

Empowerment of Women Farmers in the Utilization of Yard Land Through the RPL Concept in Cimaung District, Bandung Regency, Indonesia

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Abstract: *A yard is a plot of land around a house that can be utilized as a source of food potential to meet the food and nutrition needs of the family. The activity of utilizing yard land is carried out through the concept of Sustainable Food House (RPL), which is a household principle that utilizes yard land in an environmentally friendly way. The purpose of this research is to describe the level of empowerment, analyze the factors related to empowerment, and formulate appropriate strategies to enhance the empowerment of Women's Farmers' Groups (KWT) in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept in Cimaung District. This study was conducted from April 1, 2021, to June 30, 2021, in Cimaung District, Bandung Regency, West Java Province. The respondents in this study were members of women's farmers' groups from three villages, totaling 56 people, determined by purposive sampling method. Data were collected through observation, questionnaire distribution, interviews, and literature studies. The analysis used in this study was descriptive analysis and Spearman Rank correlation analysis. The analysis results show that the level of empowerment of the Women's Farmers' Group (KWT) is in the high category (64.3%). Factors related to the empowerment of KWT include yard area, the role of extension workers, the role of the government, infrastructure availability, and access to information. Strategies that can be used to improve the empowerment of KWT in utilizing yard land include enhancing the learning experience of female farmers and maximizing extension activities as well as demonstrations related to making plant-based pesticides and establishing RPL demonstration plots.*

INTRODUCTION

Currently, food security is one of the important global issues, as evidenced by its inclusion in one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ensuring the availability of sufficient food at all times is an undeniable necessity. This has become a priority in national agricultural development over time (Agricultural Research and Development Agency, 2012). Based on Law No. 18 of 2012 on Food, the Government and Local Governments are obligated to implement food diversification to meet the nutritional needs of

the community according to local potential and wisdom to achieve a healthy, active, and productive life. Efforts to diversify food, as stated in Article 26 of Government Regulation No. 17 of 2015 on Food Security and Nutrition, include optimizing the use of yard land.

The Ministry of Agriculture has initiated the use of yardland through the development of the Sustainable Food House Area (KRPL). KRPL was implemented in 2011, which focuses on households utilizing their yards in an environmentally friendly manner (Sukma, 2021). The potential of yard land in Cimaung District has

a considerable average area of 477.61 hectares (BPS, 2019), but it has not been optimally utilized. The implementation of the KRPL program is one of the efforts carried out by the Bandung Regency government, specifically in Cimaung District. Utilizing yard land through the application of the RPL concept is an empowerment program that involves Women Farmers Groups in its implementation.

The goal of using yard land is to increase awareness, roles, and participation in the community to realize a diversified and balanced nutritional food consumption pattern. Women have great potential in agricultural development. In general, we can see that women's income in rural areas and agriculture contributes significantly to household income (Harahap, 2024). Additionally, the objectives of utilizing yard land are to build food independence, enhance food diversification, improve family nutrition, boost the local economy, and foster creative economics in rural communities. Based on these background points, the author will conduct a study on the Empowerment of Women Farmers Groups in Utilizing Yard Land through the RPL Concept in Cimaung District, Bandung Regency. The objectives to be achieved in this study are as follows:

1. To describe the level of empowerment of women farmers groups in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept in Cimaung District, Bandung Regency.
2. To analyze the factors influencing the empowerment of women farmers groups in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept in Cimaung District, Bandung Regency.
3. To formulate strategies to improve the empowerment of women farmers groups in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept in Cimaung District, Bandung Regency.

METHODOLOGY

Time and Place

The implementation of this thesis took place over three months, from April 2021 to June 2021. The activities of this thesis were located in three

villages, namely Jagabaya Village, Malasari Village, and Cikalong Village, Cimaung District, South Bandung Regency, West Java Province.

Data Collection

The data used in this study consists of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained directly from the farmers participating in the KRPL activities, community leaders, and extension workers in the designated areas. Secondary data were obtained indirectly through institutions or agencies related to this study. The data collection techniques used in this study include: 1) Observation; 2) Distribution and completion of questionnaires; 3) Interviews; 4) Literature review.

