

Traditional Conflict Resolution of Paddy Field Farmers

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Abstract

Conflict resolution theorists have recognised the necessity of addressing conflict resolution within the domestic sphere of nations on a global scale in its present state of advancement. One example is Indonesia, a country characterised by a propensity for conflicts in rural regions that are primarily driven by agricultural and plantation activities. The primary objective of conducting research on conflict resolution among wetland farmers is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of conflict interactions among these individuals, as well as to examine the strategies and approaches employed by wetland farmers in effectively resolving conflicts that arise within wetland areas. The chosen research methodology employs a qualitative approach, specifically the phenomenological variant, and incorporates an interactive model for data analysis. The findings indicated that a conflict resolution initiative was initiated by the sharecroppers in the rice field planting limit, without the participation of traditional leaders, the head of the neighbourhood association, or the local village head. The paddy field farmers employ traditional methods to address conflicts within their community. The results of this study indicate that conflict resolution among rural rice field farmers in the context of paddy rice planting is predominantly characterised by traditional patterns rather than modern ones. This entails that farmers rely on established decision-making practises to address conflicts related to rice planting limits in their fields. These conflicts typically involve individual owners of rice fields and intermediaries engaged in the buying and selling of such fields. This study proposes the enhancement of conflict resolution strategies among wetland farmers through the implementation of district government policies and village regulations that prioritise the preservation of the cultural practises associated with conflict resolution within the wetland farming community. The implications for the sustainability of rice production by wetland farmers are influenced by the reinforcement of district government policies and village regulations.

Keywords: conflict resolution, wetland farmers, family, rice production

1. Introduction

The prevalent Agrarian conflict that transpires within the territorial boundaries of Indonesia predominantly manifests itself in rural regions. The prevalence of rice fields in rural areas, which presents a potential conflict managed by farmers, is widely acknowledged. Furthermore, it should be noted that the land ownership of certain rural residents lacks a legal foundation in formal law. Consequently, this situation may give rise to future conflicts concerning the ownership rights of said rural residents.

Following the enactment of Law No. 5/1960 pertaining to the Fundamental Regulation of Agrarian Principles, Indonesia has endeavoured to uphold societal welfare, with a particular focus on the agricultural community, while striving to mitigate instances of conflict. The implementation of comprehensive legislation pertaining to agrarian affairs is anticipated to provide resolutions and resolutions to the prevailing conflicts. Contrary to popular belief, it is evident that an increase in regulations pertaining to agrarian affairs leads to the emergence of additional challenges (Anitasari, 2019). The evolution of conflicts, particularly those related to agrarian issues such as land, is influenced by shifts in individuals' lives, mindsets, and perspectives. Consequently, it becomes necessary to explore methods of conflict resolution (Zakie, 2017). Furthermore, the rise of the contemporary market has been identified as an additional obstacle characterised by elevated prices and stringent quality standards. Consequently, traditional farmers, who are burdened by prevailing legacy deficiencies, are compelled to confront these challenges in highly demanding situations (Maspaitella et al., 2018).

Land use conflicts are complicated disputes that have a substantial impact on social and economic well-being in diverse societies. The primary factors contributing to land use conflicts in Tanzania, as identified by Gwaleba (2019), include deficiencies in land governance, improper land use planning, insufficient land policies, the ambiguity surrounding land ownership, corrupt practises, and population growth. The legislation has been noted to exhibit a substantial deficiency. According to Hartini and Jatmiko (2017), there is currently a lack of a comprehensive and effective programme specifically tailored for farmers and agricultural businesses regarding land division. The existing

judicial systems have been observed to favour individuals belonging to the political and economically privileged class. According to [Van der Muur \(2018\)](#), individuals engaged in traditional farming practises and other local residents frequently encountered challenges related to insecure land titles. This situation resulted in an escalation of land disputes between the traditional rural population and the governing authorities. The Indonesian government's legislative system, characterised by contrasting and deficit features, has been identified as a significant factor contributing to conflicts among traditional farmers. This concerning trend holds great importance and necessitates urgent attention to rectify the injustices and inadequacies faced by these farmers. According to accounts, wetland farmers engage in the resolution of conflicts amongst themselves, despite the prevailing understanding that the legitimacy of their land ownership primarily hinges on the Land Certificate issued by the local village administration ([Suryadi, 2023](#)). The authors have argued and depicted the severe state of the legislation governing the Indonesian agrarian sector.

([Brouwer et al., 2010](#); [Do & Bennett, 2010](#); [Yesuf et al., 2005](#)) By synthesizing the findings from various recent studies, this research has developed a more focused framework for understanding the emergence of conflict resolution initiatives initiated by individual tenant farmers on rice fields. These farmers adhere to traditional customary practises within the village community to address conflicts among themselves. The researcher has primarily focused on traditional farmers as the target population, employing a qualitative research methodology, and contributing to the existing literature through this study. This study has contributed valuable insights into the various factors contributing to the occurrence of traditional rice field conflicts among traditional farmers. Additionally, it has shed light on the factors that traditional farmers can proactively address and adapt to in order to mitigate and prevent such conflicts. This study has made significant theoretical contributions by offering a comprehensive understanding of traditional conflicts that predominantly emerge in the Indonesian agrarian sector, specifically related to rice fields.

The subsequent study will encompass a comprehensive review of the current literature, a detailed description of the research methodology employed, the presentation and analysis of the computed results derived from the gathered data, a

thorough discussion of these findings, the formulation of conclusive remarks, an acknowledgment of the study's limitations, and suggestions for future research endeavours.

