

Member Participation in the Management of Women Farmer Group Activities

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Abstract. The Women Farmer's Group was formed to improve the ability of farmers and their families in agriculture. Women's participation is expected to improve the community's economy through horticultural businesses. The growth of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmer Group can be seen from the increase in the number of members. This study uses a quantitative descriptive method and was conducted in January 2024 involving 50 administrators and members as respondents who were taken by census. Analysis with the Spearman Rating Correlation Coefficient shows high participation in planning, implementation, utilization of results, and evaluation of activities. This group of women farmers develops horticultural farming businesses ranging from vegetables to fruits. Although there were variations in family support, leisure time, extension roles, and economic motivation, all factors showed a close relationship with the effectiveness of activities. The role of extension workers has a strong correlation, especially at the implementation stage. It is recommended to improve communication and collaboration between members to encourage participation.

1 Introduction

Indonesia is an agrarian country that depends on the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector is rich in diverse food availability. The agricultural sector is a lever for agriculture. Agriculture has the potential to advance the economy. This potential must be utilized and developed as best as possible to help create jobs. In the process of agricultural development, it is inseparable from the intervention of farmers. Currently, the position of women as partners is equal to that of men. Becoming a farmer is not only done by men, but women have various roles in agriculture [1].

Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency, in 2019 the number of farmers in Indonesia was 33.44 million people, of which 8,051,328 farmers were women. Data shows that the condition of women farmers taking part in agriculture in Indonesia. This realization can be done with various efforts that can support agricultural development. One of them is by forming a group or institution whose activities are focused on agriculture cultivated by women. The Women's Farmer Group is an agricultural institution managed by its members, namely women. Women Farmer Groups can be formed because of the similarity of the type of agriculture they are engaged in and where they live nearby.

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One of the government's programs for the advancement of agriculture is the Women Farmers Group Program. The purpose of the formation of the Women Farmer Group is to develop and improve the ability of farmers and families as subjects in agricultural development. This shows that farmers who support the Farmer Women Group have their own advantages over farmers who do not join the farmer group. The Farmer Women Group will not run without participation [2]. The importance of participation in the activities of the Women Farmer Group will help achieve agricultural success. Participation plays an active role in a series of processes starting from the stages of socialization, planning, and implementation of activities. Participation can be in the form of ideas/suggestions, energy in the form of presence, and participation in the form of materials. The participation and support of women farmers involved in the Women Farmers Group is expected to help improve the community's economy by establishing a business engaged in horticultural crops. One of the Farmer Women Groups that focuses on horticultural crops is the Merapi Asri Farmer Women Group [3].

Based on the results of the pre-survey obtained from the chairperson of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group, the establishment of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group began with the interest of the group leader in the agricultural sector. This interest existed after the group leader had the opportunity to conduct four comparative studies to exporting companies in Bandung, West Java. In 2010 and decided to seek information related to agricultural activities in the neighbourhood where he lived. At the meeting group, the chairman conveyed the idea of exporting vegetables to the members of group. The newly formed Women's Farmer Group had a very strong determination to sell vegetables from their own produce. The rapid development made the mothers join the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group. Members of the Women Farmers Group always take care of their crops so that their French chickpeas meet the criteria of export standards.

Based on the results of a survey on the Merapi Asri Farmers Women's Group, at harvest time the members were reluctant to work and felt bored because of the long assessment process. Seeing this situation, it is known that in 2023 the active members of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group are decreasing. This can happen because the members of the Farmer Women Group are easily bored, and their enthusiasm is only in the early days of carrying out French chickpea production activities. Even so, with the number of group members and only a few active members currently, the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group is still running but with the production of seeds and fruit products from different commodities. Based on these conditions, how the activities of the members of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group and how the participation of members of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group, as well as what factors correlate with the participation of members of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group. This study aims to describe the activities of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group, describe the participation of members and factors that correlate with the participation of members of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group.

