

The Effect of Agropolitan Program to Social Economic Conditions of the Farmers

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Abstract: The agricultural sector becomes one of the mainstays of national and regional development in overcoming social and economic problems. Rural development concerns in developing countries often emphasize the development of agropolitan programs as key to development. Agropolitan is a strategy of agricultural development to overcome economic problems, such as rural poverty through the acceleration of rural economic growth. This article aims to explain the effect of agropolitan program on the socio-economic condition of farmers. Agropolitan is a phenomenon of the second generation of development theory, Dependency Theory, which is based on the aspirations of lower society whose aim is not only to promote economic growth but also to develop all aspects of social life (education, health, art, culture, politics, defense of security, Religious life, youth and empowerment of youth and women).

Keywords: Agropolitan Program, Social Economic

INTRODUCTION

The development of the agricultural sector has an important essence for reducing economic or poverty and hunger problems in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target, where three of the four poor people in Southeast Asia are in rural areas and heavily dependent on agriculture [1], Cervantes and Dewbre [2], Ching, Dano, and Jhamtani [3], and Fan and Zhuang [4]. Even based on empirical evidence per sector in 25 countries in 2009, an increase in income per capita of the agricultural sector is able to reduce poverty by 52 percent, the increase in per capita income from the non-agricultural sector reduces the poverty rate by 13 percent, and 35 percent can be reduced from the increase in remittances [2].

Rural development concerns in developing countries often emphasize the development of agropolitan programs as key to development. Agropolitan has been regarded as an important strategy for alleviating economic problems, such as rural poverty through the acceleration of rural economic growth based on the agricultural industry [5]. Rural areas in developing countries are often closely linked to issues of agricultural production, employment, human resources and technology. These aspects have been identified as contributing factors to the weaknesses of rural agricultural products in national and global market competition. The main purpose of the agropolitan program is to promote agricultural and rural development in order to improve the welfare of farmers. Through agropolitan development, it is projected that social problems such as rural employment will be able to be overcome [6].

The policy of developing agropolitan areas as a policy option is felt to be so important, given its development that utilizes and brings the concept in accordance with local uniqueness, excellence and reliability, especially in developing countries. If examined in the public administration discipline, an administrator in making a policy that leads to the nature of achieving the goals of development itself by understanding the theory of development. The benefits of development theory as a guide, or assumptions to see the phenomenon in development. In the study of theories of development, it is primarily the theory of dependence that the Agropolitan concept of Friedmann and Douglass was born. [7, 8].

This concept surfaced in the 1970s to the 1980s. In other words, the agropolitan concept of Friedmann and Douglass [7] brings the philosophy of dependence of disadvantaged regions to more developed regions. In it comes assumptions that show local self-reliance efforts, and overcome exploitative relationships with more advanced areas to improve the economies of disadvantaged regions [7]. Friedmann and Douglass [7], offered the concept of agropolitan as a solution to the uneven development of urban and rural areas. Villages and cities have a similar role in developing the economy of a region. If the role of the city and the village can go well, it will create sustainable economic growth.

Some empirical research results on the concept of agropolitan indicate that the agropolitan model can support local agribusiness-based economic development

[9, 10]. The economic dimension of sustainability utilizes the diversity of agroecosystems to achieve minimum dependence on external inputs, and crop-livestock integration to balance economies of scale with economies of scope and yield stability, resulting in increased productivity, food security, dietary diversity, and income stability of farmers. Thus it can serve the purpose of livelihood and poor farmer's equity. These practices also enhance social sustainability [11, 12]. Some research on agropolitan program conducted by Budi [13], Dewa [14], Eilenberg [15], Seyed, *et al* [16], Soegoto and Sumarau [17], Tripitono [18], Emil [19], Kamarudin, *et al* [20] and Safariah, *et al* [21], suggest that regional development and economic empowerment of communities are still dependent on the Development Trilogy, which is economic development, equity and national stability.

Agropolitan is a form of development that combines agricultural development (rural base sector) with industrial sector that has been centrally developed in certain cities only. Agropolitan becomes relevant to rural areas because in general the agricultural sector and natural resource management are the main livelihoods of most rural communities [22].

THEORETICAL STUDY

Agropolitan concept is the result of approach to the theory of development based on the agricultural sector with the support of infrastructure and supporting that can produce a more dynamic economic structure in the agropolitan area. This article refers to the theory of dependence [23, 24]. Dependency theory assumes that underdevelopment and development are interrelated concepts. The term dependence is used to emphasize that progress in central societies (developed countries) is backward in the peripheral regions (third world countries) caused by deliberate historical processes. The dependency paradigm promotes development from within society itself, based on local actors, resources and capacities. Government policy is no longer dominant, but is directed at supporting local initiatives. The agropolitan concept basically provides services in rural areas or in other terms used by Friedmann is "the city of the field". The idea of a "city in the field" has long been emerging, first coined by Peter Kropotkin, then Lewis Mumford with Garden Cities of Tomorrow, and Mao Ze Dong with A City in the Countryside [25] vision.