Analysis Data

The data used in this study consists of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained directly from the farmers participating in the KRPL activities, community leaders, and extension workers in the designated areas. Secondary data were obtained indirectly through institutions or agencies related to this study. The data collection techniques used in this study include: 1) Observation; 2) Distribution and completion of questionnaires; 3) Interviews; 4) Literature review.

Validity Test

The validity test of the instruments was conducted in Citayam Village with a total of 10 respondents. From the 76 items in the questionnaire, 66 items were deemed "valid" and 10 items were "invalid".

Reliability Test

The result of the reliability test of the instrument showed that the instrument was reliable. This is because the Cronbach's alpha value was greater than 0.6, specifically 0.988. Therefore, the instrument used is trustworthy and can be reused to measure the same object even at different times.

1. Data Analysis Based on the Objectives
Descriptive qualitative analysis will be used to 1. determine the level of empowerment of women farmers groups in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept, whether it falls into the categories of low, medium, or high. According to Gunawan

(2019), the formula to calculate the assessment category is as follows:

2. Class interval = ((max score x number of items) - (min score x number of items)) / (number of categories)

3. To examine the factors related to empowerment, the data will be tested using non-parametric Rank Spearman correlation analysis. This analysis is used to test the strength of the relationship between independent variables (X) and dependent variables (Y). Through this analysis, the relationship between the variables will be evaluated in terms of direction (positive or negative) and the degree of correlation indicating the closeness between the variables, as well as the significance of the relationship. The interpretation of correlation values according to Sugiyono (2013) is as follows:

- 0,00 – 0.199 = Very low/weak correlation
- 0.20 – 0.399 = Low/weak correlation
- 0.40 – 0.599 = Moderate correlation
- 0.60 – 0.799 = Strong correlation
- 0.80 – 1.00 = Very strong correlation

4. To develop empowerment strategies, the analysis will use Rank Spearman correlation and descriptive analysis by observing the lowest score from the empowerment indicator parameters. The method involves ranking the lowest or weakest indicators, which will then be used to design extension activities. Once the lowest score is identified, it will serve as the basis for formulating strategies to empower women farmers groups in utilizing yard land.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

General Area Conditions Cimaung District is one of the districts in Bandung Regency. The total area of Cimaung District is 7,784.89 hectares. From 2018 to 2019, Cimaung District experienced a territorial division, resulting in the formation of Cimaung Village, so that currently Cimaung District has 416 RT (neighborhood units) and 120 RW (community units) across 10 villages. The boundaries of Cimaung District are as follows:

- North: Bordered by Banjaran District

- South: Bordered by Pangalengan District
- West: Bordered by Pasirjambu District
- East: Bordered by Pacet District

The identification of natural resources considered important by the people of Cimaung District shows that rice is the dominant food commodity. As for horticultural commodities, the most commonly cultivated are sweet corn, while coffee and fruit crops are prominent in plantations.

Respondent Characteristics

The characteristics of the respondents in this study were classified based on age, education, and yard land area.

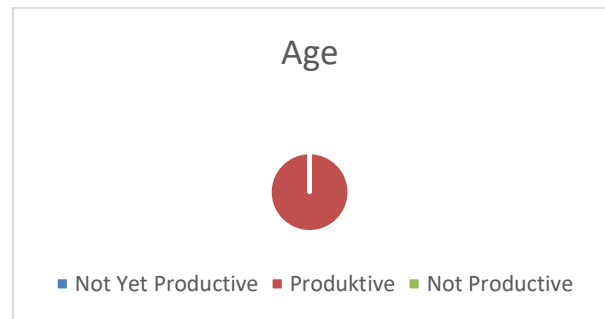


Figure 2. Age Description

Based on the data in Figure 2, the respondents' age is dominated by the productive age group, where the respondents are in the age range of 16-63 years, with a total of 56 people (100%). Older and more experienced farmers are able to make better production decisions and have greater contacts which allow trading opportunities to be discovered at lower cost than younger ones (Martey et al., 2012; Omiti et al., 2009).

