

COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATORY LEVEL ON PEATLAND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES IN PAMPANGAN, SOUTH SUMATERA, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

The revitalization of livelihood sources basically is empowering the local community as part of functional peatland ecosystem restoration. Pampangan district was situated in peatland ecosystem and for generations the communities have been survived and habituated with particular life skill on agriculture, livestock and fish production. As part of the peatland restoration program; a group of local inhabitants of Pampangan district (Bangsal village) participated in an economic revitalization program. The research aimed to investigate the participation level of the resident group in the economic revitalization program. Survey method with saturated sampling technique were applied to 15 member of Ulak Kuto Mandiri group. Informant included all buffalo farmers who had participated in the economic revitalization initiative. This research uses primary data and secondary data. Primary data is data obtained directly from informants through interviews, observations and filling out questionnaires. and the data were processed with likert scale then descriptively explained following tabulation. The result showed that the participatory level of the economic revitalization program in Bangsal village was categorized as high which attributed to the synchronization of participants particular life skill with the economic revitalization program itself. This finding reflected the necessity to synchronize the peatland revitalization program with the peatland livelihood.

Keywords: *participatory level, peatland, restoration, revitalization program*

BACKGROUND

Peatland plays an important role in storing global carbon, providing water and food, regulating water resources, preventing floods and fires, stabilizing river banks, absorbing and storing carbon, preventing salt water intrusion in coastal areas, and producing forest products for local and international communities (Harrison & Rieley, 2018). Indonesia has the world's largest area of tropical peatland, covering 13.43 million hectares across three large islands: Sumatera, Kalimantan, and Papua. The forest burns in 2019 destroyed 1.6 million hectares of forest and land, accounting for 31% of the peat ecosystem (Putra et al., 2022). This situation is urged to recover due to the importance of the peatland role itself. Furthermore, this is a compelling rationale to prioritize restoration of peatlands to repair areas that have deteriorated.

Peatland damage has an impact on the destruction of its functions (Purnomo et al., 2021), disruption of the social and economic conditions of the community (Jalil et al., 2021), the emergence of a spiral of poverty in tropical peatlands with threats to human livelihoods and welfare (Bonn,

2016). It is also revealed by Medrilzam et al. (2017) that the most significant socioeconomic issue in peatland restoration is poverty which can ultimately cause people to local people switch to livelihood practices that are more exploitative of their natural environment and end up destroying the environment again. One of the peatland restoration initiatives is revitalizing the economy through community empowerment programs carried out by field experts, which requires active participation by the community. Engagement in peat restoration projects benefits both the ecology and the economy as a whole, however, growing participation within society requires work, and social processes which play a crucial part in the way the community preserves peatland domestically.

The target peat restoration area of 2.4 million hectares is peatland in Bangsal Village, Pampangan District, Ogan Komering Ilir (OKI) Regency, South Sumatra Province. This village is in the Peat Forest Area which is located between the Sibumbang River and Batok River. Village communities depend on the peat ecosystem for life. The inhabitants of the area live every day by rearing swamp buffalo and farming to meet their fundamental needs. Apart from relying on livestock and farming, village communities utilize the peat ecosystem by cultivating freshwater fish which will be processed into processed foods such as *kemplang* crackers and smoked fish.

The economic revitalization program in Bangsal Village focuses on Ulak Kuto Mandiri community group activities, particularly swamp buffalo rearing, which is widely regarded as the village's superior livestock animal. The concept of zero waste integrated farming was implemented in this economic revitalization program. Ulak Kuto Mandiri group were assigned to breed buffalo with the facilities of biogas digester and organic waste reactor to produce liquid fertilizer while the solid fertilizer was utilized as media for black soldier fly (BSF) larvae. The BSF larvae then mixed with fish commercial pellet and fed to catfish in the near fish pond. The utilization of BSF larvae as feed was meant to reduce the feed expenses, while the ex-media of BSF larvae known as frass was served as solid fertilizer, therefore no waste in this integrated farming activities. The activities were supported by Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency in order to enhance the income of the group member and later on it can be an example for others so that they could participate in peatland restoration by not exploiting the ecosystem. Furthermore, the Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency also support the program by providing the officer to guide and assists the Ulak Kuto Mandiri activities. The concept of zero waste integrated farming itself is a new concept for the villagers which may lead to many challenges, not only implementation but also the sceptical vision from the community.