2 Research method

This research was conducted on the "Merapi Asri" Farmer Women Group in Gowok Ringin Hamlet, Sengi Village, Dukun District, Magelang Regency. with 50 samples of farmer association members taken by the census method on January 2024. This study uses a quantitative descriptive method with a survey technique. Primary data were collected through interviews using structured questionnaires. Indicators of member participation, including member participation in planning, implementation, utilization of results and evaluation, were measured using the Likert scale with scores of (5) very often, (4) frequently, (3) sometimes, (2) rarely, and (1) never. For factors that correlate with member participation in the

management of Merapi Asri Women Farmers Group activities, the data was analyzed using the *Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient Test*.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Profile of Members of the Merapi Asri Women Farmers Group

A profile is needed to find out the background and condition of Woman Farmer Group members. The profile of the members of the Merapi Asri Farmer Women Group can be identified based on characteristics such as age, education, occupation, and land area can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Profile of Members of the Merapi Asri Women Farmer Group

Description	Number (Person)	Percentage (%)
Age (years)		
31-45	18	60
46-60	10	33.33
61-75	2	6.67
Education		
Elementary school	11	36.67
Yunior high school	10	33.33
Senior high school	7	23.33
Bachelor's degree	2	6.67
Work		
Farmer	26	83.67
Self-employed	3	10
Civil servants	1	3.33

Members of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmer Group have the youngest member who is 32 years old while the oldest member is 63 years old. The majority of the members of the Farmer Women Group are in the age of productive, meaning that members of the Farmer Women Group are still able to run agricultural businesses well. This shows that the members of the Merapi Asri Women Farmer Group are very enthusiastic in carrying out group activities so that the activities run smoothly and conductively. Members of the Women Farmer Group over 60 years old showed that the activities of the Farmer Women Group are not only carried out by members at an age that is considered productive in working, but can be carried out with members who are not included in the productive age with high enthusiasm in its implementation [4].

All Women Farmer Group members have received formal education. Although the majority of Women Farmer Group members are elementary school graduates at 36.67%. Conditions in the field show that the final level of indoctrination of members varies, most of the members of the Merapi Asri Farmer Women Group are educated in elementary, junior high school, high school school, and bachelor's degree. The most highly educated members are graduates of the bachelor's degree level. The level of education is an important factor for the progress of a group, because educated people certainly have broader experience and insight than uneducated people [5].

The majority of members of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group make a living as farmers. This is supported by the area of agricultural land in Sengi Village. However, there are several members of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmer Group who have side jobs totaling four members in the form of traders and civil servants. Meanwhile, there are 26 people who

work as farmers. In general, agricultural land is not cultivated every day. According to them, becoming a member of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group can reduce their underutilized free time. In addition, being a member of the Merapi Asri Women Farmer Group also has many benefits, both knowledge and experience for their farming.

3.2 Activities of the Merapi Asri Farmer Women Group

3.2.1 Meeting Activities

In the Merapi Asri Women Farmer Group, meeting activities are not only limited to routine meetings, but also include incidental meetings. Regular meetings are held regularly every month, precisely on the first Sunday of the month, starting at 16.00 and lasting until Maghrib time. The location of this meeting is usually held in a container house owned by the Merapi Asri Women Farmer Group or the house of the head of the group. An incidental meeting is a meeting that is held suddenly or unplanned in advance and does not have a clear agenda. Usually, this meeting is only attended by the management or interested members. Informal meetings are usually held at the secretariat of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmer Group, which is located in Gowok Ringin Hamlet, Sengi Village.

3.2.2 Production Activities

The main focus of the Women Farmers Group in Merapi Asri is the cultivation of longan and avocado from the planting stage to the harvest process. In addition to focusing on longan and avocado cultivation, the Merapi Asri Farmer Women Group also produces salted eggs as an expansion of products. They implemented a pre-order system to produce salted eggs, so that every incoming order would be produced immediately. Not only that, but this group also always provides surplus products which are then marketed by depositing them in nearby stores.

3.2.3 Marketing Activities

The marketing activities of the Merapi Asri Women Farmer Group are regulated in three ways. First, marketing is carried out at Mrs. Sрни's house. Mrs. Sрни is directly responsible for managing this marketing. The second way involves promoting products during events or exhibitions. In addition, the harvest from the private land of the members of this group is done by depositing these products at the nearest fruit shop or at other shops around their area.

3.3 Participation of Members of the Merapi Asri Farmer Women Group

Participation is the participation of every Women Farmer Group member in participating in the activities in the Merapi Asri Farmer Women Group. Participation includes planning, implementation, utilization of results, and evaluation. Details of the participation of members of the Merapi Asri Women's Farmers Group can be seen in the description below.

