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The Impact of Food Security Policies on the Welfare of Farmers in West Aceh Regency

Nurmayanti¹, Vellayati Hajad²

^{1,2} Department of Public Administration, Universitas Teuku Umar, Indonesia

Abstract

This study aims to discuss the impact of food security policies on the welfare of farmers in West Aceh Regency. This study examines the impact of all existing policies related to food security or food resilience from a global to regional context on the welfare of farming communities. This study uses a qualitative method using the Creswell case study approach, the purposive sampling technique according to John Creswell is selecting informants based on certain criteria that are relevant to the research topic (not randomly). Based on the results of research on the impact of food security policies on the welfare of farmers in West Aceh Regency, it can be seen that food security policies in West Aceh Regency have not had a maximum impact on farmer welfare. This can be seen from the results of interviews with several farmers who admitted that they had never felt the aid channels from the West Aceh Regency Government, the Food Service and the Food Crops and Horticulture Service of West Aceh Regency.

Keywords: Policy Impact, Food Security, Welfare, Farmers, and Aceh Regency West.

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¹ Corresponding e-mail: nurmayanti11@gmail.com

Introduction

Indonesia is recognized as one of the largest democracies in the world, with a population exceeding 270 million people, characterized by vast ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity. The Indonesian political system is based on Pancasila, which emphasizes the belief in the One and Only God, just and civilized humanity, the unity of Indonesia, democracy guided by the inner wisdom of deliberations among representatives, and social justice for all Indonesian people. Since the 1998 reform, Indonesia has experienced significant developments in strengthening democratic institutions, including free and fair elections, press freedom, and the establishment of various civil society organizations. However, challenges such as corruption, economic inequality, and human rights issues remain critical concerns in Indonesia's democratic journey.

Welfare is a persistent topic of discussion as it is enshrined in Indonesia's state ideology, specifically the fifth principle of Pancasila. This subject generates many debates and divergent views regarding the implementation of welfare programs for society. Questions related to what, who, why, where, and how welfare should be pursued often arise in public discourse. Literally, "welfare" refers to a condition that is good, safe, prosperous, and secure, or the state in which an individual feels prosperous. Welfare can also be understood as security, safety, tranquility, and the achievement of communal benefit.

This study aims to examine the extent to which food security policies influence the welfare levels of farmers. At the global level, several leaders of international institutions including FAO, IMF, World Bank, WFP, and WTO issued a Joint Statement on February 8, 2023 (Mualifah & Punjastuti, n.d., 2025), highlighting the critical need for concrete steps to prevent worsening food and nutrition security crises. Proposed actions include: (i) safeguarding regions threatened by hunger; (ii) strengthening trade and market performance by involving the private sector; and (iii) reforming ineffective subsidies with more targeted and efficient approaches.

Nations are urged to balance short-term emergency measures with long-term resilience building in response to the global crisis.

The World Bank recently emphasized that public support for the agriculture and food sectors, amounting to over US\$800 billion annually worldwide, remains misaligned with nutrition improvement goals. Most support targets staple grains, sugar, and meat, while healthier food options such as fruits, vegetables, and dairy receive less attention. Conflicts and rising food prices further exacerbate food insecurity in countries like Gaza, Haiti, Lebanon, and Yemen (Mualifah & Punjastuti, n.d., 2025). These data indicate that food insecurity is an ongoing global issue that requires continual revision and enhancement of policy implementation.

Food security regulations in Aceh Province are governed by various policies, such as Qanun Aceh, Governor Regulations, and central government directives. These regulations aim to ensure food availability, safety, and fulfillment of basic community needs. For instance, Aceh Qanun No. 11 of 2022 mandates the provincial government to maintain food reserves sufficient for a three-month supply, including types of food beyond rice (Dinas Syariah Islam Aceh, 2006). Qanun Aceh No. 2 of 2022 focuses on protecting agricultural land to ensure sustainability and productivity (Nomor et al., 2022), while Qanun Aceh No. 3 of 2020 seeks to strengthen farmer protection and empowerment.

