



Indonesian National Food Security Challenges During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Chelsa Nazarin Steviarty, Muhammad Aldi Triansyah, Muhammad Salman Alfaris,
and Yulia Rizqi Lestari(✉)

Interior Design Program Study, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta, Indonesia
yuliyulia28@gmail.com

Abstract. Every part of the nation has been impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic that has affected other nations. One of the key challenges is food security, which is now generating a lot of public controversy as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic's spreading, particularly in the State of Indonesia. National resilience is defined as the ability of a state or nation to withstand several difficulties that are related to its agenda of national interests. The Corona Virus Disease 19 (COVID-19) pandemic is now challenging Indonesia's national defence both inside and outside. This essay was written utilising secondary data and qualitative research techniques. As a response to the Covid-19 epidemic, President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo proposed the government's food estate programme in Indonesia in July 2020. Due to a major drop in economic activity and food hoarding, Indonesia, which depends on imported food, is now contributing to a growing food shortage.

Keywords: Pandemic · National Scurity · food estate · Food Scurity

1 Introduction

The increase in the death toll due to the Covid-19 pandemic cannot interfere with the unrest experienced by citizens of the world. It also has a very extreme impact on the quality of human life. Many sectors collapsed. It will take an uneasy adjustment to be able to live alongside this ever-evolving huge virus. There are 207 countries that have also felt the effects of this virus. Various efforts were made to maintain the quality of human life as strong as possible (Fig. 1).

Judging from the graph depicted, it shows that from time to time there is no sign of a significant decrease in the number of Covid-19 cases in Indonesia. What I'm worried about is number of cases over time getting up. The Indonesian government is certainly looking for efforts so that the lives of its people can be as stable as possible in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the strategic efforts implemented in the health sector is the Covid-19 Handling Health Protocol which came into effect on March 4, 2020. Since then strategic policies have continued to roll out both at the national and regional levels throughout Indonesia. Although in the future Covid-19 will subside, the community will still be affected. One of them is field uncertainty future jobs post COVID-19, in where the ILO (International Labor Organization, 2020) estimates that global working hours



Fig. 1. Source: BeritaSatu.com

will decrease 10.7 percent relative to the quarter last year 2019, which is equivalent to Termination of Employment (PHK) still to about 305 million formal workers. While the health and economic crises are still bring havoc all over the world, the next wave of crises is already underway: food and nutrition crisis due to the food system shaky, people's purchasing ability too decrease. so the company does massive efficiency. Further difficulties began to be felt in the following days, namely on people who are directly affected, such as farmers, times five traders, factory workers, online driver and so on when shouting how do they meet their daily needs their day.

Food and agriculture are related with many aspects of human life, starting from a matter of commodities to problems, challenges, policies and practices (Hermawan: 2012). During this Covid-19 period, the Government through Authorized Ministries, and Government Regions are required to maintain food stocks and prevent food crisis. According to the First President of the Republic Indonesia in his 1952 Speech at Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) as quoted by Made Oka that food security in the national level weakened due to 5 (five) factors namely: (1). Decreasing quantity and quality of sources natural resources, especially water resources become food agriculture capital; (2). Change climate and its impact on material production food; (3). Inadequate distribution infrastructure adequate especially in remote areas; (4). Inadequate regulations that guarantee honest trading system and distribution, responsible and safe (including import rice); (5). The size of the population have not been able to feel food security themselves (Adnyana: 2008). The Republic of Indonesia has a legal umbrella which regulates food, namely the Law No. 18 of 2012 concerning Food (hereinafter referred to as the Food Law). That wrong One consideration for the establishment of the Food Law, namely: that the state is obliged to realize availability, affordability and fulfillment adequate, safe, quality food consumption, and nutritionally balanced, both at the national level as well as regions to individuals individually evenly throughout the territory of the Unitary State Republic of Indonesia all the time with utilize resources, institutions, and local culture. Definition of food independence as referred to in Article 1 Point 3 of the Law Food is the ability of the state and nation in producing a variety of foods variety from within the country that can guarantee meeting the need for adequate food to the individual level with exploit the potential of natural resources, human, social, economic, and local wisdom with dignity. The existence of the COVID-19 pandemic provides impact on the food

supply chain global. Some countries restrict food exports them to maintain food availability in their country (WFP, 2020). Dependence on food imports needs to be a concern considering that food security is one of the national priorities in the 2020 Government Work Plan (RKP). Caused by a decrease in production of commodities agricultural food crops. BPS says area Rice yields and production have decreased. Large harvest in 2018 was reported as much as 11.38 million hectares, while in 2020 it was reported as much as 10.66 million hectares. Rice production in 2018 reported as much as 59.2 million tons, while in 2020 it was reported as much as 54.6 million tons. In addition, based on data from WFP, several countries impose restrictions on the export of materials food during a pandemic. It becomes a reminder for Indonesia to find other ways to achieve food security. In this regard, the Government of Indonesia has developed the Food Estate program as one of the spearheads in food security strategy during a pandemic covid-19.

