


## Empowerment Of Sweet Potato Farmers In Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<b>Keywords:</b> Community Empowerment, Government, Farmers, Cilembu Sweet Potato Farmers Group, Cilembu Sweet Potato	The government is required to play an active role in encouraging the implementation of Community Empowerment so that the powerlessness can finally be empowered, especially for farmers and sweet potato farmer groups in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, where the goal is for independence to be realized for farmers in making a living. The purpose of this study was to determine and analyze the supporting and inhibiting factors of Sweet Potato Farmer Community Empowerment in Cilembu Village, as well as to determine and analyze efforts to overcome the inhibiting factors of Sweet Potato Farmer Community Empowerment in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province. The method used is a qualitative approach with data collection techniques, namely interviews, observation and documentation. The data analysis technique in this study with several stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusions. Based on the results of field research, it can be seen that community empowerment for sweet potato farmer groups in Cilembu Village has not been maximized, due to various things that researchers have found in the field, namely: Minimal and lack of agricultural extension human resources, lack of implementation of routine agricultural Technical Guidance from upstream to downstream, especially understanding in reading climate and weather that always changes every season and farmers' understanding of the market, land problems and water limitations in farming Sweet Potatoes in Cilembu Village, there are no regulations governing the characteristics of Cilembu sweet potatoes and standardization of prices in the market, the role of Corporate institutions and Asaguci has not been maximized, lack of farmer regeneration for Cilembu sweet potato commodities. limited agricultural infrastructure, and the need for the role of technology and research in the field of Cilembu sweet potato agriculture in a sustainable and sustainable manner.
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### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, with a population of over 270 million, faces major challenges in maintaining food security. Food security involves the availability, access, and stability of food supply. Dependence on imports for some food commodities, such as rice, soybeans, and wheat, makes the country vulnerable to international price and supply fluctuations. Therefore, food diversification is needed, namely efforts to reduce dependence on one type of staple food, such as rice. The government and various institutions are expected to be able to encourage

the consumption of other local foods such as sweet potatoes, corn, cassava, and sago, which are more resistant to local climate conditions and have high nutritional value. This is important as an alternative to staple foods that can be used to increase the diversity of food consumption, overcome food insecurity and nutritional adequacy (nutrition sensitive production system).

West Java Province is one of the largest centers of sweet potato production in Indonesia. Of the many sweet potatoes in West Java, there is a sweet potato that is quite special compared to other similar tubers. Where the village that produces this sweet potato is Cilembu Village which is located in Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, which then this sweet potato is known as Cilembu Sweet Potato, its taste is very sweet and its distinctive aroma has made this sweet potato famous in Indonesia.

Cilembu Sweet Potato (*Ipomoea batatas* L. var. Cilembu) is a typical tuber commodity from one of the regions in Indonesia, namely Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province, moreover, this superior sweet potato variety, namely the nirkum variety, has been famous since the Dutch occupation of Indonesia, which is also known as the nirkum cultivar (Meneer Kumpeni) has received marketing certification and export permits from the Ministry of Agriculture 124/Kpts/TP.240/2/2001 about the Release of Sweet Potatoes from Cilembu Village, Sumedang Regency as a Superior Variety with the name Cilembu. Photocopy of the Decree of the Minister of Agriculture Number 124/Kpts/TP.240/2/2001 about the Release of Sweet Potatoes from Cilembu Village, Sumedang Regency as a Superior Variety with the name Cilembuas stated in Appendix 1 of the Requirements Book. The name Cilembu is taken from the name of the area where the sweet potato is produced, namely Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency.

The marketing area of Cilembu Sweet Potato is known to have reached major cities in Indonesia as well as several countries in the ASEAN and Asia regions such as: Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and the Middle East. Initially, the Cilembu Sweet Potato cultivation center in Sumedang Regency was only in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District. However, because demand continues to increase, the Cilembu Sweet Potato cultivation center is currently spread across 34 villages in 4 (four) sub-districts, namely Pamulihan, Rancakalong, Tanjungsari and Sukasari Districts with an area of 462.03 hectares with 1,591 Cilembu sweet potato farmers currently recorded. Then, on April 24, 2013, the four sub-districts were patented by the Ministry of Law and Human Rights with the IG (Geographical Indication) Certificate Number ID.G 000000019 as the Cilembu Sweet Potato production area in Sumedang Regency, West Java Province.

