

Conference Paper

Social Capital of Local Communities in Improving the Economy Through Utilizing the Potential of Sago in the Peatlands of Meranti Islands Regency

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ABSTRACT

Sago plants located in Tanjung Village and Tanjung Darul Tazim Village, Meranti Islands Regency are one of the centers for sago nurseries located in peatland areas that have the potential to cause land fires. Therefore, this study aims to determine the social capital of local communities in improving the economy through the use of sago plants and how to restore peatlands. Data collection methods used are question and answer, observation, and documentation. The targets of this question-and-answer activity are District Officials, Village Officials, Sago Farmers, Sago Business Actors, Local Community Leaders, and other related parties. The results of this study indicate that sago is proven to be able to improve the family's economy, especially for the local community. The income from sago provides income for the community, both from their plantations and from those who work for other parties. Benefits in the economic field turned out to support the formation of benefits in the social field, namely producing a surau. Also useful in the field of education, namely producing the Al-Manar Education Foundation and increasing their children's education to graduate degrees. Extensive plantations, supportive soil, and good maintenance are the factors that make the Meranti Islands one of the largest sago-producing areas. The way the community restores peatlands here, namely by building canals (tits) around sago plantations, has been praised by President Joko Widodo.

Keywords: Social capital, sago plant potential, peatlands

Introduction

Riau Province is a province that has SDA (Natural Resources) which contains a lot of wealth in oil, forests, and coastal areas. Riau has a land area of 86,411.90 km², and about 47,526.55 km², or +-55% of which is peat swamp forest. Characteristics of peat soil have potential in several types of plantations such as sago, coconut, rubber, areca nut, and coffee. Riau Province is one of the places that is the largest sago starch producer, cultivation, and processing area in Indonesia. The productivity of peatland sago in Riau Province is in the Meranti Islands Regency. Meranti Islands Regency is located on the east coast of the island of Sumatra with the capital Selatpanjang. The coast is directly adjacent to neighboring countries, namely Malaysia and Singapore. The landscape consists mostly of lowlands with fertile soil structures for developing agriculture, fisheries, and plantations. Peat itself has different characteristics, where not all plants can live well in this soil, but this soil has natural characteristics that are important for the environment such as having absorption capacity, storing very large amounts of water, and storing carbon (Maruto, 2021).

Sago is a native plant of Indonesia. Its distribution includes Papua, West Papua, Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku, and the Mentawai Islands. In Riau, sago plants are widely spread in coastal areas such as Bengkalis, Kampar, Meranti Islands, and Indragiri Hilir regencies. However, areas that process sago massively both traditionally and modernly are in the Meranti and Mandah Islands, Indragiri Hilir. If cultivated properly, sago products can produce 20-40 tons of dry starch/ha per year. Besides being able to be consumed as a staple food, sago starch can also be used as raw material for agro-industry, for example, as raw material for food flavoring

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(*monosodium glutamate*), Lactic Acid (a biodegradable plastic raw material), liquid sugar (*high fructosesyrup*) and renewable energy raw materials (Legalitas.org, 2013).

Sago is an economically profitable plant, environmentally friendly, and supports socially established agroforestry systems (Flach, 1997). This plant is sturdy and able to survive in swampy environments, on peatlands with low pH, on flooded lands, and even on high salinity soils. This tree is resistant to flooding, drought, fire, and strong winds. The fibrous root system can hold minerals, and retain contaminants, pollutants, and heavy metals. Sago forest is a carbon pool that can absorb carbon from the atmosphere, thus becoming an actor in mitigating climate warming (Stanton, 1991).

Meranti Islands Regency is one of the regencies that has a great capacity for sago development, economic revitalization based on peat-friendly commodities, and support for local wisdom and knowledge. The planted area of the Meranti Islands sago plantation is 44,657 hectares or about 2.98% of the national sago plantation area. About 50% (fifty percent) of the national demand for sago comes from the Meranti Islands Regency. Moreover, the Meranti Islands Regency is designated as the National Sago Crop Development Center (Paiti, 2017).