2 Discussion

The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) health crisis has had a lasting impact around the world. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) report as of August 15, 2020, 21 million people worldwide have been infected with this virus, forcing many countries to impose partial or total lockdown policies. As a result, the production process stops, the supply chain of goods and services is disrupted, causing a spike in commodity prices. The impact is the uncertainty of future employment opportunities after COVID-19.

The concept of “food security” was first introduced into scientific use in the mid-1970s at the world conference on food. In the conference discussed global food needs related to the level of needs based on world population growth associated with production and overall prices. The conclusion of the conference on the notion of food security that food security refers to a condition when all people always have physical and economic access to safe and nutritious food in sufficient quantities to meet their needs and interests in the food needed for an active and healthy life (Fig. 2).

The Global Food Security Index (GFSI) figures show that Indonesia’s food security is actually worse in 2021 than it was in the previous year. Indonesia’s food security



Fig. 2. Source: The Economist, 2021

index score in 2020 was 61.4, according to GFSI data. The index, nevertheless, dropped to 59.2 in 2021. Out of 113 nations, the report places Indonesia's food security at 69th place in 2021.

GFSI uses four key factors to assess a nation's level of food security: affordability of food prices (affordability), supply chain accessibility (availability), nutritional quality and food safety (quality and safety), and resource resiliency (natural resources and resilience). The agri-food infrastructure in Indonesia is still behind par with the rest of the world. The variety of common meals and nutritional standards are still seen as lacking. Because they have not been strongly safeguarded by governmental regulations and are susceptible to exposure to disasters connected to climate change, extreme weather, and environmental degradation, Indonesia's natural resources are also seen to have weak resilience.

National food security is an issue for the Indonesian government. Government Regulation (PP) Number 17 of 2015 concerning Food Security and Nutrition, which incorporates the growth of food and nutrition security, makes this clear. Access, utilisation, and stability are the four pillars of food security (CFS, 2014).

Concerned about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nutritional status of those most affected, especially those from poor and vulnerable families, the United Nations (UN) in Indonesia, in particular the Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition, composed of FAO, IFAD, UNFPA, WFP, WHO, and UNICEF, is working to address this issue. The UN requests that all nations, donors, and partners take action to safeguard the nutritional condition of Indonesia's most vulnerable families and individuals by putting in place the necessary infection control measures. This Joint Statement, which was released by the head of the UN office in Indonesia, aims to offer advice on a number of prioritised measures and policy directives to promote food and nutrition security in the wake of the COVID-19 epidemic. The six issues covered by the activities outlined in this statement are healthy eating, nutrition for expectant women, young children, and toddlers, managing malnutrition, supplying extra micronutrients, feeding schoolchildren nutritious meals, and nutritional surveillance.

2.1 Food Estate

Food estate is a large-scale agricultural concept of > 25 hectares that is integrated with science and technology, capital, as well as modern organization and management (Ministry of Agriculture, 2010). Food estate itself is a combination of sectors and sub-sectors in the agribusiness system. Food Estate, is an idea that surfaced in Indonesia in July 2020 by the President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic situation. The idea has a strategic position in Indonesia's current situation because it is felt to be urgently needed.

3 Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, then the conclusion obtained is in the middle this covid-19 pandemic which is very impact not only on health only, but the socio-economic aspect is very food security is needed because it is a the basic needs of the Indonesian people,

whose numbers are very large (approximately 250 million people). Basic needs of the community such as basic needs can be met with domestic production. The occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic requires the government to focus on handling and anticipating the impacts of the pandemic. Not only from the health sector, but also other sectors that are affected, one of which is the availability of food in Indonesia. Some of the reasons behind the idea of building a food estate during the pandemic are the warnings about the food crisis by the FAO and Indonesia's need for food self-sufficiency that does not depend on imports.

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