Several regulations issued by the Aceh Provincial Government, including Governor Regulation No. 43 of 2012, No. 126 of 2016, and No. 1 of 2024, specifically regulate the organizational structure, roles, tasks, and functions of the Aceh Agriculture and Plantation Office as well as the Food Agency. In this regard, the Aceh Food Agency is mandated to manage governance and development in the food sector, encompassing availability, distribution, consumption, and food safety aspects. This mandate aligns with Governor Regulation No. 114 of 2016. The agency also has divisions responsible for monitoring food safety and promoting dietary diversification through various campaigns and educational initiatives.

Commitment to strengthening food security is also a top priority at the regional level, particularly in West Aceh Regency. The regency government has formulated several regulations that demonstrate a serious commitment to building a regional food security system. This effort encompasses natural resource management, support for local farmers, and the implementation of community empowerment programs. To design a structured direction for food development, the West Aceh Food Agency has developed a Strategic Plan (Renstra) that refers to the Ministry of Home Affairs Regulation Number 86 of 2017. This strategic plan includes various programs and activities aimed at supporting the achievement of food security in the region (West Aceh Food Agency, 2025).

Other regulations that also govern food security include the Regent Regulation of West Aceh Number 32 of 2024, which addresses food and livestock security programs, including the prevention and reduction of stunting at the village (gampong) level, as well as priority sector programs through capital assistance for Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMG) (Regent of West Aceh Regulation No. 32, 2024). Additionally, Qanun Number 4 of 2017 concerning Environmental Management (DLH) regulates waste management. This is also related to food sustainability since waste can impact the quality of agricultural land (Qanun Number 4 of 2017).

This study examines how the impacts of various existing policies related to food security—from the global to the regional context—affect the welfare of farming communities. This subject is highlighted due to the reality that many farmers still experience poverty and lack of welfare. Essentially, farmers are primary producers of food ingredients, yet a significant number of them still depend on these same resources for their sustenance. The welfare level of farmers in Indonesia remains a critical issue, as reflected in data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), which reveals that approximately 51.33 percent of poor households in Indonesia rely on agriculture as their main livelihood source. These findings are supported by several

studies indicating a significant correlation between poverty levels and involvement in the agricultural sector (Salqaura, 2020, as cited in Pratama, 2022).

Generally, the poverty issue in West Aceh Regency has shown a consistent decline from March 2013 to March 2023. However, there was an anomaly in March 2021, where there was an increase in both the poverty rate percentage and the number of poor residents in the region (BPS West Aceh Regency, 2024). The complete development regarding fluctuations in poverty rates from March 2011 to March 2024 is illustrated in Figure 1.1 below:

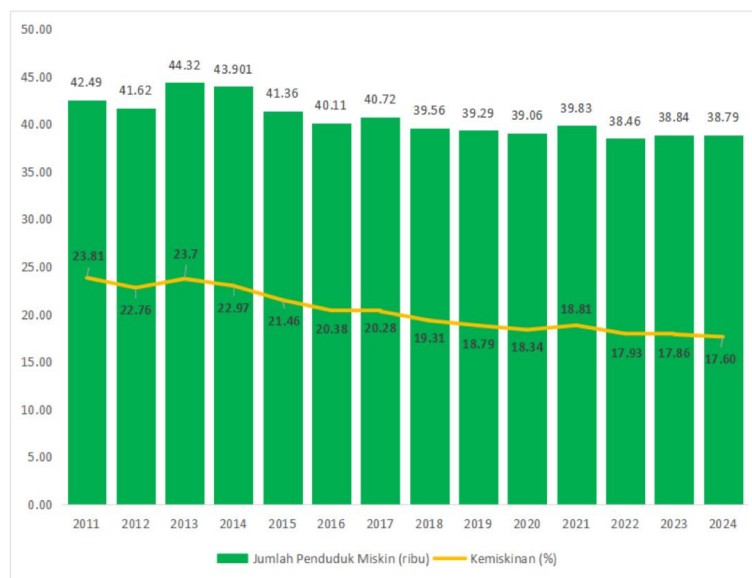


Figure 1. Number and Percentage of Poor Population in West Aceh Regency from March 2011 to March 2024

(Source: Adapted from BPS West Aceh Regency, 2024)

The poverty rate in West Aceh Regency continues to show a positive trend with a tendency to decline. By March 2024, the poverty rate was recorded at 17.60 percent, marking a decrease of 0.26 percentage points compared to March 2023. In absolute terms, the number of poor residents also experienced a slight reduction to around 38,790 individuals, decreasing by about 50 people within one year. Meanwhile, the Poverty Line value increased by 4.58 percent to IDR 666,009 per capita per month. This rise reflects an increase in the minimum basic needs that the community must meet. Interestingly, despite the increase in the poverty threshold,

the proportion of the extremely poor population actually decreased, from 0.89 percent in 2023 to 0.70 percent in 2024. Overall, data from 2021 to 2024 show a consistent downward trend, both in terms of percentage and the number of poor residents in West Aceh Regency.

