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Implementation of Rubber Seed Assistance Program in Halubau Utara Village, Paringin Selatan District, Balangan District

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Abstract: Implementation of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program in North Halubau Village, South Paringin District, Balangan Regency, there are still problems, such as the lack of supervision and monitoring of the implementation of the rubber seedling program. Rubber seedlings are often affected by white root fungal disease, which hinders the process of rubber seed plantations and the budget for providing rubber seeds each year is limited, information is unclear about the timing of distribution so that the implementation of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program is not timely due to delays in the arrival of rubber seeds from shipments and the absence of farmers. submitted a proposal and only asked without understanding the JUKNIS for receiving rubber seed assistance, and the factors that influenced the implementation of the rubber seed assistance program. This research uses a qualitative approach with a qualitative descriptive type. Data collection techniques using observation, interviews, and documentation. The data source was taken from the withdrawal of informants by purposive sampling, totaling 10 people. The data analysis technique used is data condensation, data presentation and drawing and verifying conclusions. The results of this study indicate that the implementation of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program in North Halubau Village, South Paringin District, Balangan Regency is not well implemented. This research is focused on 4 variables to determine the success of implementing a policy, namely: First, the Communication Variable has indicators, Communication Transformation has been implemented quite well, clarity of information has been implemented quite well. Second, the resource variable has indicators of poorly implemented human resources, poorly implemented funding sources, and poorly implemented distribution time. Third, the disposition variable has indicators of poorly implemented disposition effects and well-implemented bureaucratic arrangements. Fourth, the bureaucratic structure variable has indicators that the JUKNIS mechanism has been implemented quite well and that fragmentation has been implemented well. Suggestions in this study are for the Head of the Office of Food Security, Agriculture and Fisheries of Balangan Regency, to make suggestions for additional human resources or employees so that they are effective in achieving the desired results and to socialize the rubber seed program more to the community, as well as to increase the amount of the budget. To the staff of the Office of Food Security, Agriculture and Fisheries of Balangan Regency to pay more attention to the work being carried out carefully and to supervise and monitor the quality of the rubber seeds. Farmers' groups, if they do not understand activity technical manual (JUKNIS) in terms of submitting proposals, can ask directly to the Office of Food Security, Agriculture and Fisheries, Balangan Regency.

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1. Introduction

The plantation sector is one of the sectors that plays an important role in the economic development of society, especially in rural areas. One of the plantation commodities with high economic value is the rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*). This commodity not only serves as a source of income for the community but also creates jobs

and supports regional economic growth. However, the productivity of smallholder rubber plantations still faces various issues, such as the low quality of seedlings, declining production, and limited access for farmers to superior seedlings. To address these problems, the government, thru the Department of Agriculture, is implementing the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program as an effort to improve productivity and the welfare of farmers. This program aims to provide superior rubber seedlings to farmers, thereby increasing production yields and the quality of rubber plants. Nevertheless, the success of a program is not only determined by good planning but also by the effectiveness of its implementation in the field [1], [2].

Previous research conducted by Ismail on the Implementation of the People's Seed Garden Program (KBR) in Kayong Utara Regency and Agus Setiyawan on the Implementation of the Rubber Replanting Program in Tabir District, Merangin Regency, shows that the success of plantation program implementation is influenced by various factors, such as communication, resources, coordination, and institutional support [3], [4]. However, research on the implementation of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program in Halubau Utara Village, Paringin Selatan District, Balangan Regency has not been extensively conducted.

Based on the initial observations, several issues were found in the implementation of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program, including suboptimal program supervision and monitoring, limited human resources, low farmer understanding of the assistance acceptance procedures, budget constraints, and delays in the distribution of seedlings to farmer groups. In addition, the quality of the seedlings, which are susceptible to disease attacks, also poses a challenge that can affect the success of the program.

In the perspective of public administration, policy implementation is an important stage that determines whether the goals of a policy are achieved or not [5], [6]. George C. Edward III states that the success of policy implementation is influenced by four main factors: communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure [7]. These four factors serve as the foundation for analyzing the implementation of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program in Halubau Utara Village. Based on this description, this research aims to analyze the implementation of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program in Halubau Utara Village, Paringin Selatan District, Balangan Regency, using George C. Edward III's policy implementation theory, which includes communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure. This research is expected to contribute to the development of public administration science and serve as input for the local government in improving the effectiveness of aid program implementation in the agricultural sector.

2. Materials and Methods

This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive research type to obtain an in-depth picture of the implementation of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program in Halubau Utara Village, Paringin Selatan District, Balangan Regency. This approach was chosen because it can reveal phenomena based on real conditions in the field as well as the perspectives of the informants [8], [9]. The research data sources consist of primary data obtained thru observation and in-depth interviews with informants selected using purposive sampling techniques, as well as secondary data derived from documents, reports, technical guidelines, and archives at the Balangan Regency Agriculture Office. Data collection techniques were carried out thru observation, interviews, and documentation [10], [11]. Data analysis uses the interactive model of Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña, which includes data condensation, data presentation, and conclusion drawing and verification [12]. To ensure data validity, the research applies credibility tests thru source and technique triangulation, increased persistence, use of reference materials, negative case analysis, member checking, and prolonged observation [8], [9], [13].

3. Results and Discussion

The research results show that the implementation of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program in Halubau Utara Village, Paringin Selatan District, Balangan Regency has not yet been fully optimal. The analysis was conducted using George C. Edward III's policy implementation theory, which consists of four dimensions: communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure. These four dimensions play a crucial role in determining the success of the rubber seedling assistance program's implementation.

