



Integration of Green Economy with Social Values in Batudulang Coffee Farmers, Sumbawa

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ABSTRAK

Artikel ini mengkaji bagaimana integrasi ekonomi hijau dengan nilai-nilai sosial dan keterlibatan politik di kalangan petani kopi Batudulang. Tujuannya adalah untuk mendorong pembangunan ekonomi berkelanjutan sambil melestarikan sumber daya alam dan budaya lokal. Desa Batudulang menghadapi tantangan dalam menyeimbangkan modernisasi dengan praktik tradisional. Meskipun nilai-nilai sosial kuat, konservasi sumber daya alam terhambat oleh perkembangan pembangunan yang pesat. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan penelitian aksi partisipatif, melibatkan petani di setiap tahapannya. Data dikumpulkan melalui observasi, wawancara, dan diskusi. Temuan-temuan menunjukkan potensi integrasi pengetahuan lokal dan praktik berkelanjutan untuk meningkatkan kesejahteraan ekonomi sambil melindungi lingkungan dan warisan budaya. Partisipasi masyarakat dalam konservasi ekosistem sangat penting, tetapi membutuhkan kepemimpinan dan komunikasi yang lebih kuat.

Kata Kunci : Green Ekonomi, Nilai-Nilai Sosial, Komunikasi

ABSTRACT

This article investigates how to integrate a green economy with social values and political engagement among Batudulang coffee farmers. The goal is to promote sustainable economic development while preserving natural resources and local culture. The village faces challenges in balancing modernization with traditional practices. While social values are strong, natural resource conservation is hindered by rapid development. To address these issues, this study uses a participatory action research approach, involving farmers in every stage. Data is collected through observation, interviews, and discussions. The findings highlight the potential of integrating local knowledge and sustainable practices to improve economic well-being while protecting the environment and cultural heritage. Community participation in ecosystem conservation is crucial, but requires stronger leadership and communication.

Keywords : Green Economy, Social Values, Communication.

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A. Introduction

The rapid development of infrastructure in the era of modernization and globalization often neglects natural resource preservation, especially in mountain communities (Retnoningsih, 2013). Green economy, which prioritizes environmental conservation and economic growth, seeks to address this issue by integrating sustainability goals with social values (Bungi, 2007; D'amato and Korhonen, 2021). This involves promoting renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and improved social welfare through environmentally friendly practices (Ahmadi et al., 2023; Setiadi et al., 2024).

Mountain communities, with their unique social and ecological values, are crucial to this approach. However, balancing increased crop yields with environmental preservation remains a challenge. Green economy offers a solution by emphasizing reduced environmental risks and improved human well-being, while respecting local cultural values (Anshori, 2020; Harahap et al., 2021; Setiadi et al., 2024).

This research aims to integrate green economy and social values in Batudulang coffee farmer groups in Sumbawa Regency. By involving local communities in decision-making and utilizing their traditional knowledge, it seeks to achieve sustainable economic development while conserving natural resources and respecting local cultural values. As highlighted by Harris and Nelson (Harris, 2022), indigenous knowledge plays a crucial role in climate change adaptation, particularly in communities like Batudulang that have a deep-rooted connection to their environment (A. Fadli & Sazali, 2023; Hadikurnia, 2019).

Batudulang Village, located in Sumbawa Regency, West Nusa Tenggara, is one of the villages known for its coffee production with its mountainous terrain and rich cultural heritage, a common characteristic of many coffee-producing regions (Altieri, 2019). By integrating sustainable practices into the coffee production process, the community can improve their economic well-being, preserve their environment, and maintain their cultural identity.

B. Method

This research employ a qualitative Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach to actively involve Batudulang coffee farmers in all research stages. This method aligns with Afandi (Afandi, 2015), emphasizing data collection through observations, interviews, and discussions. The PAR approach, as outlined by Kindon, Pain, and Kesby (Kindon et al., 2007), involves participation, research, and action, fostering collaborative change. Data collection will involve in-depth interviews and observations with farmers, youth groups, and village officials. Purposive sampling will be used to select knowledgeable informants. Data analysis will identify patterns, gaps, and significant findings. By integrating local knowledge and sustainable practices, this research aims to contribute to the economic well-being of the community while preserving the environment and cultural heritage.