Cilembu sweet potato farmers have widely developed their cultivation outside the Cilembu Village area, however, to obtain production and quality that meet consumer criteria, it turns out that not all land can produce production and quality like in Cilembu Village. Solihin et al., (2017), revealed that sweet potatoes planted in Cilembu Village have a higher maximum sugar content and reach their maximum content faster compared to cultivation locations outside Cilembu Village. Land characteristics, both soil properties and climate, affect the production and quality of Cilembu sweet potatoes. This can be related to the

character of the soil in different cultivation locations so that it affects the growth and yield of different plants.

Seeing what has been described previously, the researcher then understands that the Development of Cilembu Sweet Potatoes by farmers has been going on for a long time, but economically, it has not provided real added value to farmers or to processing business actors. This is because the continuity of production is not optimal, so that the availability of supply and continuity to traders or processing companies is not guaranteed, which ultimately affects the sustainable marketing system.

Innovation in the farmer's mindset is very much needed here, where the local and regional governments also have an important role in providing support, support and real and sustainable attention. For that, the researcher has great hope that there will be independence in the lives of the community and the Cilembu sweet potato farmer group so that the process that will lead to welfare is created through a container that the researcher calls "community empowerment".

The purpose of this study is to analyze and determine the existence of Sweet Potato Farmer Community Empowerment in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province. To determine and analyze the Empowerment of Sweet Potato Farmer Community in the growth and development of Farmer Groups and Processing Groups and the availability of various processed agricultural products in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province. To determine and analyze the supporting and inhibiting factors of Sweet Potato Farmer Community Empowerment in the growth and development of Farmer Groups and Processing Groups and the availability of various processed agricultural products in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province. To determine and analyze efforts to overcome the inhibiting factors of Sweet Potato Farmer Community Empowerment in the growth and development of Farmer Groups and Processing Groups and the availability of various processed agricultural products in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province.

## METHOD

This study uses a descriptive research method with a qualitative approach in the sense that the research is focused on the selected phenomenon and wants to be understood in depth. According to Creswell emphasizes that the qualitative approach is a constructivist worldview, ethnographic design and behavioral observation in this situation, researchers try to determine the meaning of the phenomenon from the participant's perspective. The choice of a qualitative approach in this study is based on the reason that the problem studied in this study is how to Empower Sweet Potato Farmers in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province and requires a number of actual and conceptual field data.

Data sources are anything that can provide information about data. (Emzir 2016) then provides his understanding of data sources, which are divided into two, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data itself is data obtained by researchers from

respondents directly through interviews with researchers with sources or informants, while secondary data is data obtained through official documents or manuscripts, in the form of books, archives, letters, scientific magazines which are public documents or manuscripts to support and complement the researcher's primary data. In the research conducted by the researcher, using data sources obtained from the Regional Government through the Department of Agriculture and Food Security of Sumedang Regency. In addition, it was also obtained from the Pamulihan District Government and Cilembu Village. Also through agricultural extension workers from both the Regency and the District. Furthermore, through the Farmer Group and the community who are empowered in agricultural processed products in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency.

In this study, the parties who were used as informants and could provide information regarding the Empowerment of Sweet Potato Farmers in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province. Simangunsong, Fernandes (2017) understands that data collection techniques in qualitative research are basically the same as data collection techniques in social research. In the qualitative government research method, data is collected using interview techniques, observation, documentation, focused discussions (Focus Group Discussion) and enhanced with triangulation, so that in-depth information is obtained.