Previous research found this kind of community groups participation in vain. There were many reason reported such as limited community involvement outside the community groups (Lestari et al., 2021), less participation in decision making (Handoko et al., 2020), lack of participation in outreach and training activities (Sawerah et al., 2016), the community does not see the direct benefits of restoration activities (Agussabti et al., 2022), less understanding about peat restoration activities (Lupascu et al., 2020), less outreach regarding the content of regulations and alternative best practices on peatlands, along with a lack of field monitoring and law enforcement (Uda et al., 2020), and the last is due to less understanding on the community's socio-economic and cultural context (Zebardast et al., 2021). Nonetheless, the Indonesian Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency seems to has anticipated such a condition preparing the program with involvement of all stakeholders, so this study aimed to investigate the group participatory level on economic revitalization activities in Bangsal Village, based on previous studies and current conditions.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research was carried out in Bangsal Village, Pampangan District, Ogan Komering Ilir Regency. This location determination was carried out purposively based on the consideration that Bangsal Village was one of the villages that was targeted and received the Indonesian Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency program. The sampling method will be carried out using a saturated sampling technique (census method) on 15 people with special criteria, those who participate and has an active role in the activities of economic revitalization program. These people were running and operating the economic revitalization program daily since they are also the member of the group. As a group member, they were obligate to report the activities periodically and entitle to had the ownership of the buffaloes. This study included all buffalo farmers who had participated in the economic revitalization initiative.

This research uses primary data and secondary data. Primary data is data obtained directly from informants through interviews, observations and filling out questionnaires. The questionnaires were applied as interview guidance. Secondary data was compiled from institutions which involved in the peatland economic revitalization program such as Indoensia Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Central of Statistic Bureau; consists of statistics and activities report related to peatland economic revitalization. The acquired data is then combined, analyzed, and explained to create an understanding of what has been going on in the field, allowing you to test and make decisions based on the analysis results.

This study involves validity and reliability testing. Validity is tested using the product-moment correlation approach. The results of the validity test using the correlation between product moments utilizing SPSS 22 showed that the instrument was verified valid, with a validity coefficient value for the program implementation instrument of 0.548 – 0.771, for program benefits of 0.527 – 0.846, for knowledge of 0.525 – 0.801, and for skills of 0.572 – 0.772, compared to the value of $r_{table} = 0.514$ at $\alpha = 0.05$, the validity coefficient is greater than r_{table} so that from the results of this value it can be said that the questionnaire used in this research is valid. The significant value (2-tailed) which was also obtained from the test was between 0.000 – 0.044, which means this value is smaller than the α value of 0.05 so the questionnaire can also be said to be valid.

The level of community participation in The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency program in Bangsal Village, Pampangan District, Ogan Komering Ilir Regency was carried out using a likert scale. There are four indicators: (1) participation in planning, (2) participation in implementation, (3) participation in utilizing results, and (4) participation in evaluation. Each indicator is assessed using five questions, with a score of three for the frequent criterion, two for the sometimes criteria, and one for the never criteria, below are the formula used to create class intervals;

$$NR = NST - NSR$$

$$PI = NR : JIK$$

Information:

NR : Range value

NST : Highest score

NSR : Lowest score

PI : Interval length

JIK : Number of class interval

Based on the calculation, interval class was group as low, medium and high then determined to the parameter data accordingly as described in table 1.

