Synergy of Government and Society in Maximizing Food Security in Indonesia

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Abstract

The background of this research is the problem of low food security, namely the lack of food availability will have an impact on the difficulty of someone accessing food due to factors such as drought, economic instability, and scarcity of raw materials. One impact can lead to low levels of nutritional adequacy, decreased endurance and weakening of the level of intelligence, which will result in a lost generation that can hamper the development of the nation to progress. So that efforts are needed to overcome this problem such as food diversification, reducing imports accompanied by improving the quality of domestic production technology and the need for synergy between the government and the community to overcome these problems. The method in this study uses descriptive and exploratory methods that aim to present a complete picture of the situation to explore and clarify the phenomenon under study. Therefore, the synergy between the government and the community is expected to overcome the problem of food security in Indonesia.

Keywords: Food Security, Adequacy of Nutrition, Lost Generation, Food Diversification, Government and Community Synergy.

1. Introduction

The development of a wise society must be sustainable to improve human life expectancy in all generations without exploiting natural resources more than the capacity and the earth support. One of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) is zero hunger which are stopping hunger, reaching food sufficiency, nutritional adequacy, and improving sustainable agriculture. Zero hunger is the way to fix problems related to food security due to its crucial role in many sectors involving education, health and economic sectors in many regions.

Food security is the availability of food and the individual ability to access it. In broaden meaning, food security based on the bill of Republic of Indonesia number 18 year 2012 is the condition of food fulfillment for individuals based on the quantity, quality, safety, diversity, nutritionally balance, equality, affordability and comply religious believe as well as culture to produce healthy, active and productive sustainably. Therefore, food security is an essential needs for every state and individu (Suryana, 2013).

Food security is determined by food supply from distribution, production and substitution. There are some factors influenced the production of food namely, land ownership, land function, type and land supervision, and the others. Moreover, agricultural sectors defined food production since many areas of Indonesia are dominated by local crops. Some factors such as weather, rainfall, and temperature are the major determinant for cultivation. However, land utilization, water and energy to increase food production is not always become prioritize since it follows by other needs. Thus, food security in Indonesia is always stuck at the same position because some problems like poverty, public awareness, government awareness and etc have not been solved.

There are some challenges which should be encountered by developing countries to maintain food security. First of all, the short-term challenges about negative impact of global financial crisis generate economic downturn, jobless growth, and low consumer buying power which decay society’s access to food. Secondly, the mid-term up to long-term challenges about climate change is the ability to adapt in that condition. Sudden changing of climate is dangerous threats for food security because agriculture is susceptible to adapt with instant climate change (Mc Carl et al., 2001). Contextually, citizen from developing country who have lower income are more susceptible because their capacity of adaptation in climate change is miserable (IPCC, 2001); moreover, most of them rely on agricultural sector to survive.
The low food security is a lack of food availability that complicates people to access it. This is caused by some factors such as drought, economic instability, raw material scarcity and etc. The lows of food security in Indonesia become a complex national issues that affect many sectors especially health, economic and social sectors. These conditions create malnutrition among society that reduce immune system, and brain function that will create poor generation and slowdown the development of country. “Food security problem is life matter and the death of nation.” A speech of Indonesian first president, Soekarno,

2. Method
   1. Type of Research

This research uses descriptive and explorative researches. Descriptive research aims at presenting complete description about social situation or exploring and clarifying a certain phenomenon or social reality by using some variables related to problem and unit observed between experimented phenomena. Explorative research is the newest research which is never done previously. This research is to explore and describes something that has not existed yet.

2. Research Approach

Qualitative approach is defined as researcher perspective by adopting quantitative research design. Understanding its definition is the characteristic. The characteristic of quantitative research design involved static research which is more detail, rigid, static and suitable to arranged plot from beginning and never changed. Maturity on the planning is the key to success in this research.

3. Research Object

Synergy between government and the society to maximize Indonesia Food Security is the concern of this research.