In accordance with the research method and data collection techniques used in this study, then to analyze the data that has been collected from the field, the technique used is descriptive analysis. Through this technique, all data and facts that have been obtained are described by developing categories that are relevant to the research objectives of the results of descriptive analysis by referring to appropriate theories.

## RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **Empowerment of Sweet Potato Farmers in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province**

Efforts to realize the maximum Empowerment of Sweet Potato Farming Communities in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency are intended so that farmers can actively participate and the government is present to encourage and provide motivation to create independence in the character and culture of the local community. Because according to the researcher's documentation, the empowerment of farming communities in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency has not been implemented optimally and there are still various obstacles in realizing an independent farming community. This happens because the independence of the farming community has not been or is not supported by human resources, capacity development, adequate infrastructure, collaboration between lines and technical regulations that regulate.

In relation to this situation, there is an Empowerment Strategy and 5P Approach according to Edi Suharto, where: 3 (three) Levelsthrough the Micro Level, Mezzo Level, Macro Level, which are then realized through the 5P Approach and application, namely: Enabling, Strengthening, Protection, Support and Maintenance.

### Micro Level

The relevance for Farmers, Farmer Groups and Sweet Potato Agricultural Product Processing Groups in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency is certainly crucial because the sweet potato farming community makes a living from agricultural activities where in facing the challenges of the times, climate change and dynamics in agriculture, technical guidance is certainly needed as provisions for them to continue to exist in agricultural activities, so that independence can be realized in the character and culture of farmers, farmer groups, and agricultural product processing groups.

Based on the results of interviews with the Head of the Economic Empowerment, Development and Village Cooperation Division at the Sumedang Regency Community and Village Empowerment Service, the Head of the Sumedang Regency Agriculture and Food Security Service, the Sumedang Regency Regional Secretary and Member of Commission II of the Sumedang Regency DPRD, it can be concluded that the regional government continues to make maximum efforts to encourage all available resources in realizing community empowerment, especially for farmers/farmer groups/Cilembu sweet potato processing groups, especially in making policies that can accommodate the intended matter which until now is still being attempted by the Sumedang Regency regional government, the goal is clear for the independence and welfare of the Cilembu sweet potato farming community.

### Mezzo Level

The Relation to Farmers, Farmer Groups and Sweet Potato Agricultural Product Processing Groups in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency Of course it is very crucial because in facing the existing developments, especially in the world of agriculture, education and training in capacity building for farmers are very necessary so that they become provisions for them in facing various situations in their activities as sweet potato farmers, starting from cultivation to post-harvest. then adaptive and independent sweet potato farmers can be realized in the character and culture of farmers, farmer groups, and agricultural product processing groups.

Based on the results of field observations, researchers directly listened to the voices and complaints from the grassroots, namely farmers and Cilembu sweet potato farmer groups, that they really want the implementation of training, socialization and even technical guidance to be carried out routinely regarding farming activities and activities as well as efforts to face various challenges in farming activities, for example climate change and goboken disease for which no solution has been found for handling and lanas pests that often attack Cilembu sweet potatoes.

Based on interviews with several informants above, it can be concluded that education and training in order to support the empowerment of Cilembu sweet potato farmers receive full support and supervision from various elements in its implementation. In this case, the Sumedang Regency Agriculture and Food Security Service must be able to maximize the potential of farmer groups/product processing groups and existing encouragement so that this can be realized together.



### Macro Level

The relevance for Farmers, Farmer Groups and Sweet Potato Agricultural Product Processing Groups in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency is various technical studies and priority regional superior programs, such as: regulations that accommodate the interests of farmers and various things that are produced in order to strengthen the lives of farmers and farmer groups and product processing groups that enable them to continue to strive and be independent in farming activities and life, especially Cilembu sweet potato farmers.

Based on the results of the interviews above with several informants, researchers can analyze that it has become a shared responsibility to maintain the sustainability of this superior commodity so that various supporting factors need to be considered, be it extension workers, farmers, farmer groups/processing groups, technical regulations that regulate and protect up to budgeting for the implementation of training programs, capacity development must really be considered and accommodated by stakeholders in the region.