Table 1. Participation Class Interval Values

No	Class Interval Value (Overall Score)	Class Intervals (Per Indicator)	Class Intervals (Per Question)	Criteria
1.	$20.00 \leq x \leq 33.33$	$5.00 \leq x \leq 8.33$	$1.00 \leq x \leq 1.67$	Low
2.	$33.33 < x \leq 46.66$	$8.33 < x \leq 11.66$	$1.67 < x \leq 2.34$	Medium
3.	$46.66 < x \leq 60.00$	$11.6 < x \leq 15.00$	$2.34 < x \leq 3.00$	High

Apart from that, the level of participation is also measured using the Arnstein ladder by referring to the Arnstein participation concept, this serves to see the degree of community involvement in the swamp buffalo farming program of The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Level of Participation of Farmers in the Economic Revitalization Program of the Buffalo Farming Community Group

Participation is active community involvement in the process of economic revitalization activities carried out by The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency in order to grow community productivity and increase the potential that exists in Bangsal Village, especially buffalo farming which is assisted by this program so that it can increase the economic level and human resources therein. The participation of community groups in this economic revitalization program is strengthened by The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency where the people of Bangsal Village and the government work together in the development and construction process of Bangsal Village.

Table 2. Level of Farmer Participation in the Economic Revitalization Program

No.	Level of Participation	Score	Criteria
1.	Participation in Planning	8.33	Low
2.	Participation in Implementation	11.93	High
3.	Participation in Utilization of Results	13.27	High
4.	Participation in Evaluation	12.73	High
	Amount	46.26	High

Farmer's participation was rated as high (46.26), indicating that farmers are actively involved in economic revival projects. Farmers consider that this program activity is consistent with their expectations and the message conveyed by The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency, which strives to improve farmers income while maintaining the peat ecosystem, therefore their participation fulfills the high standards. This scenario is consistent with previous research from Putriani et al. (2018), which revealed significant levels of farmer participation. Indicators for measuring participation include involvement in planning, participation in implementation, participation in utilizing findings, and participation in evaluation.

Participation in planning obtained the lowest score of 8.33, indicating that not all farmers are involved in The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency economic revitalization program. Farmers are more inclined to accept and implement initiatives that have been developed by stakeholders and group administrators. As a result, farmer participation in the planning stage is generally low. This is consistent with study undertaken by Herman (2019), who found that community participation was rather low, with numerous respondents citing reasons for less active activity. Aside from that, some studies discovered a lack of community involvement in decision-making (Handoko et al., 2020; Risvita et al., 2023).

Participation in utilizing the results received a score of 13.27 because farmers felt that this program had provided benefits and benefits from the steps taken, even though the benefits were not maximized, farmers were satisfied with the results of this program. This activity might also lead to business prospects for farmers. The findings of this study are consistent with previous research by Anandhyta & Kinseng (2020), which found that the community is very actively involved in all activities, as evidenced by the four stages of participation, with the highest stage being participation in utilizing the results.

Participation in evaluation has a score of 12.73 which is relatively high where this stage aims to assess the suitability between participatory plans and achievements, identify opportunities and limitations in program implementation, and make recommendations to improve program implementation. High score shows that members of community groups are actively looking for obstacles to the development of buffalo farming. This is demonstrated by being present, participating in activity evaluations, making decisions, submitting suggestions and proposals in evaluations, and direct participation. The results of the analysis of the level of participation of the Ulak Kuto Mandiri community groups in the economic revitalization activities of swamp buffalo livestock in Bangsal Village show high criteria. So, the research hypothesis previously made by the researcher proves that the research hypothesis is proven to be real with research results where community participation in Bangsal Village is proven to be high.



Figure 1. Group Activities and Results of The Peatland Restoration Program in Bangsal Village

Level of Participation in Planning

Participation in planning can be done through attendance, submission of proposals, division of tasks and authority, involvement in the decision-making process, and involvement in planning

activities. In this variable, community group participation is included in the low criteria (8.33). For more details, see Table 3. Which shows the score scale available for assessing farmer involvement in planning.