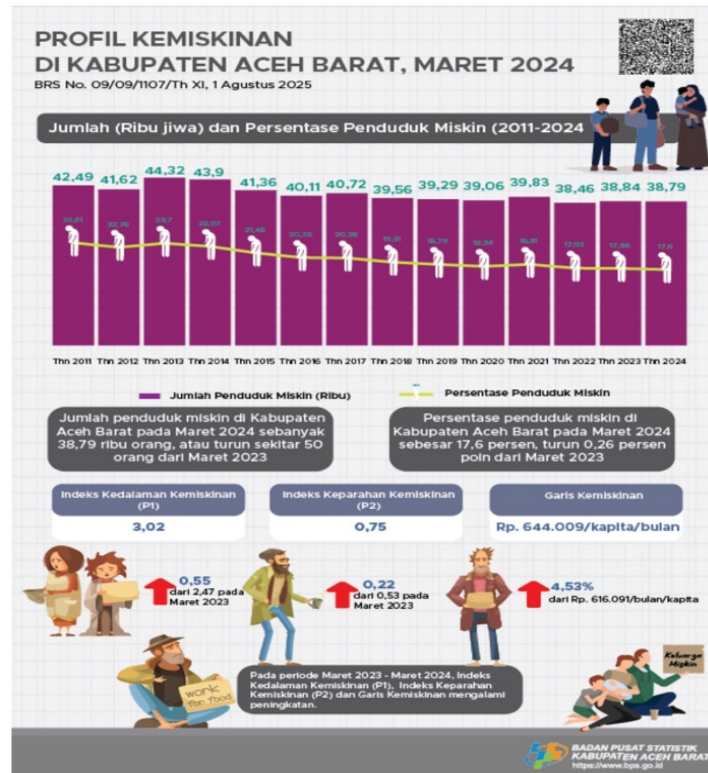


Figure 1.2. Poverty Profile in West Aceh Regency, March 2024

Source: Adapted from BPS Situbondo Regency, 2024.

As of March 2024, the poverty rate in West Aceh Regency was recorded at 17.60 percent, reflecting a decrease of 0.26 percentage points compared to March 2023. In terms of population, the number of poor residents decreased to approximately 38,790 individuals, equivalent to a decline of 50 people over the same period. The Poverty Line also increased, reaching IDR 666,009 per capita per month in March 2024, marking a 4.58 percent rise compared to the Poverty Line in March 2023. Overall, the poverty trend from March 2021 to March 2024 shows a consistent decrease in both the number and percentage of poor populations.

Meanwhile, the percentage of extremely poor residents in 2024 was documented at 0.70 percent, down by 0.19 percentage points from the previous year.

The analysis conducted in this study aims to assess whether these policy measures have effectively addressed the welfare issues among farmers, particularly in West Aceh Regency, or whether these policies have had no impact or have not been felt at all by the local farming community.

Literature Review

Global studies on food and food security heavily discuss climate change (Zul Erianto Suarja et al., 2024) in their paper titled "A Critical Literature Review on the Impact of Climate Change on Food Security" published in the Journal of Agricultural and Fisheries Science. The study states that climate change affects global food security through reduced crop yields, disruption of supply chains, decline in food quality, and pressure on water availability. These impacts significantly influence crop production and food supply, becoming challenges not only at regional and national levels but also globally.

In their work titled "Climate Change Adaptation and Food Security: Review of Initiatives and Policies," Perdinan et al. (2019) argue that global climate change has tangible effects on agriculture, especially in food crop production. Generally, projections indicate a potential decline in agricultural yields, particularly in tropical and low-latitude regions. This impact not only threatens production stability but also has serious implications for food security. The decline in crop yields due to climate change contributes to increased food vulnerability and directly reduces income and livelihood opportunities for farmers, especially small-scale farmer groups, weakening food security both at household and regional levels.