In the implementation of the process and achievement of empowerment goals through the micro level, mezzo level and macro level which have been described together with the results of the informant interviews above, it can be realized and achieved through the application of an empowerment approach which can be abbreviated as 5P according to Edi Suharto, namely: Enabling, Strengthening, Protection, Support and Maintenance.

### Possibility

In relation to Farmers, Farmer Groups and Sweet Potato Agricultural Product Processing Groups in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, it is the government's duty and responsibility to continue to encourage Cilembu sweet potato farmers to continue to carry out their activities with various strategic programs and policies that benefit and empower farmers.

Based on observations and documentation studies that researchers have carried out in the field, what the informants conveyed in the interviews is indeed in accordance with what was expressed by farmers and farmer groups, something that is their hope because in essence farmers and farmer groups cannot work on their own to realize independence, encouragement, motivation and collaboration are needed to optimize these efforts so that the empowerment of farming communities can be implemented optimally.

### Strengthening

The relevance for Farmers, Farmer Groups and Sweet Potato Agricultural Product Processing Groups in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency is a demand in agricultural activities so that training and technical guidance are the best solutions for farmers which of course are demands for extension workers in the field as well as local governments and local governments with their programs.

Based on the results of interviews with the informants above, the researcher can analyze that in carrying out their farming activities, farmers and farmer groups are required to get strengthening knowledge and skills in growing self-confidence, in terms of: training, counseling, comparative studies, understanding the use of technology in agriculture and routine meetings held with the Cilembu sweet potato farmer group. For this reason,

agricultural extension workers in the field are required to be proactive and responsive to complaints and needs of farmers and Cilembu sweet potato farmer groups.

### **Protection**

The relation for Farmers, Farmer Groups and Sweet Potato Agricultural Product Processing Groups in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency is a guarantee in farming for farmers and Cilembu sweet potato farmer groups, where there needs to be protection so that farmers continue to feel safe in working on their lives. For this reason, the government needs to be present to accommodate the needs of farmers in terms of this protection, including insurance, social security to protection and institutional guidance.

Based on the results of interviews with informants, researchers can analyze that to protect farmers as a whole is to empower them by strengthening their institutions such as strengthening their farmer group classes, maximizing the role of Corporations and ASAGUCI, then just routine and intensive supervision and guidance from the government so that these farmer groups/institutions become independent.

### **Support**

The relationship for Farmers, Farmer Groups and Sweet Potato Agricultural Product Processing Groups in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency is a foothold and compass where the role of the government is vital in empowering, encouraging and motivating farmers and Cilembu sweet potato farmer groups towards independent and prosperous institutions.

Based on the results of the interviews above with the informants, the researcher can analyze that agricultural extension workers as field workers who are in direct contact with farmers have full responsibility to foster, encourage and motivate farmers and Cilembu sweet potato farmer groups, so that all activities really need to be scheduled and carried out routinely. So that from day to day Cilembu sweet potato farmers increasingly understand the SOP from cultivation to post-harvest, and each member is increasingly trained in farming skills because there is a good reciprocal relationship.

Based on the results of the researcher's observations in the field, complaints were found from the heads of farmer groups regarding the implementation of Technical Guidance in terms of agriculture, starting from cultivation, climate, soil to post-harvest as well as in terms of marketing and financial management which are very rarely implemented by the government.

### **Maintenance**

The relevance for Farmers, Farmer Groups and Sweet Potato Agricultural Product Processing Groups in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency is an effort and encouragement from the government aimed at the independence of farmers and farmer groups, where they must be able to maximize these opportunities.

Based on the results of interviews with several informants above, the researcher can analyze that farmers, farmer groups and sweet potato processing groups in Cilembu must fully understand the process that has started from cultivation to post-harvest. Where in terms of upstream cultivation, farmers must reduce existing production costs as much as

possible, then in post-harvest downstream farmers must see opportunities by utilizing the processing of harvested products into processed materials that certainly produce. So the role of the government through agricultural extension workers who are accompanied by the local government can provide intensive guidance and counseling to farmers, farmer groups and sweet potato processing groups in Cilembu. Furthermore, related to farmer capabilities, they must be maximized in each stage from upstream to downstream so that their focus is not divided in carrying out the existing process.

