

## GOVERNMENT ROLE IN DEVELOPING RURAL RABBIT PRODUCTION IN INDONESIA

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### ABSTRACT

Agricultural sector including livestock and animal health plays a role in the formation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Indonesia, increase employment and foreign exchange, increase people's incomes and poverty alleviation. The Ministry of Agriculture in 2010-2014 has four main targets to be achieved, including the achievement of self-sufficiency and sustainable self-sufficiency, realization of food diversification, to increase the added value and competitiveness and improving the welfare of farmers. In achieving those four main targets, Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health (DGLAH) issuing policies that one of which is the development of Minor Livestock Production (such as rabbit, quail, deer meat) farming system to support meat sufficiency for farmers. The farming system which can be developed in rural condition and do not require large area of land is rabbit husbandry. To improve the rabbit farming and production, needs to develop the pattern of cooperation with stakeholders and the availability of village rabbit breeding center should be enhanced to provide good quality of rabbit breed.

**Key Words:** Programs, Government Policies

### INTRODUCTION

An intention in national economic development is to make agriculture as a leading sector because of the strategic role of this sector as a food provider for the nation and to improve raw materials availability established for food and non-food industries. In addition, the agricultural sector including livestock and animal health plays a role in the formation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), increase employment and foreign exchange. The agricultural sector in turn can increase people's incomes and poverty alleviation.

Indonesia had been known as agricultural society as a legacy from generations to generations. Based on the results of the National Labor Force Survey (Sakernas/BPS-Statistic Indonesia), that the labor force engaged in the agricultural sector dominates non-agricultural sector up to the year of 2009. The labor force in Indonesia, is around 104 million and 40% (or about 41 million) of that were absorbed in the agricultural sector and mostly living in the countryside (BPS 2009). The growth of the labor force in the agriculture sector tends to decrease, such as in the period between 2002-2005 decreased growth reached

2.91 and during 2005-2009 to 2.41 (BPS 2009). Declining in labor force growth in the agricultural sector was because of switched professions to other sectors such as in the Trade, Services, Mining and Building.

Reduced of labor force in the agricultural sector is caused due to margin gains are minimal and land use is not adequate foreconomic business. Land owner farmers in Indonesia, especially in Java has limited area with an average of 0.2 hectare, some farmers even more as peasants (as the rural landless laborers), in addition, there also a replaced functions of productive agriculture land become infrastructure development, industrial and residential. With limited land owned by farmers, the role of the livestock sub-sector can be expected as an alternative to supporting farming in increasing the added value of the income and welfare of farmers.

The Ministry of Agriculture in 2010-2014 has four main targets to be achieved, namely:

1. the achievement of self-sufficiency and sustainable self-sufficiency;
2. realization of food diversification;
3. to increase the added value and competitiveness;
4. improving the welfare of farmers.

In achieving those four main targets, DGLAH issuing policies that one of which is the development of Minor Livestock Production (such as rabbit, quail, deer meat) which is directed to support Achieving Self-Beef meat Sufficiency Program and Increased Provision of Safe, Healthy and Halal Animal Food.

Meat consumption according to the standard of National Food Nutrition Widya Karya - LIPI for animal protein derived from livestock is 6 g/person/day is equal to 10.3 kg of meat/person/year meat, and 6.5 kg eggs/person/year and 7.2 kg milk/cap/year. In 2013 beef consumption reached 2.2 kg/person/year and for poultry meat reached 6 kg/person/year (LIPI 2013). The meat shortage can be supported by one of the livestock diversity meat, especially of rabbit meat. In support of these programs, a suitable farming system which can be developed in rural condition and do not require large area of land is rabbit husbandry. Domestic scale of rabbit husbandry in Indonesia is mostly performed around the back-yard.

At the moment, rabbit meat consumption has not been as popular as beef or poultry. In that case, aggressively promotion of consuming rabbit meat should be done by promoting that rabbit production is rapid due to its prolific characteristic and the advantages of rabbit meat for health issue such as low in cholesterol, high in protein and flavor that resembles poultry meat. Another benefit of rabbit husbandry is its added value of the rabbit hide and fur that can be used for handy crafts or industrial scale such as for jackets, hats, scarves, shoes, dolls, bags and miscellaneous accessories. Other added values in rabbit husbandry are urine and feces products that can be used as organic fertilizer for horticultural crops and vegetables.

### PROBLEMS

Rabbit breeding conditions in Indonesia have not been spread evenly, and it is developed as backyard-small farm family activity with limited number of holdings and capital, low quality breeds, as hobbyist and pets. For meat production, mortality rates are still high due to limitation in access to medications, information and technology. It

leads to non-economical production, less reliable continuity of meat supply and varies in product quality.

