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THE ROLE OF FISH POND FARMING BUSINESS IN IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF FISH POND FARMERS IN PETELUAN INDAH VILLAGE, LINGSAR DISTRICT, WEST LOMBOK REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the role of fish pond farming in improving the welfare of fish pond farmers in Peteluan Indah Village, Lingsar District, West Lombok Regency. Fish pond farming is one of the rapidly growing local economic sectors with great potential to increase community income. The research method used is a qualitative approach with data collection techniques including interviews, observations, and documentation. The results of the study show that fish pond farming not only contributes to increasing farmers' income but also encourages the creation of job opportunities, improvement of housing conditions, and better access to education and healthcare services. In addition, support from the government and local institutions further strengthens the sustainability of fish pond farming. Therefore, fish pond farming plays an important role in improving the living standards and welfare of pond farmers in the region.

Keywords: fish pond farming, welfare, pond farmers, Peteluan Indah Village, local economic development

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is an archipelagic country that has great potential in the fisheries and marine sector. With two-thirds of its area being sea, Indonesia's marine and fisheries resources are estimated to be worth around US$ 136.5 billion (Susetyo et al., 2018). Fisheries play an important and strategic role in economic development (Rabo et al., 2014). Fisheries include all actions related to the management and utilization of fish resources and their environment, from pre-production, production, management, to marketing (Kurniawan, 2023).

Due to the abundant potential of fishery resources, the fisheries sector has enormous potential as a source of economic growth (Ujianti et al., 2024). Therefore, fisheries are one of the important sectors in supporting community economic empowerment (Kobit, 2018).

One of the subsectors that plays a vital role in the economy and community welfare is the fish farming business (Vorona & Legorov, 2023). More than just a livelihood, fish farming is the backbone of the economy that makes a major contribution to food security and increasing community income. With each pond managed, fish farming not only produces quality fish, but also creates jobs, drives the local economy, and ensures the availability of nutritious food for the community (Ilham et al., 2023).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Public welfare

According to Law No. 11 of 2009, welfare is a condition where the material, spiritual, and social needs of citizens are met in order to live properly and be able to develop themselves, so that they can carry out their social functions. The purpose of the economy is to prosper and fulfill the needs of the community, and to achieve convenience and satisfaction. By fulfilling the needs of the community, it is able to create welfare and a productive life (Deliarnov, 2009).

Fish Pond Cultivation

Ponds in fisheries are artificial reservoirs. Ponds are usually isolated and controlled, designed to meet the specific needs of the species being cultured. In general, a pond is a rectangular pool specially designed for intensive culture of fish

or shrimp, with a waste disposal inlet in the center of the map and a water wheel to enhance fish growth and respiration.

Aquaculture is a human endeavor to increase the productivity of waters through aquaculture such as fish aquaculture, aquatic plants, and shellfish. Aquaculture refers to the cultivation of aquatic organisms from various sources, such as fish, shellfish, shrimp, and aquatic plants. Controlling breeding and growth are two examples of aquaculture operations. Because it produces greater or greater yields than naturally occurring fish breeding, aquaculture is preferred over fish farming.

Fish farming is a form of human intervention in increasing the productivity of waters. This is an effort to utilize the resources available around to achieve group goals. Producing fish in a container or media is done with the aim of making a profit.

The purpose of fish farming is to achieve better or more fishery production compared to fish that live in the wild. To achieve this goal, many factors affect the cultivation effort, such as seed providers, making maintenance places, irrigation, feed and fertilization, and pest and disease control.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, the author uses a qualitative descriptive research type, which is a type of research that provides events or facts about a particular population or area systematically and accurately. The qualitative descriptive approach to data management uses descriptions, arguments, and expositions that provide an accurate picture of the subject being studied. According to Creswell & Poth (2014) the purpose of descriptive research is to describe the nature of a condition that is currently running at the time the research is conducted, and to examine the causes of a particular symptom. In this case the author provides a detailed explanation of fish farming in improving the welfare of the Peteluan Indah Village community.

Data Analysis

Data analysis was conducted using qualitative analysis, namely interview transcription, data reduction, analysis, interpretation, and triangulation. The data analysis techniques used were data reduction and triangulation.

Determination of Informants

Determination of Informants in this study was carried out to collect data, informants were determined who would provide information regarding the problem being studied.

The informants in this study were the village government and indigenous people of Peteluan Indah Village, Menjeli Hamlet, Lingsar District, West Lombok Regency who work as fish farmers. The informants that the author will interview are as follows:

1. Head of Peteluan Indah Village/Village Secretary (Key Informant)
2. Village community as fish pond farmers in Peteluan Indah Village (Main Informant)
3. Community Leaders (Additional Informants)

Data collection technique

Data collection techniques are the most important step in research, because the main purpose of research is to obtain data. The data collection techniques in this study are as follows.

1. Observation

Observation is a method of collecting data through direct observation accompanied by systematic recording of the objects being studied directly.

2. Interview

Interview is a data collection technique to obtain information that is extracted from direct data sources through conversation or questions and answers (Satori & Komariah, 2013:130). Interview is used as the main data collection technique, where the technique used is by means of questions and answers between researchers and sources or informants.

