

Ageing Farmers Issue and Youth Engagement Program in Agriculture Sector: A Case Study of PATRA Community

ABSTRACT

Aging farmers has been a worldwide phenomenon either in developed or developing countries. Less and less of the young generation working in the agriculture sector as farmers in consequence of negative stigma that has been attached to it. Farmers are the lowest and not prestigious profession, the farmer's profession is considered dirty work, low in social strata, and has no future. The phenomenon is also happening in Indonesia, even though agriculture sector has a significant contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) still only a few of the youth willingly working in this sector. The lack of knowledge given to them since they were in school is seen as one of the reasons young people think negatively about agriculture.

Providing knowledge about agriculture through formal education and training is one way to foster the interest of generations in the agricultural sector. PATRA (Pelatihan Anak Tani Remaja) is an agricultural training activity initiated by an agricultural instructor in Bondowoso regency, East Java Province since 2003, which focus on giving knowledge about agriculture to the youth. This study aims to elaborate the motivation of young people who choose agriculture as a livelihood and the role of agricultural community (PATRA) and to find out the policies carried out by the government for farmers' regeneration would affect positively to the young generation motivation in agriculture. Qualitative method (case study) is chosen as the research design to explore in depth narratives about the involvement of the young generation in agriculture. This research was conducted in two regencies (Bondowoso Regency and Bojonegoro Regency) in East Java Province. The determinant factor of the research location is based on the contribution of agriculture products (rice) to the total national production. The results of this study indicate that internal and external factors (education, family, social economy, socialization, technology, government support) have a significant influence on the motives and interest of the millennials. These millennials (PATRA members) also notice that agriculture has great importance for life. Huge attention by the government in attracts young generation to engage agriculture may become the boost in the farmer regeneration process.

Keywords: *Agriculture, youth generation, motives, interest, farming, training, PATRA*