



# Enhancing Food Security in Riau's Coastal Region: Evaluating the Impact of Policy Communicators in the Food Granary Program

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**Abstract**—Food barns have an important role in farmers' food security, especially during times of scarcity before harvest. The food barn program is implemented based on the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia Number: 17/Permentan/Hk.140/4/2015. This study examines the function of food storage policy communicators in achieving food security in the Coastal Area of Riau Province by examining program aims, socialization, achievement, and monitoring. This research method is qualitative with appropriate informants to answer the research questions. The results of this research indicate that the role of policy communicators for the Food Storage Program in efforts to achieve food security in the coastal areas of Riau Province has an important, strategic and significant role for the food security program as a whole. The trust given, transparency and participation in managing the Food Storage Program Policy strengthens the acceleration of food security in the Coastal Area of Riau Province.

**Keywords:** Communicator, public policy, program, food, food security.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Food security is a global issue, especially in developing countries, including Indonesia. Food security, according to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 18 of 2012 is "the condition of food fulfillment for the country and individuals, which is reflected in the availability of sufficient food, both in quantity and quality, safe, diverse, nutritious, equitable and affordable and not in conflict with people's religion, beliefs and culture, to be able to live healthy, active and productive lives sustainably" (Anonymous, 2012). The United Nations (2015) identified food security as having three primary components: food availability, food access, and food use (Abdullah et al., 2017). This aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, which includes eradicating hunger (Goal #2). Food security covers global, regional, and national dimensions, down to the household and individual levels (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2013; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2017). Various factors reported to be related to food security status include household economic conditions, education level, knowledge about food storage and processing, land fertility, irrigation access, global water crisis, land change and climate change (Food and

Agriculture Organization of the (United Nations, 2013; Mannaf AItana & Uddin Md. Taj, 2012; Wambua et al., 2014).

## II. METHODS

This research was conducted in the Coastal Area of Riau Province. In this research, the first thing to be carried out was to identify food security in Riau province, especially in coastal districts, including Bengkalis Regency, Indragiri Hilir Regency, Meranti Regency and Rokan Hilir Regency, which consists of: (a). The role of society, government and stakeholders or companies in understanding food security (b). Implementation of food security program policies and communication between policy actors who implement them.

The informants interviewed were: Head of the Food Availability and Food Insecurity Division, Head of the Community Food Reserves Section of Riau Province, chairman of CANTIG (Integrated Food Reserves); Head of the Agriculture and Food Crops Service; DPRD members; Traditional leaders; Plantation Companies; NGO that cares about Food Security.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The causes of food insecurity in each region are different, so program interventions to prevent and overcome them should ideally be location-specific. However, approaches to alleviating food vulnerability can generally be differentiated between district and urban areas. There are several differences in characteristics between districts and cities, including i) the area of districts is relatively larger; ii) higher urban population density; iii) the livelihoods of district residents are generally engaged in the agricultural sector, while city residents are in trade and services; iv) the education and health levels of city residents are relatively better; and v) the average Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) in districts is relatively lower than cities.

These differences can be used as consideration for alleviating food vulnerability while still paying attention to the similarities in factors that cause food vulnerability in each region.

