

## Corn Agropolitan for Great Gorontalo Indonesia

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**Abstract:** The goal that wants to be reached in this research was the finding of corn development policy which able to support economic growth of Gorontalo people and also accelerate regional economic growth. Therefore, this research wanted to see the government role of Gorontalo Province in formulating and implementing agricultural development of corn agropolitan which has production deterioration and efforts to improve human resource in agriculture sector in order to make farmers can make production with technology fulfillment. This research used qualitative approach with the goal to track or study about human resource ability and science and technology to develop main program in economic corridor, particularly corn agriculture sector by using research instrument based on data, facts and relevant concepts. By the research, it is expected to result developmental acceleration in corn agriculture sector.

**Key words:** Policy, development, agriculture, agropolitan, corn

### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is one of keys to success in the development (Amanor and Chichava, 2016) and government policy of Gorontalo Province in conducting development to the agriculture aspect is part which cannot be separated from national development that aims to reach the idea of fair welfare and prosperity for people. Priority that been taken by government of Gorontalo region in dealing with developmental policy has three priority aspects, economic acceleration, education and health. In the economic development sector, it is realized through agriculture and fishery sector, because these sectors have largest employee (Zhang *et al.*, 2016)

One of instance for agricultural development policy that implemented in Austria showed that agriculture sector has potential to improve economy in that area. Superior program of agropolitan in agriculture sector that implemented by Gorontalo Province should be able to improve people economy if it is seen from data that Gorontalo Province has area for 1,221,544 ha with very large agriculture potential. However, in fact, policy in this agriculture sector still has many problems especially that the policy is still unable to improve people welfare as data that obtained from Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS-Badan Pusat Statistik) of Gorontalo Province where poor people in Gorontalo City only decreases for 5% each year which is 206,000 people in 2015. This fact shows that agriculture program is still not well distributed and has no significant effect to the people economy.

Many researches that been conducted showed that the main problem from a policy implementation is the

actual implementation (Acs *et al.*, 2014; Lambin *et al.*, 2014). It occurs due to practical politics and interest's trade-offs between government, council and the executor. In Gorontalo Province, this agropolitan policy uses federal government fund through Regional Government Budget (APBD-Anggaran Pendapatan Belanja Daerah) thus it needs good management. However, the fact is implementation deterioration and less supports from many parties especially from political elites including regional leader.

**The role of regional government in developing the agriculture:** Study of Porter (1998) explained that competitive superiority from every states determined by how the states able to create competitiveness environment from every actor inside of it, especially the economic actor. This environment only can be created by the best public policy which is encouraging every people to develop their competitiveness and not making them go further into dependence pattern (Kline and Moretti, 2013).

Related to this case (Westhoek *et al.*, 2013) tried to make detail of many questions related to state role in the development of agriculture sector. He found a fact that agriculture industry goes in line with government policy, it needs good relation between farmers and government as stakeholder and state intervention to market policy has great effect to the farmer's interest. The income that obtained by farmers from agriculture products determined by market mechanism that been ruled by public policy.

In the other research, Kohli stated that relationship between food price policy and agriculture deterioration means low food price policy has created severe



disincentive for farmers in which they don't interest anymore in making products. Thus, positive effect which can be created by that policy means nothing at all.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This method used qualitative research which according Lincon and Guba in Petty *et al.* (2012) it is called as naturalistic paradigm. With this qualitative approach, the researcher tried to describe a phenomenon which has unique character in policy implementation related to the policy of corn agropolitan agriculture as regional economic potential.

**Data:** Data was collected integratively by seeing the relevant and complete data from any sources through in-depth interview. It was conducted to obtain information of empirical data which related to the understanding about corn agropolitan with informant that selected purposively to the research subject that considered as informant who understand about the researched problems.

Second, data source was also obtained through data from the available document both from regional government, people, media, literature, workshop and so on that considered as compliment data source. Based on main data source and compliment data, it was reordered starting from participant observation, writing interview results and the next was in-depth interview which conducted as filed notes.