2. Literatur Review

Traditional Conflict Resolution

The study primarily focuses on traditional farmers, a term that will be defined at the outset, as the main target population ([Hartini & Jatmiko, 2017](#)), defined as individuals who possess comprehensive knowledge and understanding of their local environment. These farmers refrain from utilising pesticides and exhibit limited familiarity and engagement with contemporary technologies and innovative agricultural practises. Additionally, they adhere to traditional methods for seed preservation and production. The prevalence of hypertension among rice farmers has been investigated by [Prihartono et al. \(2022\)](#), who identified several contributing factors. Their analysis revealed that occupational factors, pesticide usage, heat stress, and certain personal attributes are associated with hypertension among rice farmers. These findings contribute to our understanding of the health risks faced by traditional farmers. The practises employed by traditional farmers have been the subject of discourse due to their adherence to conventional methods. However, scholarly research has examined the strategies employed by rice farmers in central Java, Indonesia, to adopt technology ([Connor et al., 2021](#)). These studies have also emphasised the positive impact of these strategies on sustainability. However, the article also highlights several challenges that hinder the implementation of innovative rice farming techniques, including time constraints, technological incompatibility with traditional farming methods, and the unsuitability of the technology for rice cultivation.

Furthermore, the notion of conflict is a pervasive characteristic within society, indicating that no individual or collective entity is exempt from experiencing conflict. Conflict has become a pervasive aspect of human existence throughout historical and contemporary times ([Suryadi, 2007](#)). The convergence of

the terms "traditional farmers" and "conflict" gives rise to the concept of traditional farmer conflicts. Several types of conflicts have been observed to arise in rural and village areas for various reasons, such as land rights, ecological and climate change, and government policies (Maspaitella et al., 2018). These conflicts often revolve around the assertion of control over the management and utilisation of land areas (Karjoko & Handayani, 2021). The emergence of laws and regulations in the field of conflict resolution has been observed, with a particular emphasis on the significance of land and forest laws in promoting social and political well-being amidst land-related challenges and uncertainties (Riggs et al., 2016). In a recent scholarly investigation conducted by Kurnia et al. (2022), a case study methodology was employed to examine the impact of indigenous knowledge on the long-term viability of agricultural practises. The authors contended that the integration of customary norms and legal statutes, in conjunction with the implementation of land transformation practises, resulted in the amelioration of agricultural conflict ratios and facilitated the advancement of agricultural sustainability. A recent study conducted by Limpo et al. (2022) examined the impact of indigenous knowledge on rice cultivation among Bugis-Makassar farmers in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. The study revealed the unique and diminishing influence of indigenous knowledge, particularly among the local community and middle-aged individuals. The researchers proposed the integration of local cultural practises and modern technology as a means to enhance agricultural productivity. Nevertheless, prior to the implementation of these restricted reforms pertaining to land conflicts, it is imperative to acknowledge the significance of engaging older farmers who possess extensive experience in land use conflict resolution. By leveraging their customs and perspectives, these seasoned individuals can effectively enhance their ability to address and mitigate land use conflicts within their respective villages. However, it is imperative that farmers receive proper education regarding the importance of mitigating land use conflicts and enhancing household production capabilities (Alawode, 2013). A study has been conducted by Ukamaka et al. (2017) examined the origins and consequences of conflicts primarily occurring between farmers and herders. The study identified the violation of customary rules, cultural

disparities, and interference with livelihoods as the principal causes of these conflicts. These factors have significantly disrupted the social and economic fabric of rural villages and have had broader implications for Nigeria's overall economic development. A recent study has examined the impact of limited arable land on farmers and the resulting conflicts that arise between farmers and herders. The main cause of conflict initiation, as posited by their contributions, is the limited availability of condensed land areas. [Jones-Casey and Knox \(2019\)](#) have identified social, economic, and environmental factors that contribute to the promotion of conflicts. Additionally, they have proposed potential resolutions for these conflicts and their associated factors.

Traditional leaders play a significant role in mitigating acts of violence and fostering peace and harmony through their involvement in conflict resolution processes, particularly in cases such as conflicts between farmers and herders. To enhance the efficacy of these leaders, it is imperative for the government to empower them by actively engaging them in conflict resolution initiatives and peace negotiations ([Hamza, Pandian, & Ramli, 2019](#)).

Community-based associations play a significant role in conflict management due to their enhanced understanding of cultural dynamics. This study examines the empirical assessment of the Agogo and Fulani associations' involvement in conflict management between farmers and herders ([Setrana, 2022](#)). The authors have proposed that community-based organisations play a significant role in conflict resolution and management due to their effective cultural understanding, which surpasses that of other international institutions. However, the efficacy of these organisations is contingent upon their perceived indigeneity or non-indigeneity ([Setrana, 2022](#)).

A recent study conducted by [Gatti, Baylis, and Crost \(2021\)](#) has highlighted the influence of natural factors on the generation of conflicts among farmers. The study specifically focuses on the impact of rainfall variability on agricultural productivity. The findings indicate that natural resources and popular justice play a significant role in the degradation of agricultural development. Consequently, the study emphasises the need for the implementation of effective policies and regulations to address this

issue. The impact of technology-based startups in agriculture has been the subject of debate in a study carried out by [Prihadyanti and Aziz \(2023\)](#). The current situation has underscored the necessity of government assistance in enhancing agricultural practises. By providing support and implementing policies, the government can enhance the efficiency of agricultural farmers, thereby mitigating the likelihood of conflict emergence. According to a study conducted by [Arsyad et al. \(2020\)](#), it has been argued that the government has implemented various initiative programmes aimed at promoting agricultural development. Nevertheless, it has been clarified that non-commercial and rural regions, such as villages, necessitate increased governmental and social assistance in order to enhance the productivity and well-being of their inhabitants.