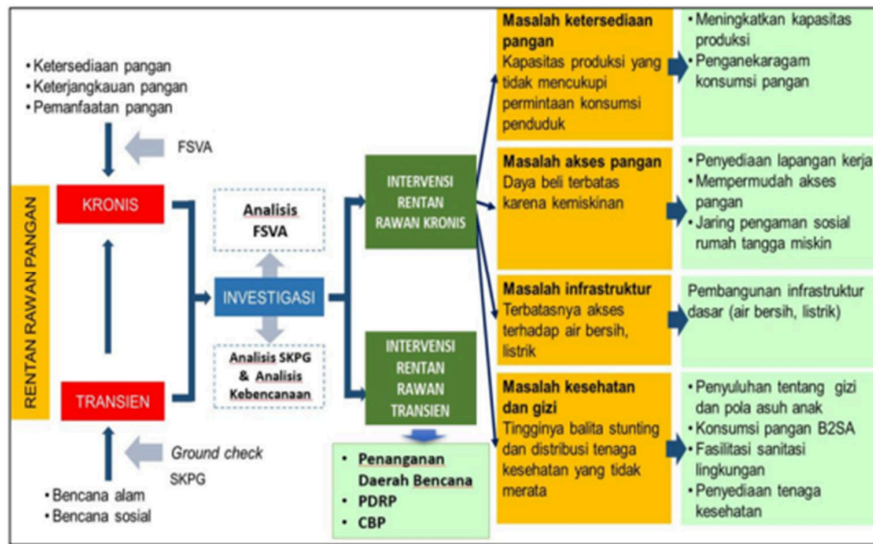


Fig. 1. Framework for Alleviating Areas Vulnerable to Food Insecurity

The image above presents a framework for alleviating areas vulnerable to food insecurity. Alleviation of food-vulnerable areas must be carried out holistically based on the factors that cause these areas to fall into the food vulnerable category. If availability problems cause the problem, efforts to increase production are needed. The problem of economic access/low purchasing power can be overcome by providing employment opportunities or social safety nets. Infrastructure limitations are overcome by building and improving supporting facilities such as roads, bridges, ports and warehouses for storing food stocks. Health and nutrition problems are addressed through education about nutrition, consumption of a variety of nutritionally balanced and safe foods, environmental sanitation and equal distribution of health workers. Meanwhile, handling transient food vulnerability can be done through post-disaster program interventions, distributing government and community food reserves, as well as increasing family food availability. Regency Area The results of the food security composite analysis show that the district is included in Priority 1 (6%), the district is in Priority 2 (5%), the district is in Priority 3 (6%), the district is in Priority 4 (9%), the district is in Priority 5 (25%) and districts in Priority 6 (48%). The analysis results show that the Riau Province Coastal Area has a higher level of food vulnerability than non-coastal areas. Likewise, island areas have a higher level of vulnerability than non-archipelago areas. The focus of food security research locations in the district is based on priority on: a. Regency located in the coastal area of Riau Province with the largest area prone to food insecurity b. Districts on the islands that face obstacles to physical access to food sources. c. Districts located far from the provincial capital or in areas bordering other provinces/countries have lower levels of food security than other districts.

The things that cause food vulnerability in each district are not always the same, therefore a specific approach/program is needed to be the right solution for local conditions. Districts in the food insecurity group Priorities 1-3 are indicated by: i) high ratio of per capita consumption to per capita net production, ii) high

prevalence of stunted toddlers, iii) high poverty population, iv) high number of households without access to clean water, and v) high ratio of population per health worker to population density. Programs to increase food security and reduce food vulnerability in districts prone to food insecurity can be directed at activities: a. Increasing food supply in non-food center areas by optimizing marginal land and open space for production according to local resource potential. Food Security and Vulnerability Map b. Socialization and counseling about nutrition and child-rearing patterns; providing health service facilities and improving quality and sanitation to reduce the prevalence of stunting and improve community nutrition. c. Providing employment opportunities, labor intensive, land redistribution; development of basic infrastructure (roads, electricity, hospitals), and social assistance; and developing productive/MSME/labor-intensive businesses to stimulate the regional economy to reduce poverty. d. Increasing access to clean water through providing clean water facilities and services; outreach and counseling. e. Equitable provision of health workers f. Increasing women's knowledge and skills. Efforts to improve food security generally emphasize the main causes of food vulnerability in the district as depicted in the following figure:



Fig. 2. Intervention Framework to Improve District Food Security

**Urban Area**

The results of the composite analysis of food security in the city area show that the total number of cities vulnerable to food insecurity (Priority 1-3) is 1 city, while the food secure city (Priority 4-6) is 1 city. Specifically, cities in Priorities 1 – 3 are indicated by: i) high prevalence of stunted children under five, ii) high number of households without access to clean water, iii) high number of poor people, iv) high number of households with food expenditure share >65% to total expenditure, and v) low life expectancy. The location focus for alleviating food vulnerability in urban areas is prioritized on: a. Cities with limited access to food, especially in stabilizing supply and people's purchasing power. b. Cities have limited food utilization due to limited understanding/knowledge or poor sanitation. Food vulnerability alleviation programs in urban areas are directed at activities: a. Handling stunting toddlers through nutrition program interventions that are both specific and sensitive. Specific interventions carried out to support children's health in the First 1000 Days of Life (HPK) include providing vitamins supplemented with iron, iodine, folic acid for pregnant women; supports exclusive breastfeeding for babies aged 0-6 months; and providing MP ASI for children aged 7-23 months. Sensitive nutrition interventions aimed at providing sufficient and varied food, access to clean water, sanitation, access to health services, nutrition education, social safety nets, and increasing family income. b. Socialization of diverse, nutritionally balanced and safe food consumption patterns. c. Increasing access to clean water through providing clean water facilities and services. d. Increasing employment opportunities and people's income to increase purchasing power. e. Increasing environmental sanitation and clean and healthy living behavior through socialization and education. Efforts to improve food security generally emphasize the main causes of food vulnerability in urban areas as depicted in the following figure:



Fig. 3. Intervention Framework to Improve Urban Food Security

**Cross-Program and Cross-Sector Collaboration**

Reducing the level of food and nutrition vulnerability is a big challenge for planners and policy makers because the problem of food and nutrition vulnerability is a multi-effect problem, not just a problem of one sector, but covering aspects from upstream to downstream. The support and active participation of all stakeholders (government, regional government, legislative institutions, business actors, philanthropists, NGOs, media, academics and research institutions as well as civil communities at the central and regional levels) must be synergized to realize sustainable food security. In order to eradicate areas vulnerable to food insecurity in a synergistic manner,

integrated cooperation is needed with a Cooperation Agreement (PKS): Synergy Support for the Program for Alleviation of Areas Vulnerable to Food Insecurity, such as by parties namely the Food Security Agency, Ministry of Agriculture; Director General of Public Health, Ministry of Health; Director General of Village Community Development and Empowerment, Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration; Director General of Specific Regional Development, Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration; Director General for Poverty Handling, Ministry of Social Affairs; Director General of Regional Development, Ministry of Home Affairs; Director General of Human Settlements, Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing; and Head of the National Resilience Laboratory Center, National Resilience Institute. The signing of the Synergy Cooperation Agreement (PKS) Supporting the Program for Alleviating Areas Vulnerable to Food Insecurity is the starting point for the integration of cross-sector programs to carry out the state's task, namely alleviating the people of Riau Province and Indonesia from food insecurity, poverty and stunting. Initiatives that have been carried out at the central level need to be followed up by local governments at both the provincial and district levels, involving not only government components but also academics, the private sector and all components of society. With these efforts, it is hoped that the program for alleviating areas vulnerable to food insecurity and stunting will be carried out more massively and in a more targeted manner down to the lowest administrative level, namely the village. Cross-program collaboration can increase budget and workforce efficiency and accelerate the achievement of the final goals to be achieved. The development of food security and nutrition that is carried out must be able to increase food availability, create jobs, improve health services and improve community nutrition to create healthy, active and productive human resources in a sustainable manner in accordance with the mandate of Food Law no. 18 of 2012.



Fig. 4. Active Role of Stakeholders in Alleviating Areas Vulnerable to Food Insecurity

**IV. CONCLUSION**

1. The main program target is to achieve food security at the group level accompanied by increasing group welfare and broadly community empowerment. 2. Program socialization by policy communicators for the food barn program has greatly impacted the community's understanding of the vision, goals and appropriate direction in creating food barns for communities in the coastal areas of Riau Province. 3. Achievement of Program Objectives

regarding the functions and infrastructure to achieve food security. 4. Program Monitoring, including the process of monitoring both directly and indirectly towards farmer groups and related parties.

From all of the above, the research results show that there are still many strategic steps that must be taken in a

#### V. RECOMMENDATION

To achieve the objectives of a program, the government and stakeholders who play a role in implementing the food barn program must pay special attention so that the initial plans and objectives can be achieved.

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measurable and comprehensive manner, including: setting goals by actively involving farmer groups and related parties, communicators who have the ability to convey and mobilize the community to achieve food security goals, apart from this. What is also important is the preparation of budgets by the regions to implement this program properly.

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