Education Level

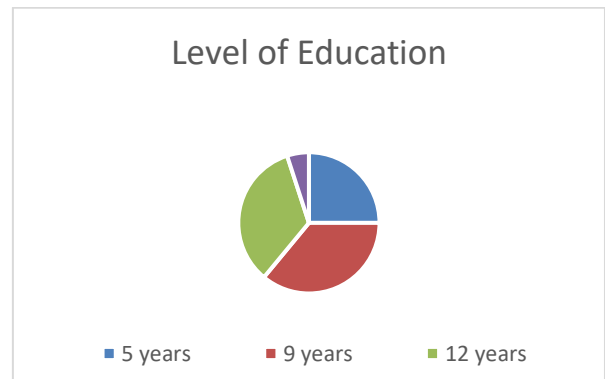


Figure 3. Description of Education Level (Processed Primary Data by the Author, 2021)

Based on the data in Figure 3, the highest

education level among female farmers is junior high school (35.7%). This is based on the lifestyle of the Cimaung community, where women are considered to only manage household affairs, so there is no need for higher formal education. With a good formal education, it will shape a more advanced mindset, including in the implementation of new technologies. Education also helps farmers to understand market dynamics and therefore improve decisions about the amount of output sold (Omiti et al., 2009; Makhura et al., 2001).

Yard Area

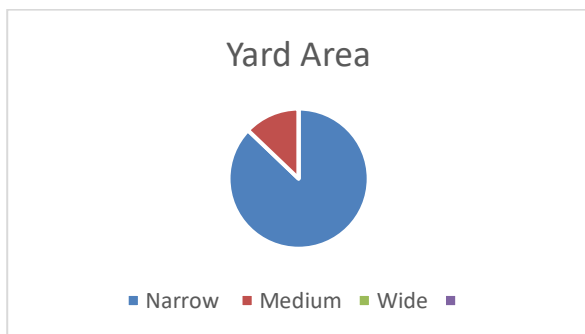


Figure 4. Description of Yard Area

Based on the data in Figure 4, the average size of the respondents' yard land is classified as small, with an area of $<100\text{m}^2$, totaling 49 people (87.5%). Based on interviews with respondents, the majority of female farmers apply the RPL (Sustainable Food House) concept on small yard land by optimizing land use to achieve maximum production, such as planting vegetables in pots/polybags and utilizing used materials as containers for planting. Large farm size, when well-managed, has positive influence on output market access since it enables farmers to generate production surpluses for the market (Martey et al., 2012; Olwande and Mathenge, 2010).

External Factors

The external factors examined in this study include the role of extension workers, the role of the government, the availability of facilities and infrastructure, and access to information.

Role of Extension Workers

Based on the data from the analysis, the majority of respondents rated the role of extension workers as high, with 47 people (83.9%) indicating that agricultural extension workers are very active,

communicative, and able to motivate female farmers in applying the RPL concept. Based on interviews, the extension workers have tried to carry out their roles well by providing counseling or delivering information on applying the RPL concept in utilizing yard land effectively, which is easily understood. They also provide motivation. Farmers who access extension services are more likely to access output market because they can easily access market information and be linked to buyers. This helps to remove fixed transaction costs that face farmers in entering output markets (Lapar et al., 2003).

Role of the Government

Based on the data analysis, 32 respondents (57.1%) stated that the role of the government is moderate, while 24 respondents (42.9%) stated that the government's role is high. Based on interviews, female farmers feel that the government has played a role by helping them with assistance to run their agricultural businesses, although the assistance received has not been optimal.

Availability of Facilities and Infrastructure

Based on the data from the analysis, 35 respondents (62.5%) stated that the availability of facilities and infrastructure is in the moderate category, while 21 respondents (37.5%) stated that the availability is in the high category. This indicates that facilities and infrastructure are available adequately, such as agricultural input kiosks with sufficient supplies of goods needed for farming, although not complete or maximized.

Access to Information

According to the data, 42 respondents (75%) rated access to information as moderate, and 14 respondents (25%) rated access to information as high. This shows that access to information regarding the utilization of yard land through the RPL concept is available, and female farmers have the skills and willingness to access such information.

Empowerment of Female Farmers' Groups in Utilizing Yard Land Through the RPL Concept

The empowerment of female farmers' groups through the RPL concept is an activity carried out to utilize yard land through the RPL

concept so that female farmers can become empowered and prosperous in supporting and maintaining family food security. Based on the results of interviews and questionnaires given to respondents, it shows that 20 respondents (35.7%) are categorized as moderate, while 36 respondents (64.3%) fall into the high category for activities in utilizing yard land.

The empowerment of female farmers' groups per indicator in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept can be seen in Figure 5.