The concept of agropolitan development is derived from Myrdal's thought in a more specific context, namely the condition of Asian countries that are generally densely populated, as well as labor-intensive labor systems on a small scale business. Friedmann and Douglass [7] implemented Myrdal's ideas into the concept of agropolitan development, and

was first introduced by Friedmann and Douglass at a conference in Nagoya, entitled "Agropolitan Development: Towards a New Strategy for Regional Planning in Asia New Regional Planning in Asia". According to Friedmann and Douglass [7], agropolitan is a concentrated development activity in rural areas.

Furthermore, Friedmann and Weaver [26] refined as a regional (rural and urban development) strategy based on local resources with the support of political, economic and social implementation, to achieve targets: a) diversification of economic activity; B) encouraging regional market expansion (even with import substitution); C) encourage recirculation within the community, and d) encourage the learning process.

Agropolitan is a bottom-up type development planning approach that wishes to achieve welfare and income equality faster than growth pole strategy. The agropolitan characteristics include: (1) relatively small geographic scale; (2) autonomous and independent planning and decision-making processes based on local community participation; (3) diversification of rural labor in agriculture and non-agricultural sectors, emphasizing small industry growth; (4) a functional relationship of rural-urban industry and circles with local economic resources; And (5) utilization and improvement of local resource and technological capabilities [27].

The development of agropolitan according to Friedmann [28] focuses on meeting the basic needs of society, that is to ensure the achievement of food security, clothing, health and education. Inside the agropolitan area provided various functions of services to support the ongoing activities of agribusiness. Service facilities include production facilities (fertilizer, seeds, medicines, equipment), production support facilities (banking institutions, cooperatives, electricity), and pamasaran facilities (markets, transport terminals, transportation facilities). Similarly, the opinion of Aaron, regional development through agropolitan approach becomes an important thing to be developed because: (1) in addition to having the goal of increasing local production capacity and added value through the implementation of integrated agricultural development with supporting activities such as cultivation, marketing, And agrotourism; (2) agropolitan may decrease spatial inequality; (3) lowering uneducated unemployment (academy / college) in rural areas; (4) can facilitate sectoral development (agriculture and other sectors) and spatial development (urban and rural) in the context of economic development.

AGROPOLITAN PROGRAMS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The theoretical studies concerning agricultural development policy and socioeconomic conditions can be traced from development theory. Over the last four decades, a development program oriented to the theory of modernization has been evaluated in the worldwide. The evaluation shows that development programs have failed to reduce poverty and lack development. Large numbers of people in developing countries still live in poverty in absolute poverty, and lack the most basic resources [29-31].

Disclosure of the failure of development programs based on the modernization approach, inspires the emergence of alternative development paradigms, such as the theory of dependence. Dependency theory criticizes the top-down process of the modernization approach and the accompanying assumption that people in developing countries cannot meet their own needs. A historical analysis on the situation of the third world (developing world), which emerged from the study of the theory of dependency during the 1970s, confirms the causal relationship between the development of some countries and the parallel "backwardness" of others. According to the theory of dependence, the problem of backwardness can be attributed to the unequal power relations between advanced technologies and developing countries, not from the developing countries themselves [23, 32, 33].

Starting from this dissatisfaction, from the 1970s to 1980s, it was attempted to find the formula "urban functions in rural development", which gave birth to the concept of integrated village development (IRD) [34]. Here it is acknowledged the important role of rural development, and it is also agreed that village development should be viewed in a multi-faceted manner that includes not only agricultural activities but also non-farms directly or indirectly (off-farm and non-farm).

Several studies show that development trends prioritizing economic development by investing heavily in downtown industry through growth poles, which were originally foreseen will create a trickle down effect and spread effect of economic growth from the central pole of growth to its Hinterland area, it turns out that the net-effect even leads to massive backwash effect. The failure of growth strategy, that is, the absence of trickle down effect and spread effect due to the developed industry activity is largely unrelated to the resource base in its hinterland [7, 25, 35-38].

One development alternative that is expected to cope with the negative impact of such development is the development of agropolitan concept. Friedmann and Douglass [7] offer the agropolitan concept as a critique of the trickle down effect theory, which confirms

development in urban centers for the results to trickle into the countryside. The theory later cannot stand the test with the spirit of regional autonomy. The region then gripped to welcome the concept of a more comprehensive agropolitan in the development of the region.

