

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF FOOD ESTATE POLICY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

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Abstract

There are two opposing camps who have their own arguments which are almost equally strong, namely the function of the Food Estate policy in order to increase food security in Indonesia. However, on the other hand, this policy has the potential to damage the environment. This research is qualitative research with a descriptive approach related to Food Estate as a solution to overcoming food scarcity or whether it is a wrong policy that can damage the surrounding environment. The result in this article show several things regarding the Food Estate policy have more advantages or disadvantages as follows: 1. Food Estate can increase food security in Indonesia 2. Food Estate can also cause less damage to the environment if it has a print that protects the environment and achieves sustainable development goals.

Keywords: Advantages, Disadvantages, Food Estate

INTRODUCTION

In Until now, Indonesia is still an agricultural country with the majority of its population working in the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector has an important contribution to Indonesia's economic growth and meeting the basic needs of the Indonesian population (Ayun, 2020). However, on the other hand, around 14.5% of the total population or around 30 million people in Indonesia experience malnutrition (Arifin & Fadlan, 2021) .

This figure is quite high and shows that the food crisis problem is still occurring in Indonesia. This is very contradictory considering that Indonesia is the largest agricultural country in Southeast Asia (Widada, 2017). There are several factors that cause the food crisis in Indonesia, one of which is high population growth. This high

population growth causes food needs to also increase, causing food limitations. Indonesia is a country with the fourth largest population in the world, namely around 270 million people and is classified as a lower middle income country. In 2021, Indonesia has a Global Hunger Index ranked 73rd out of 116 countries, with a population experiencing food shortages of 22.9 million and a prevalence rate of malnutrition of 8.49% of the total population (World Resources Institute, 2021).

Apart from the high population growth factor, the emergence of food insecurity and crises which cause malnutrition is caused by limited agricultural land and lack of access to quality water sources, due to climate change, which affects agricultural productivity in Indonesia (Neilson, 2017). Climate change also contributes to natural disasters that occur in Indonesia such as floods, landslides, droughts, land and forest fires. This results in a decrease in food production, an increase in food prices, and disruption of access to food distribution, which ultimately causes the main problem, namely hunger, and affects all dimensions of food security (Malau, 2021).

To overcome these challenges, the Indonesian government has issued several policies and programs aimed at increasing food security in Indonesia, one of which is the food estate policy. A food estate is an agricultural area developed on a large scale with the aim of producing food needed by the people in the area. It is hoped that food estate development can contribute to the challenges of Indonesia's food needs in facing the food crisis in the future (Lasminingrat, 2020).

In Indonesia, food estate practices have been carried out since President Soeharto's administration with the Mega Rice Project (MRP) program, in President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's administration with the program, Merauke Integrated Rice Estate (MIRE), until President Joko Widodo's government with the Merauke Special Economic Zone (Merauke KEK) program. Some of these projects have been stalled and have even been removed from the national strategic projects because they were deemed unable to meet the government's expectations (Lasminingrat, 2020).

On July 9 2020, President Joko Widodo assigned the Ministry of Defense to become the leading sector in strengthening national food reserves through the Food Estate program (Public Relations Bureau of the Secretariat General of the Ministry of Agriculture, 2020). Food Estate is one of the 2020-2024 Strategic Priority Projects (Major Projects), namely an integrated project prepared to make the National Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN) more concrete and detailed, starting from clear project targets, locations and implementing agencies. The government hopes that this major project can resolve development issues, measurable food issues and the benefits can be directly understood and felt by the community (Thomas, 2021).

There is an increase in the number and quality of the population in Indonesia which influences the need for food as a basic human need, one of which is carried out by the Indonesian Government, namely carrying out various breakthrough innovations with the aim of expanding food land, one of which is through food development on a

wide scale (Santosa, 2014). Food Estate has become a new terminology in policy in Indonesia, this term was first coined during the leadership of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the 2006 National Harvest Celebration which was held in Merauke City (Savitri, 2015).

However, on the other hand, this food estate policy has the potential to damage the surrounding environment. Therefore, this research aims to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of food estate policies for the Indonesian economy, especially in overcoming the food crisis in Indonesia.

RESEARCH METHODS

There are two opposing camps who have their own arguments which are almost equally strong, namely the function of the Food Estate policy in order to increase food security in Indonesia (Lexy J. Moleong, 2018). However, on the other hand, this policy has the potential to damage the environment (Sugiyono, 2019). This research is qualitative research with a descriptive approach related to Food Estate as a solution to overcoming food scarcity or whether it is a wrong policy that can damage the surrounding environment (Manzilati, 2017). The data used in this research is secondary data that researchers obtained from credible websites, scientific articles, books, and so on which are usually used in every qualitative research. These data were analyzed using the stages of data collection, data selection, data reduction, and drawing conclusions (Imam Gunawan, 2014). If this policy can improve food security and the Indonesian economy, then it is considered a benefit. If the policy can damage the environment and cannot increase food security then it can be considered a loss/profit.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Food Estate

In Until now, Indonesia is still an agricultural country with the majority of its population working in the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector has an important contribution to Indonesia's economic growth and meeting the basic needs of the Indonesian population (Ayun, 2020). However, on the other hand, around 14.5% of the total population or around 30 million people in Indonesia experience malnutrition (Arifin & Fadlan, 2021) .

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Advantages And Disadvantages Of Food Estate Policy For Rural Communities

From an environmental perspective, the food estate program is very likely to face obstacles in producing food, there are several obstacles that arise so that the potential cannot be utilized optimally. The first obstacle is the limited availability of land, this is caused by The occurrence of land conversion and degradation of land quality causes agricultural land to become increasingly narrow, resulting in unclear and overlapping spatial planning and land use (Yoga Ali Fianda et al., 2022).

Apart from that, infrastructure is still inadequate, access is limited regarding technology, limited financing and a less than optimal investment climate resulting in the policy of using renewable energy feedstock food commodities. In the case of the food estate program in West Kalimantan, it is said that the program policy will damage the function of protected forests to prevent it floods and landslides (Basundoro, 2020). This is because in using the program the applicant is given full freedom and is not required to make an environmental impact analysis. Applicants are only required to complete commitment documents and technical requirements such as a rapid Strategic Environmental Assessment (KLHS). As the aim of this program is an effort to develop the country so that progress in the world will be achieved.

However, it is also important to remember that development also needs to have a sustainable aspect. As we know, sustainable development ensures that the needs of the present are met without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It is very unfortunate for this concept of development Sustainable development does not state the limitations of applying technology that has an impact on environmental resources (Rifandini, 2020). Several efforts can be made to minimize the negative environmental impact of running a food estate program. One of them is an increase in the quality of investment directed towards innovation. also supported by the Blue Print for Spatial Planning/Land Use Management, which in its creation takes into account several aspects, one of which is the point of revitalizing the supporting physical environment for an optimal and sustainable hydrological cycle. Another effort made is economic development that is environmentally sustainable, seen through the use of renewable resources so that pollution is minimal.

CONCLUSION

Based on the comprehensive explanation above, it can be concluded that several things regarding the Food Estate policy have more advantages or disadvantages as follows:

1. Food Estate can increase food security in Indonesia
2. Food Estate can also cause less damage to the environment if it has a print that protects the environment and achieves sustainable development goals.

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