Food Security is a crucial factor in a country's development as it constitutes a basic need and enters into the category of human rights. A country unable to fulfill these fundamental rights can be considered failing in ensuring the welfare of its

citizens. Unstable food security can lead to numerous problems such as rising hunger and malnutrition rates. In this context, ASEAN has formulated the ASEAN Integrated Food Security policy aimed at stabilizing food security across the region. This policy encourages Southeast Asian countries to actively collaborate to build integrated food resilience.

Data above indicates that hunger rates in Southeast Asia are moderate – not extreme but requiring serious attention. The prevalence of undernutrition and hunger in the ASEAN region stands at 9.6%, with rates reported at 14.2% in Cambodia and Myanmar, 13.5% in the Philippines, 11.0% in Vietnam, 7.6% in Indonesia, 7.4% in Thailand, and below 5% in Malaysia (Peltzer and Pengpid, 2017) as noted in (Implementasi, 2022).

According to Indonesian Law No. 18 Year 2012 on Food, food security is defined as a condition where food needs are adequately met from national to individual levels. This condition is characterized by the availability of sufficient quantity, quality, safe consumption, nutrition, diversity, equity, and accessibility to all social layers. Moreover, food must be harmonious with religious, belief, and cultural values to support a healthy, active, and sustainable life for every individual (UU RI No 18 Tahun 2012).

The study entitled “Analysis of Rice Policy as an Effort to Improve National Food Security and Farmer Welfare” by Ekonomi et al. (2024) aimed to evaluate effective programs and policies ensuring availability and affordability of rice as the staple food. This research emphasizes rice’s strategic role in supporting national food security, a development priority, while also enhancing farmers’ welfare.

Methods

This study employs a qualitative method with a case study approach, in accordance with Creswell's explanation. Creswell (2016) states that this approach is one of the strategies in qualitative research that allows researchers to conduct an

in-depth exploration of a program, event, activity, process, or individual, either singularly or in multiple instances. This case study has certain limitations related to time and the observed activities; therefore, to achieve a comprehensive understanding, the researcher must collect data intensively through various techniques over a specific period (Widhagdha & Ediyono, 2022). This approach was chosen because it is considered the most relevant to the objectives and context of the research being conducted.

The research took place in West Aceh Regency, specifically at the Food Service Office, the Agriculture Service, and related communities. This location was selected because the percentage of farmers in West Aceh Regency is relatively high, especially compared to other sectors in the regional economy.

The data in this study were collected from two sources, namely primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained directly from the field through methods such as interviews and observations. Meanwhile, secondary data came from indirect sources, such as previous journals, websites, books, and other relevant sources. Additionally, for the selection of informants, a purposive sampling approach was used, which is a sample determination technique deliberately selected based on certain considerations related to the research objectives. The researcher chose informants deemed most qualified to provide in-depth and relevant information related to the research topic. Creswell emphasizes the importance of selecting appropriate informants in qualitative research.

Results and Discussion (12pt, bold)

This study focuses on the impact of food security policies on the welfare of farmers in West Aceh Regency. This chapter aims to examine and explain the research findings obtained in the field. In the discussion section, the researcher conducts an in-depth analysis of the collected data to provide answers to the

previously formulated research questions. Following the discussion, conclusions will be drawn, summarizing key findings that respond to the research problems.

To measure the impact of food security policies on farmers' welfare in West Aceh Regency, this study uses three main indicators derived from relevant theories and studies on food security. Food security encompasses three core components: food availability, food access, and food utilization. Food security is a critical issue because it relates to a country's ability to ensure that all its citizens have adequate physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. The goal is to meet nutritional needs and food preferences to support a healthy and productive life. Therefore, food security policies should not only focus on production aspects but must also comprehensively consider the distribution, access, and utilization of food.

According to Law Number 18 of 2012 on Food, food security is defined as a condition where food needs are fully met from the national level down to the individual. This is characterized by the availability of food in adequate quantity and quality, safe, diverse, nutritious, evenly distributed, affordable, and in accordance with the religious beliefs, trust, and cultural values of society. The objective is to guarantee that every citizen can live healthily, actively, and productively on a sustainable basis (Helin G. Yudawisastra et al., 2023). In line with the perspective from the Food Security and Vulnerability Atlas (FSVA) theory, food availability is a crucial aspect that must be consistently and sustainably addressed, particularly among farmers in West Aceh Regency. Achieving this is challenging but essential and must be continuously pursued.