In the dimension of communication, the process of conveying information between the Agricultural Office, the head of the farmer group, and the beneficiary community has generally been running well. The head of the farmer group acts as a liaison between the government and the members of the farmer group, so the coordination process during the distribution of seedlings is relatively smooth. However, the clarity of communication is still not optimal because some members of the community do not yet understand the mechanisms, requirements, and procedures for applying for rubber seedling assistance according to the applicable technical guidelines. The lack of understanding has resulted in some farmers applying for assistance without following the established administrative procedures.

In the dimension of resources, the research found that resource limitations are the main obstacle in the implementation of the program. From the aspect of human resources, the number of officers in the Plantation Production Section is still limited, so the process of supervision and monitoring of program implementation cannot be carried out optimally. This condition affects the slow completion of tasks and the less than optimal control over the quality of the distributed seedlings [14]. From a budgetary aspect, the available funds are considered insufficient to meet the needs for procuring superior seeds according to quality standards because the program implementation must be adjusted to the established budget ceiling. As a result, the quality of the seeds received by the farmer groups has not fully met expectations. Additionally, from a timing perspective, the distribution of aid is still experiencing delays compared to the schedule set in the implementation mechanism, which has the potential to affect the success of seedling planting by farmers [15].

On the disposition dimension, the research results show that program implementers have experience and competence appropriate to their duties, enabling them to carry out administrative activities and aid distribution effectively. However, the commitment to supervising third parties and monitoring the condition of seedlings in the field is still not optimal. This is evident from the continued discovery of seedlings affected by white root fungus and the lack of intensive follow-up monitoring after the distribution of aid to farmer groups.

Meanwhile, in the dimension of bureaucratic structure, the program implementation mechanism already has guidelines in the form of Technical Instructions (JUKNIS) that serve as a reference for all implementers. Coordination among employees and task distribution have also been carried out in accordance with the existing organizational structure. However, the implementation in the field has not fully complied with the regulations in the JUKNIS because there are still seedlings that do not meet the quality standards. Nevertheless, coordination between agencies and officers during the aid distribution process has been going well, allowing the program to be implemented according to each party's duties and responsibilities.

Overall, the research results indicate that the implementation of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program has been quite good, but its effectiveness is still influenced by several constraints, particularly the limited human resources, budget, seedling quality, delayed distribution, and the low understanding of some community members regarding the assistance reception procedures. Therefore, it is necessary to improve communication with farmer groups, increase human resources, strengthen supervision of third parties,

optimize the budget, and enhance the quality of seedlings so that the implementation of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program can achieve its goals more effectively and sustainably.

4. Conclusion

Based on the research results regarding the Implementation of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program in Halubau Utara Village, Paringin Selatan District, Balangan Regency, it can be concluded that the program implementation has not been optimal. The analysis using George C. Edward III's policy implementation theory shows that the four implementation variables have varying levels of success.

In the communication variable, the process of conveying information between the Food Security, Agriculture, and Fisheries Office and farmer groups has been quite good thru coordination with the head of the farmer group. However, the clarity of information is still not optimal because some members of the community do not yet understand the mechanisms, requirements, and procedures for applying for rubber seedling assistance according to the applicable technical guidelines.

In the resource variable, program implementation still faces various obstacles, especially the limitations of human resources, budget, and time. The limited number of officers causes supervision and monitoring of program implementation to be suboptimal. Additionally, budget constraints affect the quality of the distributed seedlings, while delays in seedling distribution hinder the program's implementation according to the established schedule.

In the disposition variable, the program implementers have the competence and experience that match their duties. However, the dedication in supervising and monitoring the quality of seedlings in the field still needs to be improved, as there are still seedlings that do not meet quality standards. Meanwhile, in the variable of bureaucratic structure, the program implementation mechanism has referred to technical guidelines (JUKNIS) and the division of tasks has been carried out well. However, the implementation in the field is still not fully in accordance with the regulations because there are still farmer groups that do not understand the aid reception procedures.

Overall, the supporting factors for program implementation include the competence of the officers, coordination among staff, and clear task distribution. As for the inhibiting factors, they include limited human resources, budget constraints, delays in seed distribution, suboptimal seed quality, and the low public understanding of the aid application procedures. These factors have caused the objectives of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program to not be fully achieved.

Suggestion, Based on the research findings, it is recommended that the Food Security, Agriculture, and Fisheries Office of Balangan Regency increase the number and capacity of human resources so that the implementation of supervision, assistance, and program evaluation can run more effectively. In addition, it is necessary to increase the budget allocation so that the procurement of rubber seedlings can meet the established quality standards and support the fulfillment of the farmers' groups' needs.

The department also needs to enhance the dissemination of information regarding the mechanisms, requirements, and procedures of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program thru outreach and assistance to farmer groups so that the information can be thoroughly understood by the community. Supervision of third parties as seed providers also needs to be strengthened to ensure that the distributed seeds are of good quality and free from disease.

For the implementing officers, it is expected that they can improve coordination, supervision, and regular monitoring of the program's implementation so that any obstacles that arise can be promptly addressed. Meanwhile, for the farmer groups, it is expected that they become more active in understanding the technical instructions,

completing the administrative requirements, and establishing good communication with the relevant departments so that the application and implementation process of the Rubber Seedling Assistance Program can run more effectively, on target, and sustainably.

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