Table 3. Level of Participation in Planning

No	Indicators of Participation in Planning	Score	Criteria
1.	Presence	2.20	Medium
2.	Submission of Proposals/Suggestions	1.80	Medium
3.	Division of Duties and Powers	1.20	Low
4.	Decision-making	1.53	Low
5.	Involvement in Program Determination	1.60	Low
	Amount	8.33	Low

Members of community groups were active in attending meetings to plan the economic revitalization program; however, not all members were present at the planning stage; only a few members were present because farmers played a minor role in this planning stage, as the majority of the planning was carried out by the Indonesian Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency. A small number of farmers who attended only ensured that there were representatives from the targets who received the program, but they did not have full control over program planning; however, stakeholders had previously conducted interviews to determine what was needed and needed to be developed in the buffalo farming industry.

Community groups have less involvement in the planning process for making proposals/suggestions, therefore they only accept program planning offered by the Indonesian Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency. However, farmers remain able to convey some perceived weaknesses of buffalo livestock, which will be considered by stakeholders when developing economic revival projects. This condition is consistent with research from Dian & Ma'ruf (2019), which states that community proposals that were accommodated during the preparation stage must be reviewed again to determine government priorities, such as establishing a priority scale that allows activities that were not implemented the previous year to become priority activities that must be implemented the following year.

The level of participation in delivering tasks and powers has a low score in the program planning process, this is because the division of tasks and powers is still largely held by The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency, where the community will carry out the tasks given with several directions from stakeholders. After the task is given, the farmers can then carry out the task in accordance with stakeholder directions, however the farmers also have the freedom of full bottom-up involvement with the aim of program success. This condition is in line with research by Prabowo et al. (2016) where participation still does not involve the community as a whole in expressing ideas regarding their weaknesses or strengths.

The level of participation in decision making has an average score of 1.53 with low criteria in the planning process, this is because community members have not yet made a final decision about this program, so every response and rejection of the program work carried out must first be submitted to the chairman group, which will then be sent to The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency as the program organizer. This is in line with research conducted by Tumbel (2017) that the decision-making stage in village development planning does not necessarily come from proposals

from stakeholders, but must also come from proposals from all levels of society, and is followed by deliberations that produce the most prioritized planning decisions.

The level of participation in program determination is low because the community does not have complete control over the program, such as determining the location of the buffalo pen, which is determined by stakeholders based on the location's suitability in terms of food, water, and ease of access for farmers. This is, of course, endorsed by community groups, even though they are not the ones who make the decisions, but it nevertheless meets the demands of farmers. The level of community participation in general remains low, owing to the fact that the majority of program planning is still handled by The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency, and the community does not yet entirely understand buffalo farming planning and business optimization. So, the most important role of The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency is to plan the course of the economic revitalization program by taking into account needs and adapting to the potential that exists in Bangsal Village, so that the economic revitalization program runs effectively and the community only needs to carry out The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency planned program.

Level of Participation in Implementation

Measuring indicators of participation in implementation in Bangsal Village, Pampangan District, Ogan Komering Ilir Regency can be measured through direct involvement, submission of proposals and suggestions, donations to groups, and decision making in implementation. To find out, researchers asked several questions to breeders who were members of community groups. For more details, the level of participation in implementation can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4. Level of Participation in Implementation

No.	Indicators of Participation in Implementation	Score	Criteria
1.	Direct Engagement	2.80	High
2.	Submission of Ideas and Suggestions	2.73	High
3.	Contribution of Energy/Capabilities	2.67	High
4.	Donation of Money/Materials	1.33	Low
5.	Decision-making	2.40	High
	Amount	11.93	High

The data reveal that at the participation level stage in the implementation indicators for the economic revitalization activities of swamp buffalo cattle, the score was 11.93 with high criteria, indicating that farmers participation in the program is very excellent. This is because farmers who have adopted the proposed economic revitalization program are committed to its success and actively participate in its implementation. This is consistent with Anis et al. (2020) statement that excellent member participation has members who are directly involved in the process of planning, implementing, and evaluating activities. The level of involvement in the implementation of direct engagement received a high rating. This is because all program activities, such as communal pen construction and swamp buffalo farm maintenance, are carried out directly by Bangsal Village community members. Aside from that, the Ulak Kuto Mandiri community group values brotherhood and mutual cooperation, as seen by its high implementation results. This condition is consistent with

study of Meilinawati (2018), which found that implementing participation required the direct presence of community members.