3.3.1 Participation in Planning

Participation in the planning of activities in the farmer women group is a process that empowers members to be actively involved in formulating goals, strategies, and implementing activities that are in accordance with the needs and aspirations of members. Through regular meetings, group discussions, and joint consultations, members can share

their experiences, knowledge, and expertise in determining the most effective measures to improve agricultural yields, improve family welfare, and strengthen their position in society. This participation not only provides an opportunity for members to feel that they have a planning process, but also strengthens solidarity and cooperation among members [5].

Table 2. Participation of Member of the Merapi Asri Woman Farmer Group in Planning

Planning	Score	Average Score	Category
Attending planning activities	1-5	3.83	High
Involved in setting schedules activities	1-5	3.87	High
Involved in the distribution process assignment	1-5	3.87	High
Engage in determining budget plan	1-5	2.33	Low
Engage in type selection of cultivated plants	1-5	3.87	High
Average Sum of Scores		3.55	Medium

Participation categories:

Low = 1 – 2.33

Medium = 2.34 – 3.66

High = 3.67 – 5

Based on the participation Table 2 in the planning above, the participation of members of the farmer women group is relatively high, except for one indicator that shows a low participation rate with an average score of 2.33. This indicator is involvement in determining the budget plan, which has been handled by administrators who have special tasks in this field [6]. However, it illustrates that in other respects, members of the peasant women group are active or involved in the planning process. This shows that there is a strong awareness and spirit of participation among members, however, it is important to ensure that all members have an equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of planning, including determining budgets, so that better equality can be realized [7].

3.3.2 Participation in Implementation

Participation in implementation is a process in which individuals or groups are actively involved in carrying out and implementing certain activities, programs, or projects. Participation in implementation allows various parties to have an active role in the process, strengthen their involvement, improve the quality of the results, and create a greater sense of ownership of the final result [8].

Table 3. Participation of the Merapi Asri Farmer Woman Group in Implementation

Implementation	Score	Average Score	Category
Involved in land management activities	1-5	3.67	High
Involved in managing resources to support woman farmer group success	1-5	3.70	High
Participation in the work land preparation before planting	1-5	3.67	High
Engage in work grow	1-5	4.30	High
Engage in maintenance plant	1-5	4,3	High
Average Sum of Scores		3.93	High

Category Participation:

Low = 1 – 2.33

Medium = 2.34 – 3.66

High = 3.67 – 5

From Table 3, it can be seen that the members of the Merapi Asri Farmer Women Group show high participation in implementation activities. This high average participation score can be interpreted as a high level of awareness among members about the benefits that can be obtained through active involvement in the implementation process. They consistently acknowledge the importance of the implementation stage in bringing ideas and plans to life. This view is reflected in the belief that a theory or concept only has true value when applied in practice [9]. Therefore, awareness of the importance of implementation is the main driver of high participation in these activities. The importance of the implementation stage also illustrates the deep understanding of the members of the Merapi Asri Women Farmer Group of the close relationship between planning and implementation. They realize that without an effective implementation stage, all planning and preparation efforts will only be in vain. Therefore, members of this group recognize the importance of following up on the plan with concrete actions to achieve the expected goals [10].

3.3.3 Participation in the Utilization of Results

Participation in the utilization of agricultural products is an important aspect of the agricultural process that involves the active involvement of members in utilizing agricultural products or products efficiently and sustainably. It includes activities such as processing, marketing, and distribution of agricultural products. With strong participation in the utilization of produce, members of agricultural groups can increase the added value of their products, create better economic opportunities, and strengthen food and economic security at the local level [11]. Thus, participation in the utilization of the results not only improves the welfare of members, but also contributes to the development of sustainable agricultural communities.