Key stakeholders, including government agencies, landowners, tenants, and community leaders, play crucial roles in making direct decisions and engaging in conflict resolution. This involvement is integral to the stakeholder participation process. ([Ricart & Rico-Amorós, 2022](#)). The inclusion of stakeholders in management processes can be achieved through the establishment of formal consultative representative bodies or the implementation of multi-stakeholder management bodies, wherein key stakeholders assume direct responsibility for site management ([Goriup, 2018](#)). Based on a study, it has been observed that in various villages located in the Tanah Bumbu Regency of South Kalimantan, residents tend to direct their complaints regarding land disputes to the sub-district government rather than the rural government. The sub-district government holds a dual role as a platform for lodging complaints and as a venue for resolving land disputes within the community. ([Muharram & Suryadi, 2013](#)).

Multiple research studies have extensively discussed the challenges, deficiencies, and prevailing conditions pertaining to traditional conflicts and the corresponding legal framework within the agricultural sector of Indonesia. The authors of this study have emphasised the importance and lack of research in the existing literature regarding this particular topic, which they have identified as the primary objective of their investigation.

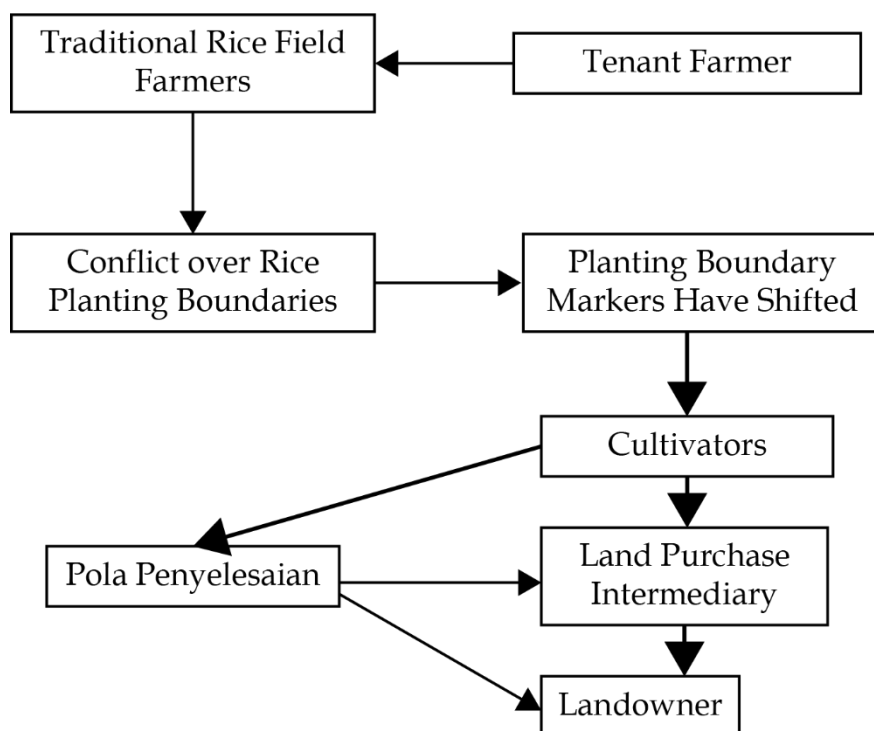


Figure 1: Research Structure: Traditional Conflict Resolution

3. Methodology

The current study has employed an interpretivist qualitative approach in order to conduct the research process. The researcher has engaged with the agricultural industry in Indonesia. The present study was carried out among farmers residing in Tambak Sirang Darat Village, a prominent agricultural community in Banjar Regency, located in the South Kalimantan Province. The research employed a qualitative methodology, specifically utilising the phenomenological variant approach. This approach involves the construction of a comprehensive portrayal, analysis of verbal expressions, meticulous documentation of informant perspectives, and investigation within authentic contextual settings (J & Moleong, 2019). Then, research methods that produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from individuals and observed behaviour are employed (Taylor, Bogdan, & DeVault, 2015).

The research methodology entails employing a complete observer for the purpose of observation. In this approach, the researcher remains inconspicuous during the research subject's activities while making observations pertaining to the research object through the utilisation of the five senses, particularly sight and hearing (Creswell, 2009). Additionally, the researcher employs purposive procedures to select

farmer informants based on the research objectives. A farmer informant is an individual who possesses the requisite knowledge and comprehension of the data, information, or facts pertaining to the research object. Subsequently, a series of comprehensive interviews were carried out, with the option of employing a guide or not, to gather information through a structured exchange of questions and answers. These interviews were conducted in person, allowing for direct interaction between the researchers and the farmer informants (Bungin, 2021).

The sample for this study comprised five families of tenant farmers who were selected as informants. In order to collect comprehensive data, in-depth interviews were conducted with each of these families. Utilising an interview guide that aligns with the research objectives, as delineated below: Have agricultural practitioners historically encountered instances of conflict with fellow agricultural practitioners? What was the underlying issue that led to the conflict? Has the conflict been resolved? What was the nature of the conflict resolution process? Please find attached a comprehensive interview guide.