Based on the results of observations by researchers in the field, it was found that the fulfillment of the lives of farmers is still far from prosperous, in essence they can still fulfill their standard of living with various limitations and challenges in agricultural activities ranging from limited land, land conversion, business capital, changing climate to the absence of market price standards and regulations governing farmer groups and Cilembu sweet potatoes. So once again the role of the government is crucial for farmers, farmer groups and Cilembu sweet potato agricultural product management groups.

#### **Supporting Factors and Inhibiting Factors of Empowerment of Sweet Potato Farming Community in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province**

##### **Supporting Factors**

Based on the research conducted by the researcher, the supporting factors that influence the Empowerment of Sweet Potato Farming Communities in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province were also observed. The supporting factors that are the focus of analysis are: the existence of opportunities, the existence of willingness and the existence of abilities given to the community to participate. These supporting factors are in accordance with the Theory of Three Main Elements according to Slamet (1985) in Mardikanto and Soebianto. Through the analysis conducted by the researcher, the above factors can be identified as supporting the implementation of the empowerment of Cilembu sweet potato farming communities.

##### **There is an Opportunity**

The existence of opportunities given is often a driving factor for the growth of will and will will greatly determine its ability. In KBBI, opportunity is defined as taking, namely, holding something and then under it. While in another understanding, opportunity is defined as a positive factor that arises from the environment and provides an opportunity for an organization or program to be able to utilize it.

According to the results of interviews with the researchers with the heads of farmer groups and farmers as well as members of corporations and asaguci in Cilembu Village, researchers can analyze that the role of the Sumedang Regency government in providing opportunities is very optimal both in terms of assistance even though it is temporary, motivation, encouragement starting from cultivation to post-harvest and production and in processing agricultural products, even agricultural extension workers are always ready in the field. However, the main obstacle faced by farmers in Cilembu Village is that agricultural land is getting narrower and there is a lack of water for farming.

Based on the results of observations and documentation of researchers in the field, it was found that the same phenomenon was found with information from informants who



had been interviewed where the opportunity existed, the government always provided and facilitated farmers to always develop and progress even supported by programs and budgets. However, the problems in the field that need government attention are related to limited land, lack of water for farming and the existence of Technical Guidance related to agriculture for farmers, farmer groups and sweet potato processing groups for Cilembu.

### **There is a Will**

According to the results of the researcher's interviews with the heads of farmer groups and heads of agricultural product processing groups and farmers who are also members of corporations and asaguci in Cilembu Village, it can be analyzed that the willingness to participate in farming Cilembu Sweet Potatoes has been embedded in the souls of farmers and farmer groups, because they are very aware that the presence of this superior commodity can then boost their lives, this is their livelihood that they have been working on every time from generation to generation. Then they are very aware that farming Cilembu Sweet Potatoes is more effective if done in groups, so that they can support each other and achieve common goals of developing and progressing together. Assistance with agricultural equipment and fertilizer from the government in this case the Department of Agriculture and Regional Food Security was also accepted along with their respective farmer groups, although it was temporary but very useful. The obstacle that is currently felt is that the Cilembu Sweet Potato agricultural land is getting narrower and the supply of water for farming is getting smaller.

Based on the results of observations and documentation of researchers in the field, it was found that it is true that the desire and will to farm is embedded in the farmers and the Cilembu Sweet Potato farmer groups, this is what researchers found and felt when conducting direct interviews on agricultural land and at the homes of the heads of farmer groups and heads of agricultural processing. So that with the encouragement of empowering the Cilembu Sweet Potato community, they independently manage their agriculture to meet their respective needs.