However, food security policies face various complex challenges, such as the impacts of climate change affecting production yields, population growth, urbanization, volatility in global food commodity prices, and potential conflicts disrupting distribution. Therefore, food security policies must be designed to be

adaptive, comprehensive, and sustainable. An approach involving multiple sectors and collaboration among the government, private sector, civil society, and international organizations is crucial for successful policy implementation. Moreover, the utilization of technological innovations such as precision agriculture and biotechnology serves as strategic instruments in creating a more resilient, efficient, and responsive food system to future challenges.

Availability Aspect

The aspect of food availability in West Aceh Regency can be assessed as fairly good, supported by the Food Security Index data for 2023. The availability index was 90.06 in 2023 compared to 90.57 the previous year (Hendriadi, 2020). This figure indicates that the level of food availability in West Aceh is quite good, staying well above the vulnerable threshold (generally <50) and demonstrating strong stability year over year. Rice production and food crops such as corn and tubers tend to be stable annually. Furthermore, there is a distribution infrastructure and traditional markets in almost all sub-districts. Access to staple food ingredients is still reachable by the local community throughout the year, although some remote areas face distribution constraints during the rainy season.

West Aceh Regency does not fully rely on external supplies, as the local government continues efforts to ensure local production sufficiently supports the basic needs of the population. However, certain commodities such as highland vegetables or specific processed products still depend on other areas like Takengon or Banda Aceh. To date, West Aceh has reported no food crisis in the last five years, reflecting that the availability aspect in the region is adequate.

The availability aspect includes accessibility to various essential services and resources enabling the region to function optimally and sustainably. Availability here refers to facilities such as rice planting machines, plowing equipment, rice harvesters, and irrigation availability. Availability directly impacts food security by

creating satisfaction for users or customers (farmers) by promoting operational efficiency and the success of a system or organization.

First, food production availability refers to agricultural output levels, land productivity, and sustainable farming practices. Based on interviews with farmers in West Aceh, it can be concluded that this first availability aspect is not yet effective and efficient, as many farmers reported never having experienced ease or adequate support, particularly from the Food Service and the Agriculture Service for Food Crops and Horticulture.

Second, availability of agricultural land includes farmers' access to land and water availability for farming. Many farmers in West Aceh complain mainly about drought. This is clear, and irrigation efforts by the government and related agencies have not been optimal, as evidenced by interviews with local farmers.

Third, availability of agricultural infrastructure and technology includes the availability of processing and storage facilities, road quality, transportation means, and access to agricultural technology. Infrastructure availability in West Aceh has improved due to many delayed implementations now being better managed, though still not fully meeting targets. For example, roads near agricultural areas or rice fields are motor-vehicle accessible and some have been paved, which facilitates farmers in transporting their harvest.

Fourth, availability of access to production inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and farming equipment is crucial. Many activities have been held by the Agriculture Service and local government for procurement of these inputs. One example is the provision of rice cutting machines or agricultural machinery for farmers, which the Agriculture Service claims to have provided to all farmers in West Aceh. Similarly, the local government collaborates with related agencies to procure plowing machines for some farmers.

Fifth, government policies and support include agricultural subsidies, extension programs, credit, and agricultural insurance. Regarding policies, many

regulations pay close attention to agricultural development and food quality, spanning local, provincial, national, and even international levels. This is a priority for both central and regional governments to advance agricultural systems locally and beyond. Policies in West Aceh vary from Regent regulations Qanuns, and others.

Sixth, production stability refers to farmers' resilience against disturbances such as natural disasters, pest attacks, and market price fluctuations. The stability efforts by the Regency Government, Food Service, and Agriculture Service are still less than optimal, as reported from interviews with those related parties. Many farmers lack awareness regarding preventive or post-disaster actions, pest control measures, and price instability issues. No agency guarantees pest control or price stabilization, significantly disadvantaging farmers.