The analysis of the data employs an interactive model for data collection, followed by data reduction, data presentation, and the drawing or verification of conclusions, ultimately aiming to achieve data saturation. Conclusion drawing, also known as verification, refers to the process of drawing conclusions and verifying their accuracy. Since the inception of data collection, researchers have been actively seeking to discern the significance of patterns, explanations, configurations, causal pathways, and propositions. The conclusions drawn from a study will be influenced by various factors, including the extent of the field notes collection, the methods employed for coding, storage, and retrieval, as well as the proficiency of the researcher (Miles, 1994).

4. Results and Discussion

Village Condition

According to the Banjar Regency Medium-Term Development Plan, the area of Tambak Sirang Darat Village has expanded to 6.27 square kilometres over a period of five years from 2016 to 2021. Additionally, the number of households in the village

has experienced continuous growth, reaching a total of 6. The population data for Tambak Sirang Darat Village indicates a total count of 1,472 individuals, with 744 being male and 728 being female. The total population is determined by the count of household heads, which has reached 45 individuals.

Tambak Sirang Darat Village is located within the Gambut Sub-district of Banjar Regency. The village possesses a unique landscape characterised by expansive rice fields flanking the village road, with scattered dwellings dispersed throughout. The residential structures are arranged in a linear configuration, with a spacing ranging from 1 to 2 metres. While some houses are not in immediate proximity to one another, there exists a prevailing pattern wherein a substantial expanse of rice fields extends behind the village houses, spanning the entire length of the road.

The spatial configuration of dwellings within the village does not adhere to a centralised circular pattern, but rather adopts an elongated layout. In this arrangement, houses are positioned linearly, extending from one extremity to the other, aligning themselves with the course of a petite river that runs adjacent to each dwelling. The village head of Tambak Sirang Darat, Abdulah, aged 57, stated:

(... "The reason for the village road being built on the edge of the river: the village road was built following the river's flow so that the river could be strengthened and simultaneously limit the distance between residents' houses and the small river. It is feared that later if residents' houses are directly adjacent to the small river, it will have an impact on narrowing the space of the small river, for example, if there are residents who carry out activities to widen their yards.")

The Emergence of Sharecroppers

The primary source of income for the residents of Tambak Sirang Darat is wetland agriculture, specifically rice cultivation, which serves as the village's main economic activity. Nevertheless, the village is also recognised as a locality renowned for its production of ducks, with inhabitants engaging in the occupation of duck breeding within the Gambut Sub-district of Banjar Regency. According to Farmer Imi, a 52-year-old individual:

(... "That at first they were owner farmers but over time they only became tenant farmers, so sometimes to supplement their income they raise chickens and ducks.")

In Tambak Sirang Darat village, the majority of wetland farmers are engaged in sharecropping arrangements rather than owning the wetlands themselves. The individuals engage in the cultivation of rice fields that are under the ownership of others. The cultivated area of these rice fields exhibits variability, ranging from 0.8 hectares to 1.5 hectares, and up to 3 hectares..

The status of sharecroppers does not manifest abruptly; rather, it follows a sequential progression of interactions involving intermediaries and purchasers when a farmer decides to sell their rice field. In the village, it is customary to engage an intermediary when selling paddy fields, with the understanding that the offered price will not significantly exceed the value of the farmer's land. Farmers H Ifin, a 65-year-old individual:

(... "Sell their paddy fields to people outside the village or people from neighbouring cities, such as Banjarmasin City. The sale of paddy fields is done through a trusted middleman in the village who selects the person who will be the buyer.")

The purchaser, subsequently assuming the role of the proprietor of the paddy field, will engage in price negotiations with the intermediary. The mediator involved in the negotiation process will provide evidence of the farmer's ownership of the rice field by presenting a photocopy of the certificate of land ownership for the rice field.

Furthermore, it is expected that the mediator in the negotiation scenario will seek the involvement of an intermediary who will either engage in rice field labour or locate a trustworthy and industrious tenant farmer to undertake the task of cultivating the rice field. Nevertheless, the intermediary has the ability to effectively communicate the desires of the primary rice field proprietor, who assumes the role of cultivating their respective rice field. Farmer H. Ifin, aged 65, revealed:

(... "That intermediary usually offer buyers who they know their families, such as the buyer's parents or in-laws by offering to them, then they will offer to their children by informing them of the rice fields for sale.")

The person engaged in the intermediary role of buying and selling paddy fields within the village operates as a tenant farmer. The intermediary additionally presents himself as a potential cultivator of the rice field that is being offered for sale. However, the buyer has the option to explore alternative cultivators or utilise the intermediary as a cultivator, depending on their preferences.

Once the price and submission of the cultivator's request have been mutually agreed upon, the intermediary will proceed to arrange a meeting with the seller. The process of land measurement is conducted to assess the appropriateness of the rice field area in relation to the land certificate. This involves the participation of the landowners of the adjacent boundaries, both left and right, as well as those above and below, if the land shares borders with other landowners. The individual identified as Safii, aged 60, who holds the position of the head of the neighbourhood association, explained:

(... "The land measurement was carried out when the seller and buyer agreed on the paddy field's price. The measurement of the paddy field is done together with the buyer, the seller, the intermediary and myself as the head of the neighbourhood association.")