Almost all research before the 1970s, investigating the role of agriculture in economic development. The theories at that time did not focus on economic development as understood today, but relate to economic growth. The main concern is not the income distribution but the level of output per head and the growth of aggregate output [39]. The shift toward the focus of income distribution began to emerge in the 1970s, with the recognition of the role of the sector in enhancing equality and providing employment. During this period growing evidence of the green revolution began to show that the benefits of agricultural productivity are pro-poor [40]. During the 1990s researchers began building poverty alleviation as one of the leading roles of agriculture, showing a strong relationship between agriculture and poverty reduction [41-45]. Thirtle *et al.* [44] suggest that agricultural productivity growth has a major impact on poverty reduction in Africa and Asia, while productivity growth in the industrial and service sectors has virtually no impact on poverty levels. One of the most recent and comprehensive studies on the role of agriculture sector in agriculture was conducted by FAO in 2007 as the role of agricultural projects. The project has a strong focus on the effects of externality or distribution of the agricultural sector on the community, and includes its impact on poverty alleviation, household food security, the provision of a service environment, out-of-control migration, buffer in times of economic crisis and national cultural identity. The study also calls for market corrections, policies and institutional failures to prevent the sector from achieving higher potential if one takes the external benefits into account [46]. Therefore, this research argues for the importance of the agricultural sector such as research since the 1960s, but purely from social impact and not from the perspective of economic growth.

Another empirical study demonstrates the existence of rural development policy relationships through the agropolitan concept of the social and economic impacts of rural communities. Bhatia and Rai [47], revealed that rural development is basically aimed at improving socio-economic conditions of rural communities. The main goal of the rural development program is to elevate people living below the poverty line by providing entrepreneurs through increased income of activities, to provide wage employment to rural people as well as to create fixed assets to strengthen rural economies. The program is intended for

poverty alleviation, reducing unemployment and providing additional employment for people living in rural areas. The study conducted by Ahmed [48] also reveals that agriculture is the mainstay of many countries that are fundamental to the socio-economic development of a nation because it is a major element and factor in national development.

Another study conducted by Simon [49], that in general agropolitan approach and development has been acceptable. Various countries have applied even with various terms. The Chinese government applied it in terms of walking on the legs. One foot is grounded in policies to encourage growth by relying on large-scale industries, while others adopt the agropolitan concept to develop local economic activity. While South Africa implemented the Growth with Equity and Redistribution (GEAR) policy in 1996. Similarly, this approach has also become a World Bank standard

program within the framework of community base development for poverty alleviation, rural economic empowerment (small business), or development Microcredit.

Scrimgeour studies, Chen and Hughes [50], recommend that agropolitan development, which he calls self-centered development, requires government intervention in the form of regulation to bypass structural constraints. These efforts aim to enable socio-economic integration within the region with specific cultures, resources, landscapes and climates. Furthermore, the investment needs can be imported from outside the region if local capability is relatively low. In other words, the allocation of regional resources is an important component of agropolitan development together with economic and social aspects. Based on empirical studies, theories and phenomena that exist, the variables in this study can be described as follows.

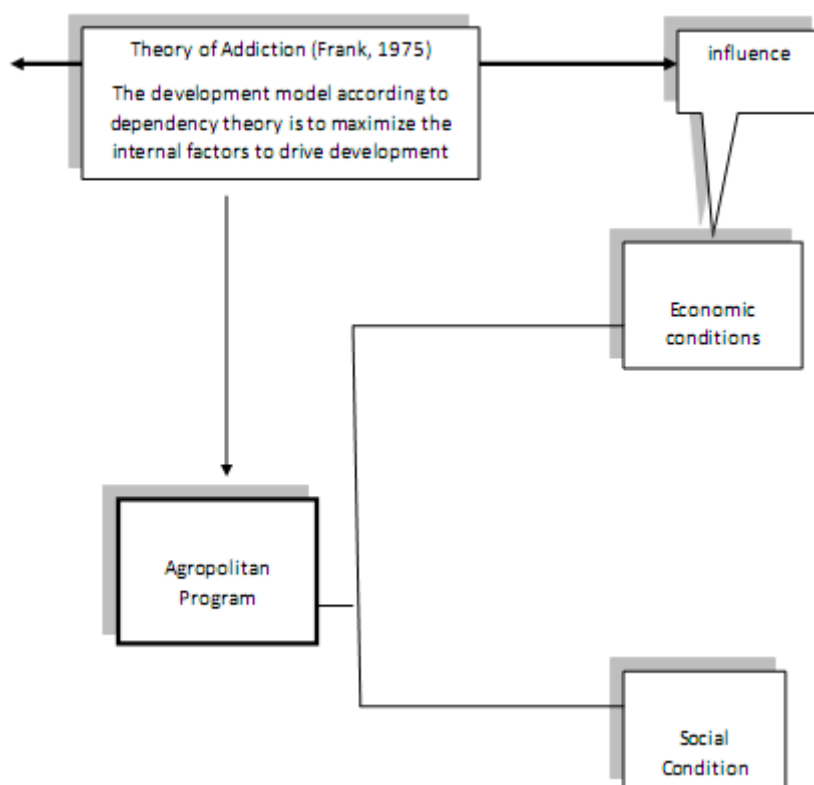


Fig-1: Research Conceptual Framework

CONCLUSION

From the description of the literature review, it seems that theorists believe that agricultural development policies in the form of agropolitan programs can have an impact on the economic and social conditions of the community, such as poverty. Despite this promising evidence, many questions remain unanswered about the impact of agropolitan programs, including those involving program effectiveness under different country conditions and

sustainability on the effects or impacts of farmers' social and economic conditions.

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