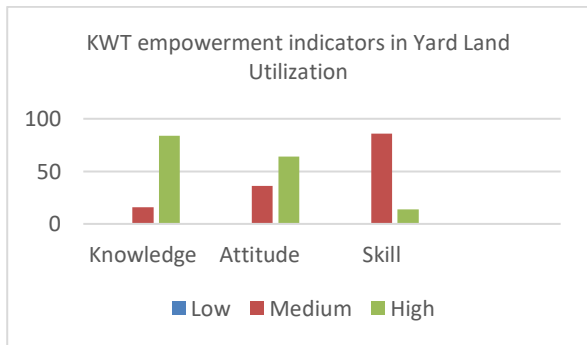


Figure 7. Indicators of Empowerment of Female Farmers' Groups in Utilizing Yard Land

Based on Figure 5, the knowledge of female farmers in utilizing yard land is classified as high with a percentage of 83.9% because female farmers have high knowledge related to utilizing yard land. Female farmers understand the benefits of yard land, planting patterns, and crop commodities.

Based on Figure 5, the attitude of female farmers in utilizing yard land is classified as high with a percentage of 64.3%. Female farmers have a very positive response to utilizing yard land through the RPL concept and are willing to accept the RPL concept in the utilization of yard land.

Based on Figure 5, the skills of female farmers in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept are classified as moderate, with 48 respondents (85.7%) because their skills in utilizing yard land are still limited. Female farmers have not yet mastered technical aspects such as making plant-based pesticides, plant maintenance, pest control, seedling preparation, and creating planting media.

No.	Variable	Coefficient Value	Sig.	Level of Relationship	Description
1.	Age	0.164	0.228	Very Weak	Not Related
2.	Education Level	0.205	0.130	Weak	Not Related
3.	Yard Area	0.386**	0.003	Weak	Related
4.	Role of Extension Workers	0.453**	0.000	Moderate	Related
5.	Role of Government	0.269*	0.045	Weak	Related
6.	Availability of Facilities and Infrastructure	0.434**	0.001	Moderate	Related
7.	Access to Information	0.725**	0.000	Strong	Related

Source: Data Processing Results 2021

Factors Associated with Empowering Female Farmers' Groups in Utilizing Yard Land Through the RPL Concept

Age

Based on Spearman's rank correlation analysis, the result shows a value of $r_s = 0.164$ with a significance level of 0.228, which means that age does not have a significant relationship with the empowerment of female farmers' groups in utilizing yard land, or it has a very weak correlation and a positive direction. In other words, the older the female farmer, the higher the level of empowerment in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept does not relate to the empowerment of female farmers' groups.

Education Level

Based on the Spearman rank correlation analysis, the result shows a value of $r_s = 0.205$ with a significance level of 0.130, meaning that education level does not have a significant relationship with the empowerment of female farmers' groups in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept, or it has a weak correlation and a positive direction. The higher the educational level of the female farmer in running her business, it does not correlate with the empowerment of female farmers in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept.

Yard Area

Based on the Spearman rank correlation analysis, the result shows a value of $r_s = 0.386^{**}$ with a significance level of 0.003, meaning that the yard area is related to the empowerment of female farmers' groups in utilizing yard land, or it has a weak correlation and a positive direction. This means that the larger the yard area, the higher the

empowerment of female farmers in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept. Household size can positively or negatively influence output market access. One possible explanation is that as household size increases (many youths), the productivity of the land rises due to availability of cheap labor and exceeds subsistence requirements and this can lead to an increase in marketed surplus (Martey et al., 2012).

Role of Extension Workers

Based on the Spearman rank correlation analysis, the result shows a value of $r_s = 0.453^{**}$ with a significance level of 0.000, meaning that the role of extension workers has a significant relationship with the empowerment of female farmers' groups in utilizing yard land, or it has a moderate correlation and a positive direction. The more active the extension workers, the higher the empowerment of female farmers' groups in utilizing yard land.

Role of the Government

Based on the Spearman rank correlation analysis, the result shows a value of $r_s = 0.269^*$ with a significance level of 0.045, meaning that the role of the government has a significant relationship with the empowerment of female farmers' groups in utilizing yard land, or it has a weak correlation and a positive direction. The greater the government's role in providing support or assistance, either in capital or farming infrastructure, the higher the empowerment of female farmers' groups in utilizing yard land.