Table 4. Participation of Members of the Merapi Asri Farmer Women Group in the Utilization of Results

Utilization of Results	Score	Average Score	Category
Involved in the preparation of the sale of the crop	1-5	3.80	High
Involved in determining the means of women farmer group product sales	1-5	2.94	Medium
Active in helping market women farmer group products through social media such as <i>whatsapp</i>	1-5	2.13	Low
Share content or posts about group products	1-5	2.00	Low
Engage in exhibitions that women farmer group product display	1-5	4.27	High
Engage in delivery products to consumers	1-5	2.17	Low
Group activities affect social relationships	1-5	4.50	High
Improves well-being economics	1-5	3.87	High
		3.21	Medium

Participation categories:

Low = 1 – 2.33

Medium = 2.34 – 3.66

High = 3.67 – 5

Based on Table 4, the participation of the Merapi Asri Farmer Women Group in the utilization of the results has several categories, namely low, medium, and high. The low participation category can occur because many members still cannot use it to market products through *WhatsApp* or share content related to group products. In addition, the delivery of

products to consumers is also in the low category because members have been divided into their respective duties, including delivering and sometimes products are picked up by consumers themselves [12]. For the medium and high categories because the members of the peasant women group realizing that the utilization of agricultural products is an important step to increase the added value of their products and support the economic well-being of the group. This awareness is reflected in the active involvement of members in activities such as processing, marketing, and distribution of agricultural products [13]. They understand that with effective utilization of results, they can increase revenues, expand markets, and strengthen their economic standing at the local level. Therefore, this high awareness and involvement encourages sustainable participation and has a positive impact on the Merapi Asri Farmer Group Women [14].

3.3.4 Participation in Evaluation

Participation in evaluation is a process in which individuals or groups are actively involved in assessing or evaluating a program, activity, or initiative. Through this participation, they provide their input, opinions, and experiences to help understand the successes, weaknesses, and impacts of what is being evaluated.

Table 5. Participation of Members of the Merapi Asri Farmer Women Group in the Evaluation

Evaluation	Score	Average Score	Category
Engage in meetings that discuss the evaluation of group activities	1-5	4.20	High
Engage in identifying problems in group implementation	1-5	4.03	High
Feel like contributing to group	1-5	3.97	High
Engage in providing criticism and suggestions for sustainability group	1-5	3.23	Medium
Feeling that the results of group activities have a positive impact on the condition of farm members	1-5	4.40	High
Average Sum of Scores		3.97	High

Participation categories:

- Low = 1 – 2.33
- Medium = 2.34 – 3.66
- High = 3.67 – 5

Participation in the evaluation in the Merapi Asri women farmer group showed high results (Table 5). This shows that the women involved in this group are very influential and involved in the decisions made by the group. In addition, the similarity in evaluating problems and various efforts made by this group makes the evaluation process more effective and efficient. In the medium category, there is a small percentage of members who participate in the evaluation. This does not avoid the possibility that they also have a good contribution to the evaluation process [15]. Overall participation in the evaluation realm was excellent because members felt that in this evaluation they were valued and had space to share different ideas and opinions. This makes the Merapi Asri women farmer group more compact in solving problems and increasing their crop yields [1].

The participation of members in the management of the activities of the Merapi Asri women's farmer group is influenced by a number of factors that correlate with their participation level. Family support, for example, is an important factor that allows members

to be actively involved in group activities. The free time that members have also plays a role in facilitating their participation. In addition, the role of extension workers and chairmen in providing direction and motivation to members also affects their participation level in the management of activities. Economic and social motivation also plays an influence in encouraging members to be actively involved. The indicators of participation include planning, implementation, utilization of results, and evaluation of activities, all of which are interrelated and affect each other. To find out the relationship between participation and the factors that correlate with it, the analysis using the Spearman Rank *Coefficient Test technique* with the help of *software*, namely SPSS. The results of this coefficient test can then be categorized with an interval table of correlation coefficient values and relationship strength according to Sugiyono, thus obtaining a deeper understanding of the relationship between participation and the factors that influence it.

Table 6. Factors Correlated with Members' Participation in the Management of Merapi Asri Women Farmers Group Activities in Planning

Factors	Planning	Category
	Rs	
Family support	0.112	Very Low
Leisure	0.35	Low
Role of extension workers	0.441	Medium
Role of the chairman	0.241	Low
Economic motivation	0.256	Low
Social motivation	-0.023	Very Low

Factors that correlate with the participation of group members in the management of farmer women's group activities show diverse relationship patterns. Planning has a very low relationship with social motivation and family support, as well as a low relationship with leisure, chairmanship, and economic motivation (Table 6). However, it has a moderate relationship with the role of extension workers, showing a complementarity in factors that affect the participation rate of members in the activities of women farmers [16].