In the Meranti Islands Regency Regional Regulation Number 1 of 2019 concerning the Meranti Islands Regency Industrial Development Plan for 2019-2039, in article 5 regarding Regional Leading Industries, the sago industry is mentioned in the first point out of ten points in it, this shows that Meranti Regency has an industry The most superior is the sago industry, among other growing industries in the Meranti Islands Regency (PerDa, 2019).

Based on the data obtained, currently, in the Meranti Islands alone there are 95 sago processing factories or refineries operating. The biggest sago seed breeder is CV. Eka Cipta Makmur and Harapan Bersama located in Renak Dungun Village, Merbau Island District. CV. Rumbia Jaya which is located in Dedap Village, Tasik Putri Puyu District, and Prosperous Together which is located in Tanjung Village, West Tebing Tinggi District (DISHUTBUN Meranti, 2016).

Currently, sago plantations in Meranti have become the main source of income for almost 20% of the Meranti community. Sago seeds can be obtained from sago seedlings found in nature, community plantations or private plantations. In the Meranti Islands Regency, sago is no longer a cultural product, but sago has become part of social life as well as a strategic commodity that must be developed. By developing the cultivation of sago plants is the same as saving the cultural identity of the local community (Rahmadi, 2019).

According to the informant, namely the perpetrators of using sago resulting from the question and answer activities or interviews, sago is a form of staple food that has existed for a long time, until now sago is still their daily consumption. For example, sago is needed for the manufacture of sago noodles, sago rendang, fat sago, sago crackers, sago plates, cheese sago cakes, *semplet*, and various other specialties. With abundant raw materials, of course, it will make it easier for the people of the Meranti area to carry out the production process. Because to form SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) with the type of processing, they need the main raw materials that are cheap, sufficient, and efficient. If SMEs run smoothly, it will improve the community's economy.

However, currently, the utilization of the existing potential of sago is still far from the maximum. The great potential of sago should be utilized by the community to improve the economy, especially sago is predicted to be a source of national food security. In Presidential Regulation Number 22 of 2009 concerning the Policy for the Acceleration of Diversification of Food Consumption Based on Local Resources, it is explained that what determines the quality of food is the form of diversity in the type of food. Diversification of food types can reduce people's dependence on the habit of consuming only one type of food. Thus, the diversification of food types is the basis of food security. And Sago (*Metroxylon* sp.) is a form of food that has a good carbohydrate content to be increased to achieve food security (Abbas, 2015). Sago plants can be used as an alternative staple food to replace rice because sago is a complex carbohydrate that has a low glycemic index. Therefore, sago food is better for health than rice, especially for diabetics (Tado, 2017).

Sago from the Meranti Islands Regency has been proven worldwide from its exports which have penetrated Malaysia, and Singapore to countries in East and West Asia such as Japan and Korea (Media Perkebunan.id, 2020). With the potential of sago plants in Tanjung Village and Tanjung Darul Takzim Village, when utilized optimally, it will certainly be able to improve the welfare of the local community. Because almost the entire sago area is in the ownership of indigenous peoples (local) and they make life support starting from food, economy, social activities and customs, and beliefs. However, the big problem is the frequent occurrence of forest fires, especially in the Meranti Islands Regency, which is mostly peatland.

Therefore, the researcher plans to examine the social capital of local communities in improving the economy through community sago plants as well as a way to restore peatlands. Because sago requires a wetland the water in the peatlands will be preserved. The use of peatland for sago cultivation will preserve peat because sago requires high soil water content and produces well in flooded conditions. In addition, cultivating sago plants will automatically make local people protect their land and not burn forests to clear land because they already have a steady income from sago cultivation (Gunawan et al., 2020). Based on this background, researchers are interested in conducting research with the title "Social Capital Of Local Communities In Improving The Economy Through Utilizing The Potential Of Sago In The Peatlands Of Meranti Islands Regency".

