate in KWT activities. The statement in table number 2 that the extension worker is always active provides examples of how to process products and use the yard every month during regular group meetings.

Sum of 18 respondents who answered agreed and 12 respondents strongly agreed. This shows that the role of the extension worker is felt to be very important to the activeness of the members of the women Farmers Group. Extension workers are also always active in providing the latest information on government programs that support the women farmers group, such as socialization activities at the district level, product manufacturing training, MSME bazaars, processed product competitions, and others. These activities can support the role of women farmer groups because they also have several processed products (traditional herbal medicine, vegetable packcoy and mustard, and sponge cake) that need to be introduced through these activities make more orders.

According to Farahdiba et al. (2020), the results of his research show that the role of members of women's farmer groups is in the high category. Factor – factor which affect the role of women farmer group members are the role of extension workers and the environment with an R square value of 77.3%. Strategies taken to increase the role of members women farmer groups is to increase the role of women farmer group members as learning classes by conducting pilot plots and conducting counseling.

**Table 4.** Impact of KWT Activities of Selling Traditional Herbal Medicine

| No | Name      | Income (Rp)       |                   |
|----|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
|    |           | Before join group | After join Group  |
| 1  | Hartatik  | 150.000 – 200.000 | 200.000 - 250.000 |
| 2  | Suyanti   | 500.000 – 550.000 | 600.000 - 700.000 |
| 3  | Sri Utami | -                 | 75.000            |
| 4  | Katinem   | -                 | 75.000            |

Table 4 shows the impact of the activities of the women farmer group on their opinions. The respondents who were interviewed, there were 5 members who implemented traditional herbal medicine-making activities. The herbs they make include kencur rice, turmeric tamarind, and others. Initially they only made herbal medicine by order, but now they are quite scheduled and routine made by some members of the women's farmer group in making herbal medicine every month so that they get additional income besides their main job. On average, these women get an additional income of Rp 50,000 up to Rp 75.000 every month.

**Tabel 5.** Impact of KWT Activities of Selling Hidroponic Vegetable Sales

| No | Name           | Income (Rp)       |                   |
|----|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|    |                | Before join group | After join Group  |
| 1  | Katmini        | -                 | 125.000 - 200.000 |
| 2  | Siti Rofiah    | -                 | 125.000 - 200.000 |
| 3  | Sumarti        | -                 | 125.000 - 200.000 |
| 4  | Titik          | -                 | 125.000 - 200.000 |
| 5  | Kestik         | -                 | 125.000 - 200.000 |
| 6  | Helmi Lihana   | 2.500.000         | 2.650.000         |
| 7  | Semi           | -                 | 125.000 - 200.000 |
| 8  | Wiwik          | -                 | 125.000 - 200.000 |
| 9  | Yayuk Muslikah | -                 | 125.000 - 200.000 |
| 10 | Nur Hidayat    | -                 | 125.000 - 200.000 |

Table 5 describes the impact of activities from vegetable cultivation in the yard of the house with an hidroponic system. From the respondents who were interviewed, there were 10 members of The Role of Women Farmer Groups in Household Income (Fatmawati et al., 2022)

the women farmer group who applied organic vegetable cultivation with this hidroponic system. Some of these mothers do this cultivation activity in groups. This is done due to the efficiency of the initial cost of cultivation which is quite expensive and the division of tasks when carrying out plant care. On average, these women get an additional income of 125,000, - up to Rp. 200,000, - per month. The obstacle faced is that they are not yet routine in carrying out this activity. This vegetable cultivation activity is carried out only once and has not been carried out on a scheduled and continuous basis, so that their additional income is not certain depending on the routine of these mother doing cultivation.

**Tabel 6.** Impact of KWT Activities of Selling Sponge Bread

| No | Name     | Income (Rp)       |                  |
|----|----------|-------------------|------------------|
|    |          | Before join group | After join Group |
| 1  | Harianik | 300.000           | 400.000          |
| 2  | Suryani  | -                 | 75.000           |
| 3  | Prihatin | -                 | 75.000           |
| 4  | Sariyah  | -                 | 75.000           |
| 5  | Mariyah  | 450.000           | 525.000          |

Table 6 shows the impact of the activities of the women farmer group from the sale of sponge bread. In Kandat Village, Kandat District, Kediri Regency, there is a group of women who make steamed bread or sponge cakes that can be sold to the wider community. On average, these women get an additional income of around Rp 75.000 every month if you get a lot of orders. This steamed sponge bun is still made only by order, especially since the covid-19 pandemic these women rarely get orders.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the results and discussion in the previous chapter, several conclusions can be drawn based on the research objectives as follows:

1. The activities of the women farmer group in Kandat Village, Kandat District, Kediri Regency, include; regular monthly meetings, counseling from PPL, activities such as vegetable cultivation in the yard of the house, making traditional herbal medicine, making sponge cake, and others.
2. The roles of the members of the women farmer group in Kandat Village are quite varied, where most of them are housewives who take care of their children and husbands at home, some are mothers who work outside the home (office), and some are have a home business (shop, selling meatballs, etc). With the activities of the Women Farmers Group, their role has slightly changed. From those who started as housewives, now they get additional income by making preparations such as traditional herbal medicine, vegetable cultivation, and making sponge cake for sale.

Suggestion for this research is there is ongoing assistance activities for women farmer group so that their processed products can be marketed better.

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