**Data analysis:** After it was conducted by data collection, then it was conducted by data analysis using interactive model analysis (Miles, 1992) which consists of three analysis components, data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing. Data analysis based on interview result and field notes also from other sources studied particularly related to the policy of corn agropolitan agriculture development as basic capital to decrease poverty and improve farmer's welfare.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Policy that related with regional development of Gorontalo Province in improving people welfare through RPMJ tends to give priority on developmental policy in three aspects, economic, education and health sector. In economic development sector, it is realized through agriculture and fishery sector because these sectors have largest employee. From the all three developmental policies which always sound by this new regional government then policy which becomes the most mainstays is agricultural development that related to the

crops and also fortunately becomes priority of national food policy. Although, this policy always becomes the mainstay from every government regime in this state including in local level, however this policy has not fully given contribution to farmers from its policy formulation to the implementation and also it doesn't describe the improvement of agriculture productivity. In economic development for the area with people <1,097,990 people, it is implemented through agricultural development as important indicator to the creation of strong democratic economic structure to cope with poverty level in Gorontalo Province based data in 2012 about 23.16% and then in 2015 decrease to the 18.01%.

Problems in local level of Gorontalo Province actually as the effect of trickle-down effect from national economic growth in which one of them triggered by agricultural development sector as the opinion of Saptana and Ashari who stated that Indonesian economic growth level as development success has created negative effect to the availability of natural resources and environmental quality, the result is national agriculture condition still faced to many problems as follow:

- Lower land fertility and productivity
- The decrease of environmental supports
- The increase of productive agriculture land conversion
- Larger critical land
- The increase of environmental pollution and damage
- The decrease of exchange rates, income and farmer's welfare
- The increase of poverty and unemployment in rural area
- Social gap in society

Those problems occurred due to the development tends to be bias towards production development trigger and also dominant role of government and private side. Farmers only played role as object, not for development subject. Agriculture sector also no longer placed as national economic foundation but it functioned as buffer to success of industrialization as economic development locomotive. As buffer, agriculture sector played role to improve domestic crops production rapidly and has no risk politically.

Therefore, the government policy of Gorontalo Province that related to corn agropolitan itself generally in fact showed as response of poverty level decrease and then increases welfare of Gorontalo people. Agropolitan term grammatically consists of agro (agriculture) and politan (polis means city), thus agropolitan lexically means agricultural city which grows due to agribusiness system



and effort in rural area at central production area as agriculture city which has facility that can support agricultural development such as:

- Access road (farmer business road)
- Agriculture machinery (tractor, processing tools)
- Irrigation network
- Counseling institution and technology expert
- Stores of production facility
- Marketing

Therefore, agropolitan policy based on grammatical or lexical explanation related with corn agricultural development that created in the term of agropolitan program based corn where agropolitan program based corn is regional superior program to encourage agricultural development and also drive the regional economic development. Agropolitan based corn has considerations as follow:

- Large land availability and unused optimally
- Corn has been known by people long time ago and be income source in heredity
- corn as industry commodity
- Domestic and export market opportunity

To support corn agropolitan policy, the government of Gorontalo Province arranged Medium-Term Regional Development Plan (RPJMD-Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah) in 2007-2012 with vision of "Gorontalo as innovation Province". To support that vision then the mission is "Developing independent, productive and religious Gorontalo". By arranging RPJMD based on vision and mission above, then in other words it means agricultural development as main pillar for regional development of Gorontalo Province. Therefore, the driving force of this policy is Agriculture and Food Security Department of Gorontalo Province that arranged vision "Realization of strong and entrepreneur cultured agriculture people through agropolitan program and agribusiness approach with environmental knowledge and oriented to local independency". Based on this vision, then the missions as follow:

- Developing entrepreneurship souls and spirits of entrepreneur cultured Gorontalo agriculture people
- Realizing agricultural development of Gorontalo Province through the growth and development of agropolitan area based corn