Material and Methods

To obtain data on the social capital of local communities in improving the economy through the utilization of the potential of sago in the peatlands of the Meranti Islands Regency, this research was conducted in one of the places that became the center of sago seed breeding in the Meranti Islands Regency, which is in the Tebing Tinggi District. West, Tanjung Village, and Tanjung Darul Takzim Village with the capital city of Selatpanjang, which was carried out in 2022. This study selected the actors that were so needed in the study, namely the District Apparatus, Village Apparatus, Sago Farmers, Sago Business Actors, Community Leaders Local, and related parties in utilizing sago on peatlands.

In this study, the type of method used is a descriptive method, a study that seeks to describe a symptom of an event or an event in a structured and precise manner that alludes to the characteristics of a population or a particular area (Zuriah, 2007). Qualitative research is a study that aims to study the phenomena of what is found by research subjects such as the form of social networks, beliefs, motivations (urges), and actions, thoroughly by describing in the form of sentences or in the form of language in a special condition or situation that is natural and utilizes various natural methods (Moleong, 2005).

There are two sources of data used in this research, the first is primary data and the second is secondary data. Primary data is a source of data obtained from the results of question and answer activities to the people of Tanjung Village and Tanjung Darul Takzim Village and make observations or observations. While the second data, namely secondary data, is data obtained by researchers who are sourced indirectly, namely by collecting various information and references or literature related to the problem under study which can also be called documentation.

Literature Review

Social capital

Social capital is one of the significant parts that can ensure economic development in society. The social capital owned by the trader in providing an influence and provides the right progress for the ongoing business activities that he runs. The existence of social capital factors provides the possibility of forming agreements and peace in carrying out cooperative relationships in the process of marketing their business. The economy society will be hampered to growth when there is no balance between agreement and peace in establishing cooperative relationships with others (Hasbullah, 2006).

In general, according to Robert D. Putnam's opinion, the elements of social capital are (Putnam, 1993):

- a. Social network. Collaborative networks among humans are formed from the running of social capital with a dynamic infrastructure, thus facilitating communication and interaction that increases trust and enhances collaboration. Healthy societies have strong social networks that foster a sense of cooperation among their members and can benefit from their participation.
- b. Norms. Norms are formed from values, expectations, a sense of understanding, and goals that are shared and carried out by a group of people. Norms can be formed from secular standards such as codes of ethics, moral guidelines, or even religion which is a prerequisite or product of people's beliefs.
- c. Trust. Trust can grow from honesty and an attitude of mutual help among people or between certain groups. When group members expect or believe that other members can act honestly and trust, then trust will be formed between them.

Social capital is a social relationship that can influence individual behavior which will later affect economic development. Social capital is a network of cooperation between communities that provides a search for solutions to a problem that faces. Woolcock defines social capital as an association of capable relationships between humans that provide mutual trust, understanding, and shared values and behavior that unites members in a community network and work that strengthens cooperative relationships (Sayuti, 2016).

According to Schwartz, some traits can grow social capital, the following are some personality traits that are components of social capital that he put forward (Schwartz, 1994):

- Abundance mentality
This personality trait is a trait possessed by people who are happy to share something they have with others. People who do this will feel richer.
- Positive thoughts
Someone who has this personality will see other people as a part of his own life. Otherwise, he will always have positive thoughts about the things that other people do. People who always think positively will always try to understand the situation of others.
- Empathy
Someone who has this personality can feel things that are being felt by others, such as easily feeling the pain or pleasure of others. People who do not have this trait will find it difficult to establish a relationship with other people.
- Appreciation
Someone who has this personality likes to give appreciation to others. Appreciation can make other people feel valued, when a leader gives appreciation to the people he leads it will create meaning in his work life.
- Serve
Someone who has this personality when later becomes a leader who will serve the people under him who have interests. People who like to serve will feel happy when other people feel happy and will feel difficult when other people feel troubled.
- Transformational communication
People who have this personality when there is a difference of opinion, will always use kind words to calm the people around them, so the words used are always chosen well so that it feels good to be heard by others.
- Orientation of taste similarities
Someone who has this personality will make others feel happy for the pleasure he is feeling. People who have a sense of equality orientation also have a high sense of concern for others.