Based on these conditions, the rabbit production scheme needs to be revisited in order to gain a profitable livestock business to develop agribusiness and environmental-friendly activity. This effort leads to empowering rural economy through small and medium scale rabbit farming for developing sustainable rural livestock production.

### ROLES OF DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL HEALTH IN RABBITS PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT

Steps had been taken and achieved in the cultivation of rabbits in support of Achieving Self-Beef Meat Sufficiency Program and Increased Provision of Safe, Healthy and Halal Animal Food, DGLAH have been involved in development of rabbit farming with several activities such as:

#### Rabbits production development

1. Empowerment of rabbit breeders groups through the strengthening of venture capital and social assistance had been conducted since 2006 until today. Assistant of Rabbit development had been spread to 88 farmer groups in 16 provinces and 46 districts/cities in Indonesia.
2. Village Building Undergraduate Program (SMD) during 2009-2010 had been allocated funds to 36 farmers groups in 9 provinces.
3. Other aid in the form of soft loans to farmers in the form of Credit Food Security and Energy (KKP-E).
4. In 2012 a pilot project was carried out for rabbit village development using state funds and focused in 5 Provinces, 5 Regency/City on 6 groups of farmers.
5. Current conditions (in 2013) assistance to farmers in the form of agriculture-machinery allocated through the de-concentrated state budget funds through auction procurement process.

### **Rabbit breeder group coaching**

The activities was given to the selected group of potential recipient and location and memorandum of understanding was signed and known by local official. The selected groups were then given a letter of recognition signed at least by Agriculture District Director and will receive assistance routinely performed gradually from the central, provincial and district/city to perform a Good Farming Practicess. Monitoring and evaluation were also performed to the recipient group regularly to detect problems and checking the progress.

### **Increase promotion and dissemination rabbit meat consumption**

Indonesian people have not been accustomed eating rabbit meat and there are also still doubts in terms of halal according to the Islamic law. According to Indonesian Ulama Council Fatwa (MUI 1983) it was pronounce that rabbit meat is halal. Processed rabbit meat products in the form of a satay, steak, meatballs, fried rabbit and nugget needs were promoted and showed in any event both at work and exhibitions.

### **Coordination between related agencies (IRIAP/University and Directorate General of Food Crops and Horticulture)**

Integrated farming system in rabbit production have been carried out by DGLAH and Directorate General of Horticulture. The pattern is based on the same mutual expectation, equality and profitable. From the rabbit husbandry, the feces and rabbit urine can be utilized as organic fertilizer and plant by-product of vegetable and horticulture were used as additional food for rabbits.

The aim of all the government support in providing assistance in the development of rural rabbit farming is to grow and increased the economy in rural areas, increase economic independence, fostering the spirit of entrepreneurial among the group, reduce urbanization with job creation and improvement of rural people's nutrition.

The programs are not only carried out by the central government but also from local

government through budget funds, private individual/Association, through funding partnerships/CSR and Universities.

Role of Stakeholders is expected that rabbit production and distribution can be spread all over Indonesia. When sustainability of rabbit meat is available, then we hope the consumption of rabbit meat become more popular in the community.

### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF RABBITS FARMING**

Prospect of rabbit farming in the future is reliable considering the development of animal husbandry today and beyond especially in the midst of globalization. To face this era of globalization, need the readiness of the group Breeders, Livestock Infrastructure, Government Policy, Private sectors, Associations and Universities to face the global conditions and are required readiness to take a role. This condition should be seen as an opportunity increasingly open world market.

Breeders are given protection, especially when farmers are facing difficulties in order to establish a livestock business. Kind of protection can be given when facing against the plague, selling price fluctuating production, climate change that can lead to uncertainty for businesses and most of the time farmers are powerless to deal with it.

The breeders who have the same goals and visions are encourage to join and form groups of farmers so that the presence this group can improve in:

1. Efficiency of business in term of animal production infrastructure (livestock breed, and solving problems in feed nutrition and price, marketing)
2. Strengthening the bargaining position (the price can be controlled)
3. Facilitate coaching and supervision

Protection for farmers in continuity of animal production business are also set in Law No. 18 and 2009 regarding Animal Husbandry and Health (DPR-Presiden RI 2009). The Government also provides protection that farmers can possibly accessed widely to the resources of land, water, genetic resources, and to the development of seeds, feed, animal

health, veterinary public health as well as on the downstream aspects.

### **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

To improve the rabbit farming and production, needs to develop the pattern of cooperation with stakeholders.

The availability of village rabbit breeding center should be enhanced so rabbit production farmers easy to get a better quality of breed.

Research and development by the agricultural research and higher education in creating antibody/vaccine to reduce the mortality rate are continued.

The role of government, private sector, and the farmers group/association and universities in promoting the consumption of rabbit meat in the community should be improved.

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