### **Having Ability**

According to the results of the researcher's interviews with the heads of farmer groups, heads of the ma'utik agricultural product processing group and Cilembu Sweet Potato Farmers as well as members of the corporation and asaguci, it can be analyzed that the farmer groups really feel the benefits of the presence of agricultural extension workers in coaching and mentoring farmers in carrying out their agricultural activities. The requests from the heads of farmer groups include hoping for operational funding assistance in supporting the implementation of agricultural activities from the Head of the Babakan Anjun Farmer Group, then requests for tractors and water pumps from the Harapan Mulia Farmer Group, then from exemplary farmers is the standardization of Cilembu Sweet Potato prices on the market and fertilizer subsidies must be clear and not complicated.

Based on the results of observations and documentation of researchers in the field, it was found and felt that the role of agricultural extension workers was very beneficial for farmers and sweet potato farmer groups in Cilembu Village, with the limited human resources, it is hoped that this will be a government concern in proposing ASN formations,

especially extension workers and other field assistants in supporting the implementation of tasks in the field. Again, there must be an understanding for farmers who have not joined a farmer group so that they can join in order to support the implementation of their agricultural activities. Then, in order to support the implementation of agricultural businesses in the field, there needs to be government attention regarding the request for agricultural equipment and other agricultural support.

### **Inhibiting Factors**

#### **Difficulties in Growing and Developing Community Participation**

Empowerment is essentially to prepare the community so that they are able and willing to actively participate in every development program and activity that aims to improve the quality of life (welfare) of the community, both in terms of economic, social, physical and mental. Although community participation is something that must be developed in the development process, in practice, it is not always pursued seriously.

In the growth and development of community participation is often also hampered by the inaccurate perception that assesses the community as "difficult to be invited to progress" (Geerts in Soewardi, 1976). The difficulty of growing and developing community participation can also be caused because they have been engineered for too long not to need to think by the authorities, so that they prefer to accept whatever must be done/instructed, rather than having to take the trouble to think, plan, monitor and evaluate the activities offered.

According to the results of the researcher's interviews with several informants above, it can be analyzed that the obstacles found are related to the understanding of climate for farmers and also the limited water in Cilembu Village. There needs to be attention to supporting agricultural infrastructure such as cultivators and tractors. There are farmers who do not attend routine group meetings and there are rats that often raid Cilembu Sweet Potatoes. The lack of interest of the younger generation in Cilembu Sweet Potato farming activities has resulted in many old farmers in farmer groups. Young people often assume that agricultural activities are difficult to rely on because of the long and tiring process. Institutions must be strong so that internal group members continue to have a sense of mutual trust and there must be price standardization in the market. In relation to the agricultural product processing group in this case ma'utik, the obstacle is the lack of materials when the dry season comes while demand increases. Then there are farmers who are difficult to gather when there is counseling or socialization.

Based on the results of observations and documentation in the field, it was found and felt that the information conveyed through interviews from informants was indeed in accordance with the dynamics in the field and it is undeniable that it is a challenge and an inhibiting factor. Where water is the main and serious obstacle in farming Sweet Potatoes in Cilembu Village. Furthermore, attention is related to supporting infrastructure, understanding related to eradication of pests/plant diseases and ground rats, farmer regeneration, institutional strengthening, price standardization, Technical Guidance related to cultivation to post-harvest and then marketing, capital to understanding technology and

climate as provisions for farmers in facing every challenge that comes in the world of agriculture.

### **Efforts to Overcome Inhibiting Factors in Empowering Sweet Potato Farmers in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province**

According to Puerwadarmintathat effort is an attempt to convey intent, reason, and views on something to make it more valuable and useful to achieve the desired intent and goal. This is closely related to the utilization of available resources to support and support the process towards achieving the intended intent and goal. It can be said thatThe word "effort" refers to actions or steps taken to achieve a particular goal or result. Efforts can include a variety of actions, strategies, or policies undertaken to achieve a desired result.