There are benefits of social capital for the community according to Fukuyama (1995) and Putnam (1993) namely being able to promote economic development in the community. This can

happen because in social capital there is trust. This trust will bind the community together. The rapid economic development in the East Asia region is due to the existence of economic activities that are based on the development of social capital, for example, in China. People in China build a form of business social network between local communities and overseas communities (Ancok, 2003).

The role of social capital in creating an emotional bond is useful for uniting the community so that it can produce results in trust from long relationships. Social relations form resources that can be invested to obtain economic benefits and social benefits. From this goal relationship, it can be taken from the impact on social relations (Usman, 2018).

Previous research

Researchers examine previous studies that can be useful for comparing, complementing, and can be a source of reference:

First, the research conducted by Meilvis E. Tahitu and his colleagues on "Strategi Pengembangan Kapasitas Pengelolaan Aagu di Maluku Tengah Provinsi Maluku", resulted that there were four main points in increasing the benefits of sago. The first is to prepare the management who will increase the benefits of sago itself. The second is to prepare trainers or mentors who are experts or trained in the field of sago management. Third, strengthen the sensitivity and understanding of the community about the social and cultural functions of sago to prove the continued use of sago as one of Maluku's cultures. And fourth, strengthening the form of the system and aligning policies or strategies for planning sago enhancement schemes between government institutions and certain parties or groups that are bound (Tahitu et al., 2016).

Second, the research conducted by Asriany and Nurlinda in Luwu Raya, precisely in South Sulawesi Province with the theme "Diversifikasi Olahan Sagu (Metroxylon Sagu) Dalam Rangka Pemberdayaan Ekonomi Keluarga Pra Sejahtera Menuju Ketahanan Pangan Berbasis Kearifan Lokal dan Pemberdayaan Ekonomi", which concludes that This can advance or increase the main economic power for women. This activity can be achieved in blending or synchronizing local wisdom with the economic needs of the community in the field of food made from sago (Asriany & Nurlinda, 2018).

And the third, the research conducted by Arief Rifa'I Harahap and Hendry Andry with the theme "Analisis Pemberdayaan Usaha Kecil Menengah Penghasil Produk Berbahan Baku Sagu di Desa Benglas Kecamatan Tebing Tinggi Kabupaten Kepulauan Meranti Provinsi Riau ", concluded that the government's role in providing support in the form of capital it is following the needs of business actors, but in the process of giving it is still not evenly distributed, this is due to the lack of understanding of business actors, especially in the sago noodle business in the administrative process. Likewise, the assistance in the form of equipment that is so needed by business actors is still not evenly distributed. Furthermore, there is also support in the form of providing training to the actors of the sago-based food business, in focusing on the quality and quantity of the product so that later what is produced can advance the welfare of the community, especially for business actors and SMEs. This has also been proven by one of the business actors, namely housewives who produce better products, namely the resulting texture is smoother than before (Harahap & Andry, 2016).

Results and Discussion

Community social capital plays a major role in improving the economy through sago in the peat area of Meranti Islands Regency. In particular, for sago farmers, sago refinery workers, and owners of the sago plantations and sago refineries who apply the elements or traits contained in social capital to carry out their economic life, especially when working in planting or maintaining sago gardens, processing sago, to marketing it. . Meranti Islands Regency is one of the areas in Riau Province which is one of the centers of sago development. One of the villages or areas that develop

sago in the Meranti Islands Regency is Tanjung Village and Tanjung Darul Takzim Village which also has a fairly large sago plantation as well as several sago refineries that can absorb labor.

According to local residents, the area in the Meranti Islands Regency is on average overgrown with quite a lot of sago plants. This sago plant in Tebing Tinggi Barat District is the largest sago plantation after West Tebing Tinggi District. According to him, the results from sago waste can also be used as kerosene and pellets as a coal fuel mixture which will later be exported abroad. The sago plantations in their village provide great benefits because the demand for sago starch has been sold so much and is always increasing. Some sago factories employ about 15 to 35 people, generally, these workers come from the local area and some even have their relatives. They have a wage of ± Rp. 200.000 for per month.