The level of implementation participation in the indicator of conveying ideas and suggestions has a high score. This can be reflected in the very high enthusiasm of the Ulak Kuto community group in carrying out the economic revitalization program for swamp buffalo livestock, so that breeders are actively involved in conveying ideas and suggestions regarding the sustainability of programs related to good and correct handling of buffalo starting from pen management, processing of buffalo manure. Reprocessed into solid and liquid fertilizer, buffalo reproduction techniques are given great attention by being given treatment in the form of injections to maximize swamp buffalo reproduction. The level of implementation participation in the monetary/material donation indicator has the lowest score. This is because according to the Ulak Kuto community group, they did not make any donations in the form of money/materials during the economic revitalization program. All the facilities provided include buffalo house, buffalo feces processing machines, storage tanks and other installations for processing feces into fertilizer, as well as medicines. Farmers only need to carry out the program as recommended by officer without having to spend money to facilitate them. This condition is in line with research by Wulandari et al. (2022) that the level of community participation in donating money in development is low.

Level of Participation in Utilization of Results

Indicators of the level of participation of members of livestock community groups in utilizing buffalo farming products in Bangsal Village can be measured through active participation in utilizing the results, controlling the results, and providing suggestions and recommendations regarding the use of the results. The range of scores used to measure the participation of farmer groups in utilizing the results is shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Level of Participation in Utilization of Results

No.	Indicators of Participation in Utilization of Results	Score	Criteria
1.	Presence	2.60	High
2.	Participation in Utilization of Results	2.73	High
3.	Submission of Proposals/Suggestions	2.60	High
4.	Activeness Controls Results	2.60	High
5.	Direct Involvement in Using Results	2.73	High
	Amount	13.26	High

The data above shows that the overall participation of breeders in utilizing the results shows an average score of 13.26 with high criteria. Starting from attendance which is well followed by the group, participation in utilizing the results. For more results, the use of buffalo waste is due to the sales of buffalo or calves not yet being carried out because they are still in the development process. waste utilization includes the activity of making liquid fertilizer from cow urine into liquid fertilizer, using cow manure into fertilizer and biogas. Apart from that, other products besides buffalo are utilized, namely from magot cultivation which is processed into pellets as fish feed, and also results from fish cultivation. The process of submitting proposals and suggestions, and actively controlling the results in this activity is also carried out actively by the breeder group, breeders have also tried the products they make for their livestock and farming activities themselves.

The results of interviews in the field obtained recognition from the group that they were greatly helped by the economic revitalization program. They get business capital as well as knowledge and insight regarding cultivating and utilizing swamp buffalo products. They also received training that they didn't know about before, such as cultivating BSF larvae and making fish pellets from BSF larvae, training on packaging liquid fertilizer that has high marketability. Participation in the utilization of development results is the most important element that is often forgotten. Utilization of development results will stimulate the will and volunteerism of the community to always participate in any future development (Irwan et al., 2021).