Availability of Facilities and Infrastructure

Based on the Spearman rank correlation analysis, the result shows a value of $r_s = 0.434^{**}$ with a significance level of 0.001, meaning that the availability of facilities and infrastructure has a significant relationship with the empowerment of female farmers' groups or it has a moderate correlation and a positive direction. The more available the facilities and infrastructure in the area where the female farmers live, the easier it will be for female farmers to carry out activities.

Access to Information

Based on the Spearman rank correlation analysis, the result shows a value of $r_s = 0.725^{**}$ with a significance level of 0.000, meaning that access to information has a strong relationship with the empowerment of female farmers' groups or it has a strong correlation and a positive direction. The more frequently information is accessed through various media such as electronic and print media, the higher the empowerment of female farmers in utilizing yard land.

Strategies to Enhance the Empowerment of Female Farmers' Groups in Utilizing Yard Land Through the RPL Concept

Empowering female farmers means improving the level of empowerment of female farmers. Based on the findings of this study, the empowerment of female farmers in utilizing yard land is in the moderate category. Therefore, strategies for empowerment are needed. These strategies were analyzed using a combination of Spearman's rank correlation and descriptive analysis. Strategies to enhance the empowerment of female farmers in utilizing yard land are as follows:

1. Improve the learning experience of female farmers through various human resource development programs (such as capacity building, participatory extension, etc.) in a systematic and integrated manner. Female farmers' learning can be enhanced by utilizing yard areas, the role of extension workers, government roles, the availability of facilities and infrastructure, and access to information related to utilizing yard land.
2. Provide continuous mentoring. This mentoring process starts from preparing planting media, seeds, plant care, and harvesting.
3. Determine the appropriate extension methods tailored to the conditions of female farmers and the material to be delivered.
4. Determine the extension material based on the needs of female farmers to increase their empowerment in utilizing yard land. The

extension material includes making plant-based pesticides using garlic and techniques for plant maintenance and pest control on yard land.

Model Plot

The model plot used in this study is a learning medium. The purpose of this model plot activity is to serve as a learning tool for students and to train responsibility in implementing cultivation activities and applying the RPL concept on yard land, as well as for female farmers in applying the RPL concept. This model plot will be implemented in Jagabaya Village, Cimaung Subdistrict, Bandung Regency. The purpose of this model plot is to show the respondents the uses and benefits of applying the RPL (Sustainable Food House) concept. It is expected that this model plot will enhance the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of female farmers in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept. This model plot involves planting vegetables such as water spinach, mustard greens, spinach, and chili using the environmentally friendly RPL concept. Cultivation is carried out using environmentally friendly farming systems by reducing the use of chemicals such as pesticides and fertilizers and using polybags, vertical gardens, etc., while utilizing organic or eco-friendly materials to make plant-based pesticides, compost, etc.

Extension Implementation Design

The material presented in the extension activities is in line with the results of the Spearman rank correlation and descriptive analysis. The material is based on indicators with the lowest mean rank, which is skills. Below is the technical implementation of the extension, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Technical Implementation of Extension

No.	Material	Method	Media
1	Making Garlic-based Plant Pesticides	- Lecture - Discussion - Demonstration	- Video - Brochure
2	Techniques for Plant Maintenance and Pest Control on Yard Land	- Lecture - Discussion	- Leaflet

CONCLUSION

Based on the research on Empowerment of Female Farmers' Groups in Utilizing Yard Land through the RPL concept in Cimaung Subdistrict, Bandung Regency, the following conclusions can be drawn: 1. The empowerment of female farmers' groups in utilizing yard land is classified as high/empowered, with 64.3% of respondents in this category.; 2. actors related to the empowerment of female farmers' groups in utilizing yard land through the RPL concept include yard area, the role of extension workers, the role of the government, availability of facilities and infrastructure, and access to information. Yard area and the role of government have a weak correlation, while the role of extension workers and the availability of facilities and infrastructure have a moderate correlation, and access to information has a strong correlation. Age and education level do not correlate with the empowerment of female farmers in utilizing yard land.; 3. Strategies to enhance empowerment include improving learning experiences, maximizing extension activities, and demonstrating methods for making plant-based pesticides and creating RPL demonstration plots.

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