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Community-based Livestock Enterprises: the Role of Indonesia's Universities for Improving Local Food and Nutrition Security

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Abstract

Livestock farming in Indonesia is very important for both national and local food security and nutrition, and it has a social, an economic and a cultural function for the farmers. The production of livestock, e.g. beef cattle, in Indonesia is predominantly performed by smallholder farmers with an average of three to four cows each. Indonesia's livestock farming is facing a range of priority constraints including enterprise scale, herd nutrition, animal husbandry and health, reproductive performance and most farmers have little or no prior experience in livestock education. There is also poor transparency of marketplace signals and asymmetric information. The complexity of on-farm issues in the livestock sector might be some of the reason why Indonesia is heavily dependent on imported livestock despite the commitment to food security and food self-sufficiency. The above challenges highlight the need for a community-based livestock enterprise (CBLE) approach to improve adoption of new technology and farm management practices as well a comprehensive analysis of CBLE as a potential strategy for improving food and nutrition security of local people. However, the development of CBLE has challenges with respect to its implementation and its sustainability. This study aims to examine the role of universities in the formation, organisation and operation of CBLE in Indonesia's context. This study also proposes a conceptual framework elaborating the conditions for the creation of a CBLE as well as the key prerequisites for its economic and social sustainability. These findings will be helpful for policymakers when designing policies and programs to improve food security and nutrition among smallholder farmers through community-based enterprises.

Keywords: Community-based livestock enterprise, food security and nutrition, Indonesia, smallholder farmers