The management of paddy fields along village roads and rice field roads is primarily entrusted to the head of the neighbourhood association. On the contrary, in cases where the paddy field is adjacent to other paddy fields, the proprietor and the leader of the local community association will serve as witnesses during the measurement process.

In certain agricultural contexts, rice field cultivation practises among farmers involve the utilisation of local units of measurement within the village, such as 10 borongan, 50 borongan, and 100 borongan. When the borongan is converted into hectares, its size ranges from 0.5 hectares to 3 hectares. Nevertheless, the term "borongan" is frequently employed due to its convenience in quantifying rice production.

The tenancy agreement between the farmer and the owner of the rice field entails various obligations for the farmer. Nevertheless, it is important to note that the responsibility of the sharecropper does not stem from coercion, but rather from a mutual agreement with the proprietor of the paddy field. This agreement entails the sharecropper's commitment to distribute a portion of the harvested paddy rice.

The aforementioned responsibility of the sharecropper occasionally adheres to the enduring tradition of the indigenous community, wherein the sharecropper assumes the financial burden of purchasing rice seeds and fertilisers. Simultaneously, the proprietor of the paddy field solely fulfils the role of providing the paddy field for cultivation.

The practise of communal obligation to distribute the harvest is observed more extensively within the agricultural community in comparison to alternative patterns.

However, it is worth noting that a small number of landowners may request additional shares from tenant farmers, with the landowner's consent, in exchange for providing rice seeds and meeting fertiliser requirements.

The distribution of rice production between the proprietor of the paddy field and the sharecroppers is contingent upon a mutually agreed upon arrangement between the two parties. The manner in which this division occurs is contingent upon the volition of the proprietor or the cultivator; the customary practise within the village entails two individuals assuming the role of owners, while one individual assumes the role of a sharecropper.

However, it is worth mentioning that there exists a division wherein one block of land is allocated to a group of sharecroppers, while five blocks of land are assigned to landowners. It is important to acknowledge that this particular division is infrequently observed, resulting in a limited number of sharecroppers involved in such arrangements. The customary practise entails the allocation of the sharecropper's initial capital, which is borne by the owner of the rice field, for the purpose of division. The intermediary serves as an indirect guarantor of the accuracy of the rice planting limit in the rice field, while the rice field owner assumes the role of an employer who possesses the ability to replace the sharecroppers with alternative individuals in the future. Farmer H Ifin, a 65-year-old individual, expressed the following statement:

(... "The appointment of an intermediary for the sale of his paddy field was based on trust. It was indeed a local village person who had been trusted by the farmers and received approval from the head of the local neighbourhood association. The selection of this middleman was to safeguard against fraud in the purchase of the farmers' paddy fields.")

The significance of the landowner's trust is highly valued by tenant farmers, as it plays a crucial role in ensuring the ongoing sustainability of their agricultural activities. The underlying presumption is that the loss of trust from the paddy field owner may result in termination of employment, potentially leading the landowner to start looking for alternative sharecroppers for the cultivation of their paddy field.

5. Rice Planting Limit

Frequently, during the process of planting rice seedlings, farmers and other households commonly establish bamboo boundaries that span from one end of the

field to the other, as well as in the middle. In the given scenario, if a land area measuring 0.5 hectares is subjected to cultivation, it will be divided in an equitable manner. The remaining half of the cultivated land is allocated to the other family for the purpose of planting. Farmer Udin, aged 55, stated:

(... "In the boundary of rice planting using real boundaries such as trees or plants that grow in rice fields and hidden boundaries with small bamboo slats or small wooden tree trunks. This rice planting boundary is done if there is no field boundary between one farmer and another farmer.")

Additional landmarks used for rice planting boundaries include various types of trees, including shrubs that have been present in the region for an extended period of time. The shrub tree marker proposed in this context is anticipated to possess characteristics that facilitate ease of remembrance, thereby serving as a personal secret among tenant farmers within their rice fields.

The imposition of this regulation on rice cultivation aims to prevent tenant farmers residing adjacent to their cultivated rice fields from engaging in fraudulent practises, such as falsely asserting ownership over rice planting boundaries during the harvesting process or extending their rice cultivation beyond the confines of their designated land..

This restriction is put into effect due to the absence of clear demarcation of paddy fields in the village, resulting in frequent encroachment by farmers cultivating paddy fields adjacent to the prescribed limit for planting rice seedlings. Furthermore, sharecroppers are engaged in agricultural labour specifically within the context of rice cultivation, operating on fields that are under the ownership of various landowners.

This phenomenon arises due to the absence of adherence to the GPRS measurements established by the Banjar Regency National Land Agency in numerous rice fields within the village. Consequently, a significant portion of the rice fields remains in their original state, lacking proper mapping into the GPRS system in accordance with the respective owners' land area.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that a significant number of rice fields have been subject to a system of hereditary ownership, whereby ownership rights are passed down from one generation to the next, typically from grandfather to father and

son. Consequently, the division of rice field areas among offspring as an inheritance has been a common practise. Subsequently, the offspring proceed to divest themselves of the rice fields by transferring ownership to interested parties, in accordance with the unique requirements and circumstances of each respective household.

In earlier times, when the demarcation lines of rice fields were not yet established, farmers utilised mounds of soil as a means to delineate the boundaries of their land and demarcate ownership of adjacent rice fields. Over time, the accumulated mounds of soil transformed into galangan, which served as pathways for farmers to navigate their rice fields during inspections.