Table 7. Factors Correlated with Members' Participation in the Management of Merapi Asri Women Farmers Group in the Implementation of Activities

Factors	Implementation	Category
	Rs	
Family support	-0.086	Very Low
Leisure	0.508	Medium
Role of extension workers	0.772	Strong
Role of the chairman	0.261	Low
Economic motivation	0.17	Very low
Social motivation	-0.023	Very Low

Implementation has a very low relationship with family support, social motivation, and economic motivation. In addition, the relationship between the implementation and the role of the chairman also tends to be low (Table 7). Even so, there is a moderate relationship between the implementation and the free time of members. However, the most striking thing is the close relationship between the implementation and the role of the extension worker, which indicates that the role of the extension worker has an even relationship in increasing the participation of members in the management of the activities of the farmer women's group in the implementation [17].

Table 8. Factors Correlated with Members' Participation in the Management of Merapi Asri Women Farmer Group Activities in the Utilization of Results

Factors	Utilization of Results	Category
	Rs	
Family support	-0.048	Very Low
Leisure	0.254	Low
Role of extension workers	0.377	Low
Role of the chairman	-0.075	Very Low
Economic motivation	0.362	Low
Social motivation	-0.277	Low

The utilization of the results had a very low relationship with family support and the role of the chairman (Table 8). In addition, there is a low relationship between participation and leisure time, the role of extension worker, economic motivation, and social motivation [18]. This shows that factors such as family support, the role of the chairman, social motivation, leisure time, the role of the facilitator, and economic motivation have no effect on the participation of members in the product management activities of the farmer women group [19].

Table 9. Factors Correlated with Members' Participation in the Management of Merapi Asri Women Farmer Group Activities in the Evaluation

Factors	Evaluation	Category
	Rs	
Family support	0.162	Very Low
Leisure	0.26	Low
Role of extension workers	0.24	Low
Role of the chairman	-0.024	Very Low
Economic motivation	0.248	Low
Social motivation	0.079	Very Low

In the evaluation of the participation of members of the farmer women group in the management of activities (Table 9), there was a correlation that showed that family support, the role of the chairman, and social motivation had a very low relationship with participation [20]. Meanwhile, leisure time, the role of extension workers, and economic motivation also showed a low relationship with member participation. This indicates that these factors do not correlate with participation in the management of farmer women's group activities [3].

4 Conclusion and recommendation

Based on the results and discussion of research on the participation of members in the management of the activities of the Merapi Asri Women Farmers Group, the following conclusions were obtained The activity of the Merapi Asri farmer women group is to comprehensively understand the activities carried out by the group. By holding Regular and incidental meetings, they aim to build strong coordination and communication among members. In addition, through production activities, they strive to improve the agricultural productivity and skills of group members. And with marketing activities, the goal is to expand the market reach and increase the income of the group members as a whole. Thus, not only illustrates their activities, but also provides valuable insights for further development and improvement of the well-being of its members.

The participation of members in the management of the activities of the Merapi Asri Women Farmers Group is an important element in determining the extent of members' involvement in group activities. Through planning, implementation, utilization of results, and evaluation, members of Merapi Asri Women Farmers Group are actively involved in every stage of group activities, both in preparing plans, carrying out tasks, utilizing results, and evaluating the achievement of goals. This participation helps ensure the effectiveness of the group's activities and provides opportunities for members to provide constructive input for future improvements.

Based on the results of Rank Spearman, planning has a low relationship with social motivation, family support, leisure time, the role of the chairman, and economic motivation, but has a moderate relationship with the role of the extension worker. Implementation showed a low relationship with family support, social motivation, chairman's role, and economic motivation, its relationship with the member's leisure time was moderate. Meanwhile, the striking role of extension workers. The utilization of results showed a low relationship with the same factors as implementation. The evaluation of member participation confirmed that family support, the role of the chairman, social motivation, leisure time, the role of extension workers, and economic motivation did not have a strong effect on participation in the management of farmer women's group activities.

Recommendation of the research are needed to improve communication and collaboration between members of Merapi Asri Women Farmers Group, especially in the process of planning and implementing activities. This can be done through the establishment of regular discussion forums, group meetings, or other activities that allow members to share ideas, experiences, and support each other. Accommodating Member Needs is important to understand and accommodate the diverse needs of Merapi Asri Women Farmers Group members. This includes considering the availability of members' free time, providing appropriate economic incentives, and paying attention to family support and social motivation in planning and executing group activities.

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