C. Result and Discussion

This section presents the findings from a study conducted in Batudulang Village, Sumbawa Regency, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, specifically focusing on the coffee farming community. The majority of the village's population is of Sumbawa ethnicity, primarily engaged in farming. The research aimed to explore sustainable economic development opportunities that could minimize environmental impact and respect local cultural values. Despite economic pressures to maximize yields, the villagers possess valuable local knowledge in sustainable land management and environmentally friendly practices. To achieve a deeper understanding of these practices, the following key findings emerged from the research:

Community Sustainable Agriculture Practices

Batudulang Village in Sumbawa Regency demonstrates the integration of local knowledge and sustainable agricultural practices. Farmers utilize organic fertilizers to enhance soil fertility and reduce reliance on harmful chemicals. Additionally, natural pest control methods, such as using pest-repellent plants and predators, minimize the use of chemical pesticides. As highlighted by Harris and Nelson (Harris, 2022), indigenous knowledge or local wisdom plays a crucial role in climate change adaptation, particularly in communities like Batudulang that have a deep-rooted connection to their environment.

Conservation, change and impact

This research also highlights the various methods employed by the residents of Punik Hamlet, Batudulang Village, to conserve the natural environment that is integral to their lives. Sustainable practices are deeply embedded in their daily activities. For instance, when clearing new land for coffee farming, they plant replacement crops such as coffee to mitigate ecological impacts like landslides.

As one interviewee noted,

“Landslides are quite frequent, especially in certain areas within the core of the plantation, extending even to the cliffs along the main road. This is particularly concerning during the rainy season. We are not entirely certain of the primary cause, but we believe it is partly due to the degrading ecosystem. When clearing land, we ensure that replacement or interim crops are planted during the growing season”. Interview, July 7, 2024

The community practices sustainable hunting to ensure that animal populations are not drastically reduced. These conservation efforts are further supported by traditional ceremonies and spiritual practices related to nature, as well as replanting initiatives aimed at mitigating soil erosion and preventing landslides. However, the study also found that environmental conditions in the village have been affected by human activities. While the overall environment remains generally stable, certain areas have become landslide hotspots due to factors such as vehicle vibrations, population growth, hunting activities, illegal logging, and the expansion of maize farming.

As noted in an interview conducted on July 7, 2024

“Heavy vehicles frequently travel along the village’s main roads to access other villages, and the village population increases every year. Additionally, hunting activities, illegal logging, and the opening of new land for maize farming contribute to environmental degradation. New land openings are typically carried out by small groups or families.”

Maize cultivation, compared to coffee farming, poses a greater ecological risk due to its impact on soil erosion and degradation. To mitigate these challenges, a comprehensive approach is necessary. This includes implementing structured conservation programs, raising public awareness about sustainable practices, and introducing eco-friendly technologies. By adopting these measures, Batudulang Village can achieve a harmonious balance between economic development and environmental preservation.

The study reveals that the political engagement and decision-making involvement of farmer groups are currently minimal. Given that individuals and groups within the community are political beings who operate under principles of justice and equality, they should have access to political participation through strategic decision-making processes at the village level. This is particularly important in the areas of economic development, stability, and environmental risk reduction, especially in the context of utilizing ecological natural resources. As political entities and key drivers of sustainability, communities should be afforded equal opportunities in development, conservation efforts, and transparency. This engagement should be grounded in their traditional knowledge, which serves as a vital asset within the principle of equality in the green economy framework.



Figure 1: Mena Ai Angat farmer group members harvesting rice

Several factors contribute to the weak involvement of certain groups in the village's priority programs. First, political factors such as inequality, land disputes, and differing political views within the village impact the sustainability of these programs. Second, as cultural entities, certain farmer groups perceive a lack of transparent leadership and community solidarity, which they view as significant leadership weaknesses. Despite these challenges, farmer groups have proven themselves as independent social entities with valuable ideas for ecosystem development and preservation through their social and cultural activities.

Moreover, the community at large demonstrates high involvement in development projects through deliberation and gotong royong (mutual cooperation). This spirit of gotong royong reflects a collective commitment to the village's progress and ensures that development projects are implemented with active community participation. Such involvement not only enhances the success of these projects but also ensures their alignment with local needs and aspirations. Development projects that engage communities tend to be more sustainable and successful because they reflect local contexts and realities. The concept of "gotong royong" reflects the strong sense of community and cooperation that is essential for achieving sustainable development goals (Pimentel & Burgess, 2023).

However, despite this general involvement, the local village government has not fully facilitated the participation of farmer groups. As one community member noted in an interview:

"Indeed, as local residents, we are sufficiently involved in the village development programs. However, as a group of coffee farmers, we largely handle agricultural programs and forest ecosystem stability on our own because there are quite a few farmer communities here. We are not included in empowerment programs as a farmer group, perhaps because we have different political views and thus are not sufficiently involved". Interview on August 2, 2024.