In these two villages, the use of sago is generally still using traditional tools and has not been carried out professionally by the community. They only rely on abilities (skills) that have been passed down from generation to generation by their parents and their predecessors. Many factories still use the manual method by utilizing sunlight for the drying process and using simple machine tools for processing. According to one sago farmer, if there are modern tools for processing sago, it generally comes from several private companies, which are few in the village. In addition, according to him, although the method they use is traditional, the sago processing products they produce are of good quality and provide income for their family life.

In addition, Tanjung Village has a fairly large number of sago farmers groups and sago farming groups and plays an active role in the maintenance of sago plantations to minimize the damage caused by certain factors. Meanwhile, Tanjung Darul Takzim Village has higher productivity of sago starch than Tanjung Village and Sungai Tohor Village.

One of the owners of the largest sago refinery in the Tanjung Village studied is Mr. Amirudin, Mr. Amir's parents are local people from the Malay tribe, initially, his parents were the first to set up a sago plantation in the Tanjung Village area. Then, Tanjung Village underwent an expansion and now Mr. Amir's sago refinery is located in Tanjung Darul Takzim Village. In addition to owning a sago refinery, Pak Amirudin also owns a sago family plantation, for the sago plantation industry, he also buys produce from community-owned sago plantations. And the results of sago processing in the refinery produce sago flour. The processing results spread to other areas, such as Cirebon. The sago waste was sent to the Batam area. The owner of the sago refinery as well as the owner of the sago plantation, Mr. Amirudin, received an environmental permit because the refinery had good waste management. The members who work (workers) at the refinery get free meal operations in the form of breakfast and other food, up to BPJS Employment. So that the existence of this refinery can be a form of employment that is beneficial to the surrounding community. So the local community does not only work in the sago plantation, but they can work in a sago processing plant like Pak Amirudin's.

Pak Amirudin's family is one of the largest families in this village and owns a sago plantation and a sago refinery. Because the processing of sago is done well, Pak Amir's parents, the owners of the sago refinery and sago plantation were awarded the Jakarta State Palace Upakarti Award, on January 8, 1996, by President Soeharto. In addition, Pak Amirudin's family has a relative who also owns a sago refinery and a sago plantation area. His names are Pak Syafrudin and Pak Agus Nimar. Mr. Agus Nimar is an alumnus of one of the universities in Japan and has been a Vice-Chancellor (PR) at the Islamic University of Riau (UIR). Their economy has improved well, the initial economic improvement came from the sago they had., there is a relative who is the Head of Village Community Development (PMD) in the Meranti Islands Regency. The economy of Pak Amir's brothers also comes from sago plantations, which gives them higher education and good careers.

Mr. Amirudin, who is known locally as having a family area of sago plantations and a sago refinery, his late parents founded a Kindergarten (school) foundation called the Al-Manar Education Foundation which is expected to be useful for the surrounding children, also built a place of worship in the form of a surau called Surau Al-Manar which can also be used for the

surrounding community. After discussing Pak Amiruddin's family, then there was Pak Miftah's family from Tanjung Darul Takzim Village. Pak Miftah's family has eight siblings, all of whom have education up to a bachelor's degree. As a child, their parents owned a sago plantation and worked as sago processors. The results of Pak Miftah's parents' sago plantations that they have are able to provide education to graduate degrees for their children.

Elements of social capital have generally been applied at the time of the processing of the sago processing. This can happen when there is a process of planting, caring, harvesting, processing, and until the marketing process for sago. The people involved are of course the owners of the garden and the owner of the sago mill, the workers, and those involved in the marketing process. Elements of social capital still exist even though a sago plantation is managed by individuals without involving workers in the planting to harvesting stages, these elements will later be found when they carry out the processing of sago in another party's mill and carry out the marketing (sales) process. The elements of social capital in general are in accordance with the opinion of Robert D. Putnam, which has been explained above, namely:

- a. Social network. The role of social networks in the business of utilizing sago is formed from the roles of each actor or worker in it that has related interests. Each worker performs work activities according to their respective parts. Everything they do is needed and results in the interrelationships between them. As in a sago refinery, several workers are required to carry out sago processing operations. They get their respective parts when running the machine, loading the sago, cleaning, and so on until finally the part to product packaging. Among them establish interaction and communication to form a social network. Another, during the marketing process, the sago processors must have a network to the market system where sago products must be sold. And social networks are formed when individual sago farmers need a sago mill to process their crops, or can even sell them at the mill site.
- b. Norms. Norms have a close relationship with ethics in a business or business. In the sago business, sago entrepreneurs must understand the environmental conditions in their place, namely by not allowing sago waste to be wasted in polluting the surrounding environment, for this reason, regulations must be made regarding the handling of sago waste. Sago waste must be handled properly, as in this study sago waste is processed properly so that it does not pollute the environment, and processed products that have good quality can be sent outside the region. In addition, sago entrepreneurs who have workers must have a sense of mutual understanding, care, and respect. As in this study, there are sago business owners who provide free meal operations and BPJS Employment for their workers, the rest of the workers must also maintain mutual relations with each other to remain harmonious.
- c. Trust. In the process of marketing or selling the products sold must meet food health standards, to gain trust and get regular customers, so that the goals and expectations of sellers and buyers can be achieved. In addition, trust is usually formed between worker members, they must trust each other in carrying out their respective roles so that the sago processing process can run well, as well as the need for trust between business owners and their workers. In addition, individual sago cultivators can also borrow money from a sago business place, on the condition that when they later harvest sago, it must be sold at the place where they borrowed the money, with a tax system on the loan. For this, of course, it takes trust so that all their goals can be achieved.

So, judging from the utilization of sago, it can cover 3 areas that can be felt by sago business actors, sago processing workers, and sago marketers, especially for the surrounding community, namely:

- a. Benefits in the economic field
Sago plays a very important role in the economy because the income from the sale of sago can encourage the economy of sago business actors. In addition, its use can also be felt by

the surrounding community. The results of the utilization of sago in Tanjung Village and Tanjung Darul Takzim Village, namely:

- Increased income in the family. Those who use sago, by processing and selling it, can improve the economy of their family to be better than before.
- Open job opportunities. Business actors who own large sago plantations and refineries when carrying out the treatment, marketing of sago, and processing of sago, of course, require quite a lot of workers to help carry out these processes. Thus, the economy of someone who can work in sago plantations and sago refineries can be helped by the existence of these jobs.

The income generated from sago can increase family income, and support the formation of other benefits, namely benefits in the field of education and the social sector. This can happen because sago has such great benefits in the economic field that makes the economy of a family more advanced. So that these results can form other benefits, as below.

b. Benefits in the field of education

From the results of sago income, it turns out that it can encourage benefits in the field of education. In the field of education, everything is formed from their consistent efforts in pursuing their sago plantations.

- Building the Al-Manar Education Foundation. This foundation is a form of Kindergarten (TK) school. Sago entrepreneurs hope that this foundation can encourage children to have better academic achievements. In addition, it can make it easier for parents to send their children to school with a kindergarten school close by.
- Improving education up to a bachelor's degree. The income from the sago garden can send their children to graduate school. You can even study at one of the universities in Japan. So that they can pursue their careers well, such as the Assistant Chancellor (PR) at UIR and the Head of Village Community Development (PMD). The results of this use of sago turned out to be able to make them study up for college and get a good career.

c. Benefits in the social field

In addition to the benefits in the field of education, the income from their sago business has increased a person's economy which can produce social benefits.

- Establish a place of worship in the form of a surau. The construction of a surau is a form of attention given by one of the sago business actors to the surrounding community. As well as a form of gratitude for the economic improvement that has been obtained from the sago business. Sago entrepreneurs hope that the surrounding community or visitors who are visiting the village can find a place of worship that is closer to the area. In addition, the surrounding community can carry out cooperation activities to clean the surau, so that they can carry out other useful activities in the surau together.

According to sago farmers, peatland is suitable land if planted with sago even though it can cause forest fires, if you have a good peat soil care system, peat soil can store large water reserves as a place for sago plants to live. Before establishing a sago plantation, they must find out the health of the peatlands they have for the survival of the sago plants they will plant. Although the yield of sago on peat land with mineral land has a different harvest period. According to him, sago plants located on peatlands tend to take longer to harvest, however they must make the best use of existing peatlands and generate profits for them.