Level of Participation in Evaluation

The involvement of breeders belonging to community groups in the evaluation of buffalo farming in Bangsal Village can be measured through their presence at the evaluation, their involvement in assessing activities, making decisions, submitting proposals and suggestions. The results of research on these variables can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6. Level of Participation in Evaluation

No.	Indicators of Participation in Evaluation	Score	Criteria
1.	Presence	2.60	High
2.	Participation in Activity Assessment	2.53	High
3.	Decision-making	2.20	High
4.	Submission of Proposals/Suggestions	2.60	High
5.	Direct Involvement in Evaluation	2.80	High
	Amount	12.73	Tall

Table 6 shows that the overall level of attendance in the evaluation has an average score of 12.73 with high criteria. This is due to routine evaluations carried out every year regarding programs that are already running. Community groups will examine where there are deficiencies or activities that are not running as they should as an evaluation material and can become a priority for further activities. This condition is in line with research by Koampa et al. (2015) explaining that participation in evaluating group activities is assessing and measuring the results of various farming activities that have been carried out. The evaluation carried out by the group involves deliberation regarding various deficiencies faced in farming, including lack of facilities, infrastructure and capital. Apart from that, the group also tries to improve the quality and quantity of the farming activities carried out. Each indicator of participation in the evaluation is classified as high, where the most prominent is direct involvement in the evaluation with a score of 2.80. It can be seen that breeders as a whole actively participate in the assessment for all activities carried out in the group.

Participation Levels According to Arnstein's Ladder

Arnstein's concept of participation level can be used to measure the extent of community involvement and authority in a program to determine participation levels in Bangsal Village. Next, the definition of each level of participation is taken into account while adjusting the measurement indicators. To find out whether the community will have a plan for the buffalo farming program, attend planning meetings, find out about socialization and participation, have the opportunity to provide advice and suggestions at each stage of the process, find out whether the proposal is accepted

or not, use the results, and evaluate the program, according to Arnstein (1969), is the first step. Aspects in the degree of involvement/participation determine the type of stakeholder participation which is analyzed using Arnstein's Participation Ladder concept. Below is a matrix of stakeholder involvement/participation at each stage along with the types of participation analyzed using Arnstein's Participation Ladder (Rosyida & Tonny Nasdian, 2011).

According to Arnstein, the researcher carried out the discussion on determining the participation ladder by analyzing it based on the results of calculating the average score previously obtained using a Likert scale. Considering the average score obtained can determine the level of participation in the Ulak Kuto Mandiri community group which is working on an economic revitalization program. The calculation of the level of participation that has been carried out will show the degree of participation at each stage of economic revitalization in planning, implementation, utilization of results and evaluation. This can be a benchmark in assessing the success of a program being implemented and can be used as a consideration whether the program that has been implemented can be further developed in other sectors. According to the average score obtained, it will describe the position of the level of participation according to Arnstein's ladder, which will show the position between the eight steps and will fall into one of the groups between non-participation, tokenism, or citizen power as in Table 7. The Table 7 illustrates the eight steps of Arnstein's participation ladder which shows the order of participation levels. Based on research that has been carried out regarding the level of participation of the Ulak Kuto Mandri community groups according to Likert scale calculations, an average score for each participation indicator was produced.

Table 7. Ulak Kuto Pokmas Participation Level Framework

Participation Group	Level of Participation	Stages of Program Activities			
		Planning	Implementation	Utilization of Results	Evaluation
Non-Participation	Manipulation		There is less public input because it is dominated by the government		
	Therapy				
Tokenism	Informing				
	Consultation				
	Placation				
	Partnerships		The greater the community input because it is dominated by community groups		
Citizen Power	Delegated Power				
	Citizen Control				

The level of participation of the Ulak Kuto Mandiri community groups towards planning indicators was found to have an average score of 8.33 which is included in the low category. This is in accordance with data and facts in the field in planning economic revitalization activities for swamp buffalo livestock, community participation tends to be low because The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency has planned activities to be carried out by the community from start to finish. The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency also determines what form of training will be given to all community group members regarding swamp buffalo livestock. The public is allowed to submit several suggestions or proposals for program planning, but the final decision regarding planning is still determined by the agency without looking at the suggestions or

proposals given. Based on the participation scores and field facts, the researchers concluded that the level of participation of the Ulak Kuto Mandiri community groups in planning indicators is included in the placement participation ladder, where there is already a little community participation in an activity, but the community does not yet have the power to change the decisions of stakeholders. This placement ladder is included in the tokenism category, where the community has participated even though the activities are still under The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency control.