To address these challenges, it is crucial to ensure that all community members have equal access to decision-making processes. This will empower individuals and groups to actively participate in shaping the village's future, fostering economic development, stability, and environmental sustainability. By leveraging traditional knowledge and principles of justice and equality, communities can play a pivotal role in driving a green economy. While farmer groups have demonstrated their commitment to environmental conservation, challenges related to leadership and communication hinder their full potential. Strengthening communication channels between leaders and community members is essential to enhance participation and ensure that development initiatives align with local needs and priorities (Effendy, 2003; Liliweri, 2005; Mufidah & Ahmadi, 2023; Mulyana, 2014; Suprpto, 2009).

Community role of farmer groups

The villagers of Batudulang engage in various activities beyond coffee farming, including honey hunting, which plays a significant role in both the economic and environmental sustainability of the forest ecosystem. According to local residents, the presence of honey indicates a healthy, natural, and well-protected forest. The honey-hunting community is responsible for managing honey collection, a traditional practice that demands specialized skills and bravery. This knowledge, encompassing techniques for managing and sustaining forest bees, is passed down through generations.

One of the villagers remarked, "Our coffee production here is already well-known and widely sold in several cities. As for honey, we involve our children from a young age, allowing them to observe at least, using the traditional methods we have learned and passed down". Interview on August 2, 2024.

The integration of additional resources and training could significantly enhance the effectiveness and capacity of these groups. Another villager emphasized, "As farmers, we always feel that we live side by side with the forest, caring for it as it cares for us. We are also always open to discussions with anyone about forest development and production land". Interview on August 2, 2024.

Overall, the farmer groups and honey-hunting communities in Batudulang contribute not only to the village economy but also to the strengthening of social bonds and the transmission of skills across generations. While coffee and rice farming remain the primary sources of income, honey hunting is crucial for maintaining the forest ecosystem. The intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge ensures the sustainability of these practices. To further enhance the contributions of these groups, additional support in the form of resources and training is essential. These communities not only bolster the local economy but also reinforce social cohesion and the transfer of skills between generations.

Formal education and local knowledge

The formal education system in Batudulang Village is limited to the junior high school level. A key feature of this education system is the incorporation of local wisdom into the curriculum, which reflects the village's culture and traditions (Barzilai & Chinn, 2020; Kurnia et al., 2022; Postman, 1995). This approach provides students with a deep understanding of their cultural heritage. Beyond formal education, the family plays a crucial role in continuing the transmission of knowledge, particularly in areas such as agriculture and cultural

inheritance. This ensures that the younger generation not only understands but also values and preserves the traditions passed down through generations. As one parent stated in an interview conducted on August 2, 2024:

"As parents, we involve our teenage children in farming, gardening, and hunting. Before heading to the fields, we teach them the techniques, from soil cultivation, seedling, to maintenance and harvesting. This has become a form of family education handed down through generations."



Figure 2: farming with family from early age as an informal education

In addition to formal education, there are significant efforts in non-formal education to impart social and ecological values to children and the younger generation. Traditional knowledge, such as honey-hunting techniques and agricultural practices, is taught through storytelling and hands-on field experience. Parents and elders play an essential role in this educational process, ensuring that the knowledge and skills necessary to preserve the environment and cultural traditions are passed down to the next generation (Astrid, 2019; Effendi & Ahmadi, 2024). The concept of green economy aligns with the notion of sustainable development, which emphasizes meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

This program also includes the tradition of oral histories, which are integral to the community's daily life. Local folktales, myths, and legends are passed from one generation to the next, thereby strengthening social bonds and the cultural identity of the community.

As noted by a villager in an interview on August 2, 2024:

"Culturally, we have what is known as the Batutir tradition (oral tradition), taught by our village elders and parents in the past. It is one of the ways we maintain the cultural values we possess here, and we continue to practice this for our children and grandchildren".

These initiatives not only preserve local knowledge but also instill a sense of pride and responsibility in the younger generation to uphold their cultural heritage. The findings suggest that education should not only focus on academic aspects but also on the preservation and respect of local culture. As one interviewee pointed out on August 2, 2024: "When it comes to coffee production, Punik is among the best here (Sumbawa). However, formal education does not teach farming or hunting; we acquire that knowledge through local experience and traditions, including how to live harmoniously with nature".

By adopting this holistic approach, the community is able to strike a balance between modern development and the preservation of traditions, fostering a society that is both knowledgeable and responsible toward its environment and cultural heritage. Research conducted in Batudulang Village reveals that social values such as gotong royong (mutual cooperation), deliberation, and a strong belief in local traditions and spirituality form the core foundation of community life. The principle of gotong royong binds the community together in various daily activities, ranging from agricultural work to participation in traditional ceremonies. Furthermore, village meetings play a crucial role as a decision-making mechanism, ensuring that every community member has the opportunity to voice their opinions and engage in the collective process.