### **Providing Opportunities Based on the Understanding that Communities Have Traditional Abilities and Wisdom**

The relevance for the community that makes a living through the produce of the Earth/ Natural Resources in this case the Participation of Farmers and Sweet Potato Farmer Groups in Cilembu Village in farming activities must be able to maintain the beauty of the ecosystem in order to ensure the sustainability of nature and the surrounding environment for a long time.

In order to analyze the growth and development of community participation in development that is attempted through Traditional Skills and Wisdom in the Empowerment of Sweet Potato Farming Communities in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, thenResearchers conducted interviews with several relevant informants as determined in the interview guidelines to obtain the required data and information.

According to the results of the researcher's interviews with several informants above, it can be analyzed that in the participation of empowering the Cilembu Sweet Potato farmer community, it is necessary to pay attention to maintaining the quality of the soil fertility. Then it is also necessary to pay attention to the specific locality which if it is still relevant must be maintained, for that every program or innovation must be adjusted to the local conditions whether this innovation or program can be accepted here or not. In making Guludan, the order code in the cultivation technique here is still traditional sweet potato cultivation in Cilembu Village. Local wisdom for Cilembu sweet potatoes is also found when sweet potatoes are affected by pests/diseases should not be thrown away in the place to be planted, unused sweet potato leaves become compost, there is an interlude in the Cilembu sweet potato cultivation process, namely that secondary crops must be planted first and then sweet potatoes so that it will affect the fertility of soil nutrients. Then the use of technology in agriculture must also be adjusted properly and collaboratively so that the target is achieved.

Based on the results of the researcher's observations in the field, a phenomenon was found that was in accordance with information from informants where local wisdom is indeed something that already exists and occurs and is usually carried out by the community so that it has become a custom or tradition like that, maybe. For that, when this local wisdom is still considered relevant to be maintained, it must be maintained so that there needs to be a joint commitment to maintaining it.

### **Intensive and Continuous Counseling**

In his understanding, it is not only in the form of conveying information about the opportunities provided to the Cilembu sweet potato farming community, but also accompanied by encouragement and hopes that the community will participate and continuous efforts to improve their ability to participate.

According to the results of interviews with researchers and the Heads of Farmer Groups and Heads of Sweet Potato Agricultural Product Processing Groups and Sweet Potato Farmers as well as members of corporations and asaguci in Cilembu Village, it can be analyzed that the extension was intensively carried out by agricultural extension workers in the field even though there were obstacles in the lack and limited human resources of existing agricultural extension workers. Then the next obstacle according to the informants' statements was the lack of agricultural Technical Guidance and the sustainability of the program which was less than optimal, where when the program was finished and the funds were absorbed, there was often no follow-up related to the results of the activities.

Based on the results of the researcher's observations in the field, it was found and felt directly that the role of agricultural extension workers in the field according to the researcher has been very optimal amidst the limitations of extension workers' human resources. Things that need to be realized in the future in optimizing the role of extension workers in the field are the implementation of agricultural Technical Guidance, both from cultivation to post-harvest and marketing, capital, financial management, understanding of climate which of course is very useful for farmers as their provisions in facing various situations in the field.

### **Relating to the Encouragement and Hope Conveyed**

There needs to be an explanation to the public about the magnitude of economic and non-economic benefits that can be directly and/or indirectly enjoyed by themselves or that will be enjoyed by future generations. So there needs to be a change in understanding that the development of community participation in agricultural development, especially Cilembu Sweet Potatoes, is not a "social cost" which is wasteful, but is a "social investment" which will provide benefits for an unlimited period of time.

In order to analyze the growth and development of community participation in development, especially in relation to the encouragement and hopes conveyed in the Empowerment of Sweet Potato Farming Communities in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, then Researchers conducted interviews with several relevant informants as determined in the interview guidelines to obtain the required data and information.