A narrow pathway was constructed to prevent farmers from inadvertently treading upon the rice seeds and plants within the paddy soil while inspecting their rice fields. The compaction of paddy soil resulting from the trampling of farmers' feet leads to the formation of depressions, which in turn facilitate the accumulation of paddy water and promote the establishment of rice seedling roots.

The farmers have come to the realisation that the presence of footprints in the soil surrounding the rice seedlings can cause the seedlings to exhibit lateral growth rather than vertical growth. This phenomenon is deemed to disrupt the optimal spacing of rice seedlings as determined by agricultural practitioners, thereby impeding the process of rice harvesting.

Furthermore, rice plants that exhibit an oblique growth pattern possess the ability to suspend their rice fruit towards the ground, thereby facilitating submersion in rice field water during periods of high tides. Consequently, this positioning renders the rice fruit vulnerable to rapid consumption by rats. If rice paddies are submerged in paddy water for an extended period before reaching full capacity, it can result in the formation of hollow or empty areas within the paddies.

Tenant farmers use the practise of establishing distinct boundaries for the purpose of planting rice seedlings, with the aim of effectively managing and enhancing crop yield. If there is a displacement of 0.5 metres in the boundary, it would have substantial consequences for the cultivation of rice. The significant reduction in rice production can be attributed to the dynamic nature of the rice planting boundary, which is determined by calculating the shift from one end to the other.

The determination of the shifting rice planting boundary can be achieved through a calculation known as the borongan method, which takes into account a rice field area of approximately 0.5 hectares. Typically, the rice yield in a single plot amounts to 80 blek, which is approximately equivalent to 20 sacks of rice. Certainly, one can envision the implications of expanding the rice field area to encompass 1 hectare.

The cultivator shows a vested interest in upholding the delineations of the paddy field to mitigate potential conflicts among fellow farmers and to foster a sense of trust with the proprietor of said field. The underlying premise is that the intermediary sustains this trust, thereby prompting the paddy field owner to engage in further transactions involving the acquisition of additional paddy fields through said intermediary.

Furthermore, the intermediary effectively upholds the confidence of the head of the neighbourhood association, thereby granting authorization for the intermediary to oversee the transactions involving the sale and acquisition of agricultural land owned by farmers. When the intermediary disregards the demarcation of the rice field, it signifies a lack of accountability on the part of the intermediary in upholding harmony within the village.

The primary concern of the leader of the local community organisation is to foster a harmonious environment within the village, ensuring the absence of any disputes or conflicts among the agricultural community. Furthermore, the longstanding tranquilly within the village necessitates the designation of a mediator to facilitate the purchase and sale of agricultural land owned by farmers. This responsibility falls under the purview of the village's neighbourhood association leader.

Traditionally, it is customary for the family to consume the rice harvest domestically, while any surplus is sold to meet additional requirements. The outcomes of the rice harvest are tailored to meet the requirements of the household within a span of one year, commencing from the month of rice production until the subsequent year. According to Farmer Asiah, a 52-year-old individual, it was stated that...

(...“The harvest is used to fulfil family needs, and then the rest is sold to the market. This is done because farmers only depend on growing rice for their livelihoods, and there is no other work to do besides planting and harvesting paddy rice.”)

The successful fulfilment of familial dietary requirements is contingent upon the variety of rice cultivated, specifically annual local rice, which ensures a year-long supply of sustenance for the family. The primary concern for wetland farmers is the fulfilment of their family's nutritional requirements.

The selection of local rice variety was based on the specific conditions of the tidal rice fields. The government-provided IR superior rice variety is not well-suited for tidal conditions, unlike the local rice variety which exhibits resistance to tidal conditions. This is particularly important as the tide season can occasionally reach the limits of the rice fields.

When subjected to immersion in tidal water, it has been observed that local rice species are capable of surviving and continuing their growth. In contrast, the superior variety of rice known as IR is unable to withstand prolonged submersion in tidal conditions. The IR superior rice variety is susceptible to mortality when exposed to submersion by tidal waters. Furthermore, it should be noted that local rice exhibits larger grain size in comparison to IR-superior rice. Rice field farmers may opt to sell their rice fields in order to provide financial support for their families, given the escalating demands of modern living, including expenses related to education, clothing, and weddings. The accomplishment of additional obligations, such as the acquisition of a television, mobile phone, and the expenses associated with undertaking a pilgrimage.

Typically, individuals engaged in the sale of their rice fields are farmers who belong to the second or third generation of agricultural practitioners and have a family size exceeding two children. The sale of paddy fields is commonly carried out as a means of dividing parental inheritance, particularly when the farmer's married children with dependents require additional funds for various expenses.

Nevertheless, the simultaneous sale of their inherited paddy fields is not pursued. The child of the oldest farmer sold their land during the current year, followed by the child of the next oldest farmer who sold their land in the fifth year.

Subsequently, the remaining children of the farmers also sold their inherited rice fields, although not all at the same time.

In the beginning, the dimensions of the paddy field within a single plot were partitioned among three to five new proprietors of paddy fields. The selection of sharecroppers for rice fields is determined by the preferences of the new proprietors of said fields. The tenant farmers engaged in agricultural activities are typically organised into groups of three to five individuals per rice field plot.

From the outset, it is observed that there is a variation in the shape of rice field ownership among farmers. Some fields exhibit a U-shaped configuration, while others adopt a T-shaped layout. Additionally, there are elongated rice fields that deviate from the aforementioned shapes. It is important to note that the determination of these shapes is not reliant on satellite GPS data provided by the Banjar Regency National Land Agency.