3. Result and Discussion

In 1940, every Indonesian consumed 86 kg rice annually. Following by that in 1952, around 75 million people in Indonesia need 6.5 tons rice production. Otherwise, the production of rice was only 5.5 million tons at the time. Consequently, Indonesia should import from Siam (Thailand), Saigon (Vietnam) and Burma. Regardless, Soekarno did not want to depend on imported rice. He realized that import policy has destroyed the country currency. However, the solution has not been found yet which cause Indonesia cannot stop to imports until nowadays. This condition becomes problematic since Indonesian dependency on imported food increase constantly (Saleim et al. 2008).

Continuing Soekarno’s program in old order, new order government also done many programs to fix food security problems. It seems that there was increase in achieving food security but the result was not yet significant. The improvement of food security production is one of the reasons to keep the availability of food security in Indonesia. Many concepts and discussions about food security are always conducted continuously along with its implementation. On the other hand, the level of high dependency toward rice consumption challenges the government to lead this country in order to fulfill the society’s food security.

The government provide 3 strategies to resolve the lows of food security in Indonesia. The first strategy is conducting dietary diversification. The dietary diversification is a process to decide food without focusing on one type but also production aspect, tabulation, distribution and consumption in the level of household (Tampubolon, 1998).

Nevertheless, the goal of dietary diversification does not only depend on the rice so that the consumption pattern of society can vary and balance to get a better nutrition adequacy. Indonesia is one of countries that become a second highest commodity of cassava in the world after Thailand. This will be a good chance for Indonesia to include cassava as one of agricultural products. Besides cassava, some commodities namely sweet potato, sago, banana, breadfruit, and potato can also be produced as local industrial products. These food resources can be processed as flour so it will be produced as various local food to increase the value. If the production and consumption of rice increase yearly (Table 1)

Secondly, imports should be reduced by improving the quality of local production technology. Indonesia food diversity is commonly known as decreasing the consumption of rice by adding other food commodity.
One of reasons of dietary diversification becomes the crucial things is because the decrease of rice consumption will contribute to provide positive impact toward rice imports dependency from other country. Food crisis experienced by countries worldwide, including Indonesia shows that food security must be prioritized as big as possible through national resources because imports dependency causes congestion of economic, social and politic flush (Juarni, 2006).

The third is synergy between the government and the society to manage food security problems that has been existed since the era of the former president, Soekarno. As a matter of fact, it is hard to deal with society awareness in consuming food since most of them ignore about it. For example, in Jakarta, high population area, people tend to buy any food without considering the quality as long as the price is affordable. It is not shocking because Indonesia still face problems related to poverty. The condition of poverty in Indonesia can be seen in graphic 1. Thus, the collaboration of the government and the society will be helpful especially to find the solution of minimizing poverty to get better food security. If the government and the society work individually without any cooperation this expectation will be only a dream. Once, the government provides new programs, it is advantageous if the society also participate on it.

An action to improve agricultural sector by adding maximum fund and supervision are proper way to be executed by the society and the government. The government has to do an active role for every activities conducted. This is because the government is a central reference for people when they want to increase the quality of food commodity. The more qualified programs conducted by the government is the better result taken by the society. Food security will be achieved if every people in every time has physical and economical access toward safety food and high quality of food based on the nutritional need and the preference for active and healthy life (FAO and WWC,2015). Thus, the synergy between the government and the society is expected as the door to open for food security enhancement in Indonesia.

4. Conclusion

Food security is a serious problem that should be sorted out since it will be impacted many sectors of society’s life where it cannot be resolved immediately. That is why, the government has done many efforts to overcome food security problem in Indonesia like dietary diversification using local commodity and imports reduction along with quality of local production technology improvement. Some of them are needed to achieve the goal to fix the problem of food security in Indonesia. However, the synergy between the government and the society in cooperation and supervision to reduce poverty and maximize food security are also crucial. It will be useless if the synergy between the government and the society is not applied. Thus, the society especially farmer or people who work in food sectors must be more opened toward the government programs offered. An action to improve agricultural sector by adding maximum fund and supervision are proper way to be executed by the society and the government. The government has to do an active role for every activities conducted. This is because the government is a central reference for people when they want to increase the quality of food commodity. The more qualified programs conducted by the government is the better result taken by the society. Thus, the synergy between the government and the society is expected as the door to open for food security enhancement in Indonesia.

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Reference


