



The Dynamic Model of Rural Development Towards Sustainable Self Sufficiency

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Abstract

The inability of rural areas to accommodate inhabitants, aspirations and the dynamics of the life among young people led to its youth to go into the urban area and leave the village. This phenomenon causes the village to experience a shortage of labor and the development agents for innovative and productive in especially agricultural development. Currently, food agriculture at the village has undergone aging population with an average age of farmers over 52 years. To make the village attractive for the youth back, required a comprehensive rural development strategy in all aspects, including economic, social and technical skill issues as well. This study built a systemic strategic simulation model of some aspects such as; economic, social and skill development aspects in achieving sustainable rural areas' development. The model was constructed using the approach of causal relationships—System Dynamics (SD), between relevant variables either endogenous or exogenous, which is with their interaction, will determine the behavior of the system. The relationship and interaction of the relevant variables in the system are drawn from in-depth interviews, focus group discussion (FGD), surveys, and the use of secondary data, took the case of some rural producer of rice village in Central Java, which has been experiencing youth labor shortage. Based on the model, some alternative strategies are needed; such as 1) the development of rice agriculture that able to nurture the juvenile farmers, 2) income security and flawless production activities for farmers, 3) improving the role of educational institutions in providing knowledge and developing skills for students in the agricultural-based village and rural development, 4) building infrastructure in order to open up access for economic activities, including fostering the trading schemes that capable to create innovative young farmers, and diverse jobs. Those mentioned various integrated development strategies are expected to improve the independence and well-being (self-sufficiency) of the villagers.

Keywords: agriculture, dynamics model, strategy, youth labor crisis