In order to sustain their agricultural livelihood, farmers may transition to the role of sharecroppers upon the sale of their paddy fields. The underlying premise posits that a sharecropper will not experience a loss of occupation as an agriculturalist and will be able to adequately meet the nutritional requirements of their family.

In general, agricultural practitioners engaged in rice cultivation adopt a methodical approach to the process of clearing overgrown vegetation from rice fields, thereby facilitating the gradual opening of said fields. The process of cleaning other vegetation is undertaken in order to facilitate the expansion of rice seedlings that are intended for cultivation by farmers.

The sequential process of cultivating paddy fields involves a yearly rotation, wherein each year a specific portion of the land is allocated for rice cultivation until the entire area is utilised. The practise of gradually cultivating land is employed to assess the outcomes of rice production. Specifically, when half of the land is cultivated, the corresponding rice production results can be determined through calculation.

Following that, in the subsequent year, the expansion of rice field cultivation is achieved through the process of clearing the land from other vegetative species. Sharecroppers hold the belief that there are variations in the productivity of different farmers' land in terms of paddy production. The outcome is contingent upon the land's quality and the tides.

The harvested rice is subsequently packaged into sacks weighing 25 kilogrammes. Farmers possess prior knowledge regarding the quantification of sacks acquired when the rice field encompasses an area of 10 borongan. Under optimal conditions, a paddy field with a capacity of 10 bushels is expected to yield approximately 100 blk of paddy, assuming the absence of pests or empty fruit.

The farmers residing in the village apply a unit of measurement known as "blek" to quantify their rice yield, with each blek representing approximately 15 litres of rice. When a 25-kilogram sack of rice is milled, it yields 6 blek, which is half the size of the rice grains in the original sack.

Usually farmers engage in rice field labour not in isolation, but rather in the company of their children, spouses, or other relatives. The inclusion of family members, specifically children and wives, is employed to enhance the efficiency of rice field cultivation, particularly during the processes of rice planting and harvest.

Furthermore, it is important to point out that various other family members will also actively participate in the cultivation and management of rice fields. Furthermore, these additional relatives express their desire to partake in the cultivation of the rice field. Farmers engage in this practise as a means of fostering familial harmony between spouses. Engaging additional family members in collaborative efforts to cultivate rice with the aim of improving the well-being of other households. According to Farmer Ardian, a 56-year-old individual,:

(..."Working on rice fields always involves family members, such as children and wives, when harvesting rice in the fields and sometimes when planting rice in the fields. However, if there are family farmers who do not have cultivated rice fields, they will be invited to plant and harvest rice in the fields.")

Yet, the participation of additional family members from either the wife's or husband's lineage typically occurs when the tenant farmer has engaged in rice cultivation in other locations. For instance, the implementation of rice cultivation has been facilitated in a nearby village, which possesses an extensive land area of approximately 100 hectares.

The individual who facilitates the transaction of paddy fields between buyers and sellers regards their role as an intermediary as a supplementary occupation

alongside their primary occupation as a sharecropper. Additionally, the intermediary fulfils their family's nutritional requirements through this endeavour. An intermediary refers to an individual who remains unemployed until the point at which they seek employment as a sharecropper.

The role of an intermediary is advantageous due to the discrepancy between the selling and buying prices. This surplus is typically utilised for the purpose of renovating the individual's residence and procuring tertiary commodities. Nevertheless, the transaction of purchasing and selling paddy fields does not occur on a daily basis, but rather sporadically, often on an annual basis.

The role of an intermediary is commonly regarded as a supplementary occupation due to its intermittent nature, thereby not significantly encroaching upon the intermediary's time commitments. The intermediary perceives their role in the procurement and sale of paddy fields as an expression of trust bestowed upon them by the farmers. Consequently, it is imperative for the intermediary to uphold this trust by conducting their activities with utmost integrity, ensuring the welfare of both the farmers and buyers is not compromised.

In the event that the intermediary ceases to exhibit honesty, the farmers will discontinue their utilisation of its services for the procurement and sale of their paddy fields. Farmers will seek alternative intermediaries who exhibit greater integrity and refrain from engaging in practises that are detrimental to their interests in the procurement and sale of paddy fields. The meaning of trust holds significant importance when considering the role of an intermediary.

6. Conflict Resolution

Tambak Sirang Darat Village has historically been characterised by a peaceful atmosphere, with minimal conflicts among rice farmers. These conflicts primarily revolve around the imposition of restrictions on the quantity of rice seeds that can be planted in the rice fields. Sharecroppers place significant emphasis on the limitation associated with the planting of rice seedlings, as it directly impacts rice production. In his interview, Safii, the 60-year-old leader of the Tambak Sirang Darat Village neighbourhood association, expressed his perspective.

(...“That farmers in the village can maintain peace in the village independently, they already have a sense of responsibility to resolve their conflicts without involving the head of the neighbourhood association or the local village head.”)

Conflicts relating to the demarcation of rice seedling planting boundaries among tenant farmers commonly arise subsequent to the conclusion of the rice planting season. A conflict resolution mechanism exists that draws upon the historical practises of farmers, who traditionally resolved conflicts by employing decision-making strategies informed by past resolutions of similar events.