Seventh, market connectivity includes distribution channels from farmers to markets, availability of local and regional markets to sell harvests, and market chain efficiency. Market connectivity in West Aceh remains low based on interview results, with minimal numbers and interest in local markets from both food producers and consumers. This greatly affects the economic condition and harvest outcomes for local farmers. The availability aspect in West Aceh has run fairly well, yet unevenly distributed due to the limited access to information for the community and farmers to know about programs run by the Food Service and the Food Crops and Horticultural Agriculture Service of West Aceh Regency.

Food Access

According to the report by the Central Statistics Agency (Badan Pusat Statistik, BPS), the prevalence of undernourishment (Prevalence of Undernourishment / PoU) in West Aceh Regency, Aceh Province, was recorded at 6.16% in 2023. This figure shows a decrease of 0.39% compared to the previous year, which was 6.55%, and a decline of 1.85% over the last five years (Irfan Fachrurrahman, 2024). Meanwhile,

the national average PoU in Indonesia in the same year was 8.53%, indicating that the PoU level in West Aceh Regency is below the national average. The National Food Agency (Badan Pangan Nasional, Bapanas) defines PoU as a condition in which a person regularly consumes an insufficient amount of food to meet the energy requirements necessary for a normal, active, and healthy life.

Food access refers to the ability of individuals or households to obtain sufficient food to meet their nutritional needs, whether through self-production, purchase, or assistance, utilizing their available resources (Mun'im, 2012). Furthermore, access to food is not merely related to the quantity of food available but also encompasses factors such as food safety, nutritional value, and conformity with local customs and cultural practices. Thus, food access is a crucial aspect of achieving food security because without the ability to acquire and consume adequate food, even high food availability cannot ensure the overall nutritional well-being of the population, whether through purchase, self-production, or other channels. It is not solely about food availability in the market but also about how communities can sustainably reach and utilize it. Unequal food availability has serious consequences.

Physical access or logistics infrastructure such as roads and transportation plays a significant role in food access, as many remote areas still lack adequate facilities, hindering the mobility of agricultural products and food distribution, especially during the rainy season. However, there are government initiatives to improve road and irrigation infrastructure, as well as inter-regional transportation, which has gradually enhanced market access. Many farmers still face difficulties reaching larger markets due to connectivity limitations and insufficient supporting facilities.

The West Aceh Regency government facilitates farmers' markets, affordable food bazaars, and inter-regency cooperation through memoranda of understanding, all aimed at improving community food access. Although the food

access indicators in West Aceh Regency continue to improve, there are still challenges in infrastructure and distribution. Government interventions, local programs, and social support contribute to creating a better and more equitable food access system within the community.

Food insecurity can trigger various problems ranging from malnutrition, cognitive growth retardation in children, increased disease risk, to social conflicts. Food access includes facilitative factors for farmers in obtaining supplies such as seeds, fertilizers, water sources, land, and planting or harvesting technology. Similar to the availability aspect, food access in West Aceh Regency remains uneven, as evidenced by interviews with several farmers in the region.

Food Utilization

Optimal utilization of food resources is crucial for supporting a healthy life, a strong economy, and sustainable environmental conditions. West Aceh is one of the regions in Aceh Province that boasts abundant natural resources, particularly in the food sector. This region possesses fertile agricultural land, plentiful water resources, and rich biodiversity that supports local food production. The community leverages these natural potentials as the primary source for meeting daily consumption needs through agriculture, fisheries, and plantations. Besides for personal consumption, the products are also marketed to surrounding areas, which in turn stimulates the local economy.

With proper management and sustainable policy support, the food potential in West Aceh can serve as a solid foundation for regional food security and enhance community welfare, particularly for farmers and fishermen, while simultaneously bolstering local food resilience. Major commodities such as rice serve as staple foods, followed by other agricultural products like corn, sweet potatoes, and legumes.

Local food utilization is reflected in a variety of traditional dishes rich in flavor, using natural ingredients such as spices, coconut milk, and garden produce. Popular culinary examples include Kuah Pliek U, Sie Reuboh, and various preparations of local fish. Through food security programs, the local government encourages dietary diversification to reduce over-dependence on rice alone. The community is also encouraged to use home gardens for cultivating vegetables, fruits, and small-scale livestock, fostering healthy and sustainable consumption patterns.