3. Documentation

Documentation is a record of past events. Documents can be in the form of writing, pictures, or monumental works of a person (Sugiyono, 2016).

Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis techniques are ways of analyzing data obtained from research to draw conclusions from the research results. The stages of data analysis in this study include the following.

1. Data Collection

The data collection analysis process can be carried out in various ways through interviews, observations, observations and documentation.

2. Data Reduction

Data reduction is the classification, simplification, and removal of unnecessary data in such a way that the data can produce meaningful information and make it easy to draw conclusions.

3. Data Presentation

The second flow of data presentation is a series of activities in the process of completing research results using analysis methods in accordance with the desired objectives, namely (1) To analyze the role of fish farming businesses in improving the economy of the Peteluan Indah Village community, Lingsar District, West Lombok Regency, (2) To analyze what obstacles are faced by the local community in running fish farming businesses in Peteluan Indah Village, and (3) To analyze what factors influence the local community in running fish farming businesses in Peteluan Indah Village.

4. Drawing Conclusions

After the data is presented, conclusions are drawn. Decisions are made based on data reduction and presentation, which are solutions to the problems found in the study.

Data Validation

Checking the validity of data is a step to reduce errors in the process of obtaining research data which will certainly have an impact on the end of a study. The technique used in checking the validity of data is the triangulation technique. Triangulation is a method used by researchers when collecting and analyzing data by reducing as much as possible the bias that occurs during data collection and analysis. There are 4 types of triangulation used by researchers, namely:

1. Source Triangulation
2. Triangulation Method
3. Research Triangulation
4. Time triangulation

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Role of Fish Farming in Community Welfare

The role of fish farming in Peteluan Indah village in improving community welfare includes several aspects, including the role in employment opportunities, community income and also livelihoods.

1. **Employment Opportunity**

Fish farming is a sector that has great potential in the world of fisheries and aquatics, and can create various job opportunities that are beneficial to the community. The creation of fish ponds can provide many benefits to the community, especially in increasing job opportunities. Fish ponds require a lot of labor, from pond construction to fish maintenance and harvesting. This can provide jobs for residents in Peteluan Indah village. Fish ponds can be a source of additional income for people who may also be involved in agricultural activities or other sectors. This diversification can help reduce the economic risks that arise from relying on just one source of income.

2. **Community Income**

With fish ponds, communities can produce fish continuously throughout the year. This ensures a stable supply of fish to sell, both in local and out-of-town markets. Fish from ponds can be sold at competitive prices, thus providing greater profits for farmers. A large market also allows farmers to get the best prices. Sustainable fish farming can guarantee a source of income in the long term. With good farming practices, natural resources can be maintained and pond productivity remains high.

DISCUSSION

Freshwater fish farming is a business based on the people's economy where in the process of fish farming it relies more on the resources available in the environment, both human resources and natural resources in that place such as the availability of water and land. Based on the results of research conducted by researchers, where researchers conducted interviews with Mr. Munandar as a freshwater fish farmer**.**

Regarding his initial information on running a freshwater fish farming business, he said: "Initially, I started this freshwater fish farming business because of the increasing expenses and needs that continued to increase, so I had the initiative to utilize existing natural resources, namely by starting a freshwater fish farming business."

In addition, from the results of interviews conducted with other freshwater fish farmers, namely Mr. Rungsit, where he said "I am doing this freshwater fish farming business because of the stagnant economic conditions but I want to improve my economic conditions and the community around my residence through this freshwater fish farming business". On the other hand, the freshwater fish farming business carried out by the community has at least contributed to the community's economy, either through empowerment or job opportunities.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Based on the results of the research and discussion, it can be concluded that fish pond cultivation has a role in improving the welfare of fish farming communities in Peteluan Indah Village, namely:

1. The creation of fish ponds can provide many benefits to the community, especially in increasing employment opportunities. fish ponds requires a lot of labor, from pond construction to fish maintenance and harvesting. This can provide employment for residents in Peteluan Indah village. Fish ponds can be a source of additional income for people who may also be involved in agricultural activities or other sectors.
2. With the existence of fish ponds, the community can produce fish continuously throughout the year. This ensures a stable supply of fish to sell, both in local markets and outside the region. Fish from the ponds can be sold at competitive prices, thus providing greater profits for the farmers.

The results of the study showed that there had been changes in the types of community livelihoods after making fish ponds in Peteluan Indah Village. Previously, before having fish ponds, the livelihoods of most of the community were farmers/planters, after having fish ponds, their livelihoods changed, including Fish Pond Farmers.

B. Suggestion

1. Suggestions to local governments include improving supporting infrastructure for fish farming such as road access, electricity, and irrigation systems to support farming activities and providing access to capital and financial assistance for fish farmers through the people's business credit (KUR) program or special subsidies for fish farming.
2. Suggestions for future researchers who are interested in fish pond cultivation research can be very useful for further development in this field. Here are some suggestions that can be considered:
    - Conduct an in-depth analysis of the economic aspects of fish farming, including production costs, profitability, and risk analysis. This will provide a better understanding of the economic well-being of the farmers.
    - Conduct studies on the environmental impacts of fish farming, including analysis of water quality, waste management, and impacts on surrounding ecosystems. Researchers may also explore sustainable farming practices.

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