According to the results of the researcher's interviews with the Heads of Farmer Groups and the Head of the Cilembu Sweet Potato Harvest Processing Group with Exemplary Farmers in Cilembu Village, it can be analyzed that the hopes of the Sawah Lega Farmer Group are that the government needs to pay attention to climate, water and IG and more attention from the district government in terms of intensive coaching from extension workers in terms of Technical Guidance and socialization and the existence of regulations governing Cilembu Sweet Potatoes, especially in terms of market prices that are adjusted to

IG. Then, the Babakan Anjun farmer group proposed that there be operational funds for the Cilembu sweet potato farmer group to support its agricultural activities. The Harapan Mulia Farmer Group proposed the provision of agricultural support tools, water pumps, tractors that the farmer group in question does not yet have. The Pangkalan Farmer Group proposed that BIMTEK be implemented related to cultivation and post-harvest as well as understanding the market and capital. The hopes and suggestions of the Bhakti Tirta Kareumbi Farmers Group are to conduct research on the condition and quality of the existing soil and the existence of agricultural technical guidance, subsidies for the price of fertilizers, both organic and inorganic, and assistance in the form of plowing equipment/tractors. Furthermore, the hopes and suggestions of the Cilembu Putri Kareumbi Ma'Utik Sweet Potato Harvest Processing Group are to have a production site/production house because so far they have only maximized their private homes in processing the results in question. The hopes of the Cilembu Sweet Potato Model Farmers are to increase agricultural assistance, intensive counseling and coaching from extension workers, and comparative studies for farmers and farmer groups to areas that have advanced in terms of agriculture so that there are some that can also be applied in Cilembu Village and its surroundings.

Based on the results of the researcher's observations in the field, it was found and felt that what was conveyed by the Heads of Farmer Groups and Heads of Processing Groups and Exemplary Sweet Potato Farmers in Cilembu Village above was very much in accordance with the facts and phenomena in the field that affect the implementation of agricultural activities. So the researcher hopes that this will also be a concern for the local government and can be accommodated in order to optimize the Empowerment of Cilembu Sweet Potato Farming Community.

## CONCLUSION

Empowerment of Sweet Potato Farming Community in Cilembu Village, Pamulihan District, Sumedang Regency, West Java Province, Aras Mikro, The main goal is to guide or train clients in carrying out their life tasks. Where there are limitations in Human Resources (HR) for agricultural extension workers in Sumedang Regency as a whole and in Pamulihan District and Cilembu Village in particular. Aras Mezzo, Where Cilembu sweet potato farmers and farmer groups that they really want the implementation of training, socialization and even technical guidance to be carried out routinely on farming activities and activities as well as efforts to face various challenges in farming Cilembu Sweet Potatoes. Aras Makro, Where local government needs to conduct studies and discussions related to technical regulations in the form of Regional Regulations that regulate policies on Cilembu Sweet Potatoes, the essence of which specifically regulates how to strengthen and protect one of Sumedang Regency's superior commodities and standardize prices in the market. Because there has been no regional regulation that accommodates this matter until now. Possibility, Then there are complaints from the heads of farmer groups about the lack of implementation of agricultural Bimtek for them, which is very much needed as provisions in facing various challenges in the world of agriculture. Strengthening, Where the need for the



role of Technology and Research in the field of agriculture is important in developing and improving the economy of farming communities. Then optimization of training, counseling and technical guidance for farmers and farmer groups of Cilembu Sweet Potatoes. Protection, Where in terms of first protection, there needs to be routine and comprehensive attention to the institutionalization of farmer groups, then second, there needs to be government attention by accommodating all farmers and farmer groups of Cilembu Sweet Potatoes in Farmer Insurance / JASINDO or BPJS Employment so that there is social security when they carry out their agricultural activities. Support, Then in terms of marketing, the role of ASAGUCI as the holder of the IG patent has not been maximized. Furthermore, Technical Guidance in terms of agriculture starting from cultivation, climate, soil to post-harvest as well as in terms of marketing and financial management which are very rarely implemented by the government. Maintenance, Where the role of ASAGUCI has not been maximized in accommodating the interests of Cilembu Sweet Potato farmers. Also related to market price standardization and regulations governing farmer groups and Cilembu sweet potatoes.

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