With proper management and innovation in processing agricultural and fishery products, the utilization of local food in West Aceh not only supports food security but also opens new economic opportunities, especially for MSMEs operating in culinary and agribusiness sectors.

The utilization aspect shows positive progress, though challenges remain related to nutritional quality and access. Programs aimed at optimizing local food quality and utilization include initiatives like the cultivation of nutritious backyard gardens by West Aceh Police across 12 sub-districts, intended to help families meet their nutritional needs independently.

Additionally, military and local village apparatus, such as those in Ranto Panyang village, have repurposed idle land for planting various crops like peanuts, corn, vegetables, and livestock. In Gampong Putim, a farmer group supported by the West Aceh Agricultural Service has successfully converted idle land for red onion cultivation, considering the promising market price of red onions (Koran Independen, 2025).

However, some shortcomings are evident in food utilization, such as the low diversification of products, where harvests are predominantly sold raw without further processing. This is mainly due to limited farmers' knowledge in management, storage, and marketing. Addressing these issues requires government and related agencies' role in enhancing farmer capacity, providing

access to training, and fostering partnerships. Overall, positive advancement is seen in optimizing idle land use, increasing commodity diversification, and cooperative efforts among various institutions.

According to interviews with the Head of Food Crops Division, Agricultural and Horticultural Department of West Aceh Regency, the government continues to guide and assist farmers in processing and utilizing local resources effectively to enhance family economy. For instance, handicrafts made from water hyacinth in Arongan Lambalek District, sweets and other processed products made from *kolang-kaling* (sugar palm fruit), and homemade peanut cakes can increase product value, thereby boosting community economic welfare.

Impact of Food Security Policy on Welfare

Welfare is a multidimensional concept that refers to a good and satisfying condition of life for individuals, groups, or society as a whole. It encompasses various interrelated aspects that directly affect the quality of life. Welfare is not limited to material aspects such as income or asset ownership but also includes physical dimensions (health and bodily condition), mental dimensions (emotional and psychological balance), social dimensions (interpersonal relationships and social support), and environmental dimensions (living conditions and access to public facilities). Each of these dimensions supports and forms a unified whole, thus achieving comprehensive welfare requires a holistic and sustainable approach in fulfilling basic needs and improving the quality of life of the community.

Moreover, many factors contribute to the welfare level of farmers in West Aceh Regency, including government policies, access to health services, justice, equality, and access to education. Based on field survey results, it was found that farmers are generally prosperous regarding government policy contributions and access to education, but they face some obstacles related to access to health services, justice, and equality. This is caused by inaccurate targeting and slow service delivery.

On the education access front, farmers are considered prosperous because no farmer's children drop out of school due to financial constraints, which is also supported by local government policies aiming to promote the welfare of the community, especially farmers in West Aceh Regency.

Conclusion

Based on the research findings regarding the impact of food security policies on the welfare of farmers in West Aceh Regency, it is evident that the implementation of these policies has not yet produced a significant impact on improving farmers' welfare. This can be analyzed through three main food security indicators: availability, access to food, and utilization of food.

In terms of availability, there appears to be a lack of synergy between the Food Office and the Agricultural, Food Crops and Horticulture Office in setting program priorities. The overlapping roles and policies between these two institutions cause confusion among farmers regarding the authority and responsibilities of each office. As a result, many farmers feel they have not fully received concrete support in the form of production assistance, access to modern agricultural equipment, or sustainable guidance. The uncertainty regarding the clarity of functions and coordination among government agencies has become an impediment to achieving optimal food security, which directly affects the stagnation of farmers' welfare.

Regarding the food access indicator, the government, along with the Food Office and the Agricultural, Food Crops and Horticulture Office, has made optimal efforts to provide food access. This is evidenced by government and these offices' efforts in providing water sources or irrigation systems to irrigate the farmers' rice fields in West Aceh, provision of tractors for farmers, and the provision of agricultural machinery such as automatic rice harvesters. However, some challenges remain, such as climate change and pest infestations.

Finally, the food utilization indicator can be concluded as a priority that requires the active role of the farmers themselves, especially for their family members. The roles of the Food Office as well as the Agricultural, Food Crops and Horticulture Office are secondary, mainly supporting the provision of the necessary facilities and infrastructure needed by the farmers in West Aceh Regency.

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