The participation ladder for buffalo farming community groups is at the fifth stage of placement. Placation level is the level of participation where in the planning process opinions, suggestions and criticism provided by the community as well as conveying community opinions through community institutions are accepted by the government, but the implementation of planning and development is still carried out in accordance with what is determined by the government (Indriani et al., 2021). At this level, the community has begun to have an influence on government programs, as evidenced by the involvement of the community in becoming management members in economic revitalization activity organizations. In other words, it can be seen that the composition of the community groups is divided into the group Preparation and Implementation team, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair. Apart from that, all livestock farmers who are members of the economic revitalization program have their respective roles in carrying out program activities, even in the part of participation in planning, the government is far more dominant in the planning that will be carried out in the program because the government will study what the community needs, but the government still listens to the needs of local livestock breeders as the focus of the economic revitalization program.

In this level of participation, farmers have made several suggestions and criticisms regarding the way the program is run, yet the final decision is still made by Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency or by the initial plan or design for program planning. According to the findings of interviews with all members of the community groups, the government completely planned for economic revitalization activities for buffalo livestock. The village community was also allowed to express suggestions or criticism, but the planning process was still under the control of the Indonesian Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency. Once the planning concluded, the new administration delegated complete authority to the community in conducting the economic revitalization program until the evaluation stage, when the community acquired the ability to analyze the program's effectiveness.

The participation ladder for buffalo farming community groups is in the implementation indicator with an average score of 11.93 with high criteria, then in the results utilization indicator with an average score of 13.27 with high criteria, and in the evaluation indicator with an average score of 12.73 with high criteria. The researcher concluded that based on the average score and high criteria, the three indicators of participation were on the seventh step of delegation of power (Delegated Power). At this level, the government has divided society into planning, making decisions, making policies, and solving problems. The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency gives its responsibility to the community. At this stage the community is given the authority to make decisions. There is already a bright spot where the community has taken a role in making decisions. This shows that community groups can divide tasks and organize schedules internally without involving the government. For example, they can divide the tasks of guarding the buffalo pen, providing the buffalo feed, and holding internal deliberations. The progress of the buffalo livestock

economic revitalization program has also begun to be supported by community participation, both from program implementation, utilization of results, to evaluation of activities. Village communities have even begun to be given the freedom to regulate the course of the program themselves, as long as it is in accordance with what was planned from the beginning. Apart from that, after there is an agreement between The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency and community groups, it is not justified to make changes unilaterally or community groups themselves.

Apart from Arnstein's participation ladder, there are also several groups of participation ladders. According to the results obtained by researchers from what has been explained above, there is placement and delegation of power, where these two steps are included in the tokenism and citizen power groups. In this tokenism group, the village community is not hindered, where the community has been given space to participate, but The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency remains in the design that the government has made itself. Meanwhile, citizen power of community participation is created ideally, village communities are given freedom and space to participate in determining the future of their village and are also able to control The Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency's performance well. This condition is in line with the level of participation which is measured using a likert scale through a questionnaire which is determined by indicators of planning, implementation, utilization of results and evaluation which will lead to the level of consultation and delegated power. Field research data on buffalo farming community groups in Bangsal Village, Pampangan District, Ogan Komering Ilir Regency, according to Arnstein, the level of participation has reached the Tokenism and Citizen Power. The level of suppression and delegation of power are respectively at the fifth and seventh steps.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Buffalo farmer community organizations show substantial participation in the Peat and Mangrove Restoration Agency's economic revitalization initiative, including implementation, utilization, and evaluation. Meanwhile, participation in planning is poor. According to Arnstein's participation ladder, Bangsal Village's level of participation in community groups lies on the fifth ladder, which is classified as tokenism, and the seventh ladder is delegated authority, which is classified as citizen power.

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