Table 1: Agricultural land

City	Wetland (ha)	Dry land	Total land (ha)
Gorontalo district	3.981	157.113,62	184.667,85
Boalemo district	18.458	64.426,38	72.174,38
Pohuwato district	3.035	112.159,00	133.819,00
Bone Bolango district	1.846	44.496,06	45.951,05
Kota Gorontalo	940	5.574,00	6.528,00
Total	28.260	383.769,06	443.140,28

Table 2: Corn development potential

City	Potential (ha)	Land use (ha)	Unused land (ha)
Gorontalo city	425	232	193
Gorontalo district	77.577	38.444	39.133
Boalemo district	64.127	27.500	36.627
Pohuwato district	63.155	31.000	32.155
Bonbol district	15.122	2.000	13.122
Total	220.406	99.176	121.230

Cited from Fadel Muhammad essay in 2007

- Establishing supporting system which including natural resource, human resource, technology, institution, facility and infrastructure
- Realizing strong Food Security through sustainable and environmental insight agricultural development program

Why the policy of corn agropolitan becomes mainstay in Fadel governor era? It is because most of Gorontalo people live in rural area which supported by very large settlement land and most of them are unused (idle lands). Based on presentation data Fadel Muhammad stated that the area of Gorontalo Province for 1,221,544 Ha has land potential for 443,140.28 Ha which consists of dry land 383,769 Ha and rice field 28,260 Ha with the detail of Regency/City as follow (Table 1 and 2).

Meanwhile, potential lands in Gorontalo for corn development are 220,406 Ha with the detail of Regency/City as follow. By seeing agricultural land potential which can be used as corn lands and very large farmer resource potential that most of them stay in rural area, then it can be stated that livelihood majority is in agriculture sector. Thus, agricultural development in Gorontalo cannot be separated from rural area and farmer resource empowerment that makes agriculture as basic drive which can determine regional economy.

Therefore, relation that seems like mutualism symbiosis in corn agricultural development of Gorontalo Province such as agricultural lands, worker availability and local economic resource based rural locus become basic capital that can stimulate the expansion of corn agricultural development started from rural area and most of people are farmer. Great expectation is reasonable thing because it likes Indonesian areas in general where Gorontalo condition included into agrarian area, thus



agriculture base can create job opportunities for the people as income and economic business which finally can improve democratic economic level that leads to the welfare of Gorontalo people.

Corn agropolitan policy which becomes mainstay sector of Gorontalo Province should be more emphasized on implementation aspect in the lowest sector such as agriculture. Such what's been stated by Bartolini and Viaggi (2013) in their research which conducted in 9 countries of European Union explained that good public policy should be able to cope with food problems, poverty and human resource, thus it needs well-arranged policy to the farmer stage. Agricultural products will be great if all agriculture potentials can be developed well through the stages that been designed strategically by the government.

Large agricultural land potentials that owned by Gorontalo Province can be empowered to be agriculture potential and becomes regional mainstay sector. In a research which conducted in South Mexico tried to explore closed forest area to be agricultural land without damage natural composition. It was showed to open new land to be productive agricultural land. The same thing also expected to be implemented by farmers in Gorontalo to maximize the owned natural potential well to be productive agricultural land and encourage government policy to make Gorontalo Province as national corn commodity through corn agropolitan policy.

### CONCLUSION

Political economic policy in encouraging regional development which pointed on agropolitan was not supported earlier. However, then this policy is very supported by Gorontalo people, especially farmers. Although, the implementation from federal government is very good by there is still unserious executor in applying agricultural economic potential at corn agropolitan program, thus this policy implementation is still not maximal. This not maximal implementation of agricultural development in corn sector caused less good result as the expected due to failure in using this potential as the result of ignoring human resource, market mechanism and farmer behavior variable. Government policy of Gorontalo

Province in agricultural development which one of it is relying on corn agropolitan still not giving great effect to the poverty level while this number is still high and it is still unable to improve welfare of most farmers in Gorontalo.

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