In the Meranti Islands Regency, the thickness and maturity of peat have several types. The thickness and maturity of peat greatly affect the potential of its land resources. According to farmers, the thicker the sago and the lower the maturity level, the less fertile it is for sago plants. If sago lands with these characteristics are forced to be developed for sago plantations, it is very possible that sago plants will not develop, and land degradation and environmental damage will

occur. The suitability of the location for sago planting in peat areas makes sago development face policy-related obstacles. Sago plants thrive on weathered peatlands. However, careless handling of sago palms can threaten the existence of sago palms and threaten the environment because of the possibility of land fires. Regarding land fires, according to sago farmers, this is commonplace in plantations with peat land. According to him, this is due to a lack of attention to land maintenance. In fact, if water management and monitoring on peatlands are carried out properly and wisely, the possibility of land fires is relatively small.

According to the people in the two research villages, precisely in the Meranti Islands Regency, they used to build or ditch around the sago plantations. To maintain the water content in the peat soil which will be used for the needs of sago plants. And it turns out that peat soil does need a lot of water so that it doesn't dry out easily which causes it to burn easily. Blocks in this canal will be opened during the rainy season to prevent flooding and then they will be closed during the dry season so that the peat soil does not dry out.

When President Jokowi visited Meranti in 2014, according to a sago farmer, he praised the local wisdom of the Meranti people in protecting peatlands. The blocking technique in this canal has become one of the guiding techniques for peatland management in the world. To always maintain the moisture of the peat soil, the people in Tanjung Village and Darul Takzim Village, of course, where sago plants grow, have channels for sago plants are built so that they sago plants do not run out of water and can prevent forest fires that can damage the sago plants of the local community. So that with the canal blocking, the economy of the community in the village can grow well as long as the sago plants can be maintained properly without destroying its sustainability.

Sago farmers have also tried to take the right steps in restoring peatlands, namely by building blocks on the canal followed by mapping, determining people who will be involved in peatland maintenance and monitoring, and determining people who will be involved in the management of canal blocks, and schedule the times that have been determined by the sago farmers. Sago farmers also hope that the government can care about the problems they are experiencing, both regarding land, regarding sago management machines, and the wider market.

From the results of the study, it was found that the supporting factors that made Meranti Islands Regency one of the largest sago-producing areas in Indonesia, namely:

1. Extensive plantation. A large number of sago plantations will certainly attract a lot of sago workers. Thus, with the existence of a large garden, the residents get jobs both from the garden itself and from the sago refinery that was established as a result of the sago plant.
2. Supporting soil. Even though sago palms are located in peatlands, which results in longer harvesting times, peatlands can store a lot of water so that during the dry season, sago palms can still thrive.
3. Good care. Extensive plantations and supporting land will not have good results if they are not properly cared for as well. Paying attention to sago land, as well as the survival of sago plants in certain ways is the right step.

Conclusion

Social capital plays an important role both in growing and improving the economy. Without social capital, the sago industry will not run well. Because it is the element of social capital that can revive the sago processing process along with the maintenance of the land. The actors related to sago will need the elements or traits that exist in social capital to realize their goals in improving the economy because some of them must be mutually sustainable and can synergize well in the process of utilizing sago. The results of this study indicate that sago is proven to be able to improve the family's economy, especially for the local community. The income from sago provides income for the community, both from their own plantations and from those who work for other parties. Benefits in the economic field turned out to support the formation of benefits in the social field, namely producing a surau. Also useful in the field of education, namely producing the Al-Manar Education Foundation and increasing their children's education to graduate degrees. Even with

peatlands, sago plantations can still run well as long as they maintain their sustainability by restoring peatlands, namely by building canals around the sago plantations so that the sago palm does not run out of water and there is no damage from forest fires. The results also show that extensive plantations, supportive soil, and good maintenance are factors in Meranti Islands Regency as one of the largest sago-producing areas.

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