Figure 3: The people of Punik village performing the traditional "tambourine" ceremony.

Similarly, the culture in Punik Village is deeply influenced by traditions and ceremonies that have been passed down through generations. Notable traditions that are well-preserved include the ceremony to welcome the first of Muharram, which involves prayers, dhikr (remembrance of God), and the preparation of Lala oil, a traditional Sumbawa product. Additionally, the Maulid celebration is marked by lively communal activities. The community also engages in ceremonies to ward off bad luck, particularly in response to events like chain-reaction accidents or prolonged dry seasons. These ceremonies serve not only as cultural celebrations but also as vital mechanisms for reinforcing solidarity and social ties among community members. Cultural practices such as honey hunting, which require courage and specialized skills, further illustrate how traditions can serve as avenues for learning and character development. Honey hunting, for example, teaches younger generations values such as bravery, diligence, and technical expertise (Ahmadi & Yanuarti, 2020; Firnanda Listiyanti & Ahmadi, 2022; Sulaiman & Ahmadi, 2020).

The community's strong commitment to preserving its cultural heritage is evident in its continuous application of ancient traditions in daily life and its efforts to ensure that this knowledge is transmitted to future generations through storytelling and practical experience. The community's deep-rooted connection to the land is evident in their traditional ceremonies and rituals, which often involve interactions with nature and natural elements (Ahmadi, 2008; Judith, 2018,; Karki & Timsina, 2021).

The findings of this research underscore that the system of social values, culture, and customs in these villages is not merely symbolic; it plays an active and integral role in daily life and community building. These traditions are crucial for maintaining social harmony, strengthening community identity, and ensuring the sustainability of the noble values handed down by their ancestor (F. Fadli, 2017; Hasanah & Musyafak, 2017; Kurnia et al., 2020; Reziana & Sobur, 2023; Sobur et al., 2018).

D. Conclusion

This research underscores the significance of integrating green economy principles and social values within coffee farmer groups in Batudulang Village, Sumbawa Regency. These groups are pivotal in sustainable development efforts by effectively managing natural resources and adopting environmentally friendly agricultural practices. Despite facing challenges related to skills and knowledge in sustainable agriculture, the community has demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental conservation through the use of organic fertilizers and natural pest control methods. Facilitating community participation in strategic decision-making at the village level is essential. Communities, recognized as primary agents of sustainability, should have equitable access to opportunities in development, conservation, and transparency. Leveraging their traditional knowledge is crucial for fostering sustainability within the green economy framework.

Moreover, the people of Batudulang Village actively engage in development projects through deliberation and gotong royong (community cooperation). This active involvement not only ensures alignment with local needs but also enhances the sustainability and success of these initiatives. The tradition of village deliberation and the spirit of gotong royong reflect the community's collective dedication to advancing village progress. Furthermore, formal and non-formal education systems that integrate local wisdom play a vital role in preserving cultural values and traditional knowledge. Such educational efforts are instrumental in preparing the younger generation to uphold environmentally friendly practices and respect their cultural heritage.

It is important to ensuring inclusive political participation in village-level decision-making is crucial for advancing sustainable economic development and environmental conservation. However, the effectiveness of these efforts is often undermined by inadequate leadership communication, which hampers community

engagement and the clear dissemination of information. Strengthening communication within leadership structures is essential to maximizing the community's role in sustainability initiatives, thereby fostering greater participation and achieving long-term development goals. Recommendations for the development of Batudulang Village include enhancing training and education programs to improve farmers' skills in sustainable agriculture techniques. Providing economic incentives for farmers who adopt environmentally friendly practices is also essential.

Additionally, developing structured conservation programs for soil erosion mitigation and replanting, alongside widespread education and awareness campaigns on the importance of nature conservation, will be beneficial. Increasing community participation in decision-making through village meetings and utilizing local knowledge in agricultural practices and education are crucial steps to ensure the village's sustainable development. We expect that implementing these recommendations will improve the village's economic well-being while preserving the environment and local cultural heritage. Future research could focus on in-depth analysis of the specific impacts of agricultural practices. Agriculture practices sustainable agricultural practices on the productivity and economic well-being of farmers in Batudulang Village. Additionally, longitudinal studies that monitor environmental and social changes over an extended period will provide more comprehensive insights into the sustainability of these practices. Research could also explore the role of new technologies and innovations in supporting green farming as well as how formal and non-formal education can continue to strengthen awareness of sustainable farming practices and skills of farmers in maintaining a balance between economic and social ecology.

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