Farmer Udin (55 years old) said *(...“That when the rice seedling planting season arrived, farmers simultaneously planted their rice seedlings in their respective paddy fields with certain barriers or markers, where at that time the rice seedlings were still small so it was easy to see the planting barriers but when the paddy began to grow large, the barriers were almost invisible, especially if the clumps of rice stems also grew so large that it was almost difficult to determine the location of the barriers.”)*

Sometimes instances arise wherein certain farmers engage in the act of altering or removing the established boundaries for rice cultivation. These actions are driven by individual motivations, often rooted in personal recollections, with the aim of expanding their respective paddy fields.

The resolution of conflicts among paddy field farmers typically occurs through direct engagement among the farmers themselves, without the intervention of the neighbourhood association leader or the village head of Tambak Sirang Darat. The aforementioned condition has evolved into a recurring pattern of conflict between farmers, necessitating the implementation of conflict resolution strategies within the agricultural community of Tambak Sirang Darat village. However, according to farmer Udin, who is 55 years old,

(...“The initiative to resolve disputes arose among tenant farmers rather than farmers who owned their land. This is because tenant farmers are very concerned with the shifting of rice planting boundaries, which will reduce the rice production of tenant farmers.”)

The resolution of conflicts among farmers regarding the rice planting limit in the village does not invalidate the initial procedure. However, it employs the initial procedure of purchasing and selling rice fields as a means to address conflicts between

parties involved. The present discourse pertains to the historical account of the inception of agricultural labour among farmers and their engagement in the cultivation of rice fields.

The primary stage of land transactions entails the involvement of three key actors: the intermediary, the buyer of rice fields, and the farmer who is selling their rice fields. These parties collectively address conflicts that may arise among farmers in relation to their respective cultivated rice fields.

The transaction of buying and selling paddy fields entails the involvement of an intermediary, who is regarded as a respected symbol by the farmers cultivating these fields. The argument proposes that the initial stages of the sale and purchase transaction hold significant historical significance, as it enables farmers to amass wealth through the acquisition of cultivated rice fields. According to Farmer Udin, a 55-year-old individual, it was stated that...

(... "That the buying and selling intermediary does not mean that when the transaction of buying and selling rice fields is completed, but will continue to be involved in guarding the rice fields of the landowner, who is the buyer, until the rice fields transfer ownership to another person, and so on the process.")

As a result, farmers have traditionally relied on historical precedent and cultural customs to address and settle disputes among themselves. The practise of decision-making involving the seller, the buyer, and the middleman has been perpetuated as a customary behaviour across successive generations up until the present time.

The practice of decision-making, as observed among farmers in contemporary times, persists as a means to prevent the escalation of conflicts and achieve amicable and satisfactory resolutions that accommodate the interests of all parties involved. This decision-making practise encompasses the positioning, interests, and needs of individual farmers.

Conflict resolution in rural communities often follows traditional methods, whereby farmers address disputes amongst themselves by relying on established customs and practises that have been passed down through generations. These customs are rooted in historical experiences and are still actively observed in the present.

The heads of neighbourhood associations, who are under the authority of the village head, hold the belief that their respective villages exhibit a state of tranquilly and absence of discord, wherein conflicts within the farming community are resolved internally.

The head of the local community association has consistently maintained a commendable record in addressing farmers' conflicts, as there have been no reported grievances against them. Furthermore, it is worth noting that the association leader lacks knowledge regarding the involvement of any residents in such conflicts. In other words, the leader of the local community organisation did not receive any reports regarding disputes among farmers. Farmer Udin, who is 55 years old, explained:

(... "There was a conflict over rice planting boundaries with the neighbouring paddy field where the farmer recognised the planting boundary until it entered his cultivated paddy field. Both paddy fields have been equally planted with paddy rice seedlings, and the neighbouring paddy field farmer's acknowledgement is considered detrimental because he recognises his paddy seedlings up to 2 lanes along the rice field area, which, if calculated, will cost 0.5 borongan of rice harvest.")

Conflicts regarding rice planting restrictions occasionally detrimentally impact farmers engaged in rice production, resulting in a reduction in their rice yield compared to the previous year. The rice production of the affected farmers, which previously amounted to 50 blek, is diminished to 10 blek of unprocessed rice grains. Farmers commonly adopt neighbouring farmers' rice planting boundaries, including the rice seedling planting path. Consequently, even if there are only two planting paths available, both paths are consistently utilised in accordance with the rice field's area. For instance, if the rice field spans 0.8 hectares. The lengths of the two rice seedling planting paths are equivalent to 0.8 hectares. According to Farmer Udin, a 55-year-old person,

(... "Although there was a loss from the planting boundary encroached by the neighbouring farmer, I kept the problem quiet and did not go directly to the farmer who recognised the planting boundary. We farmers have long understood how to solve the problem, keep quiet and do not talk here and there but only report and ask the rice field's intermediary and owner to solve it.)

Farmers who are engaged in conflicts tend to exhibit a preference for adopting a passive approach by choosing to remain in their respective locations and refrain from engaging directly with other farmers involved in the conflict. Farmers experiencing conflicts refrain from engaging in gossip or engaging in negative discussions about their adversaries with fellow farmers or members of other communities. Farmers who are experiencing conflict tend to isolate themselves and refrain from seeking external support or assistance. Despite disclosing the conflict to their spouse, the individuals refrained from informing other family members, including their children, who remained unaware of their parents' ongoing conflict issues.

The rest of the members of the agricultural community are similarly uninformed regarding any internal disputes within their collective. Despite being aware of the factual evidence observed in the rice fields, fellow farmers often choose to remain silent, refrain from intervening, and avoid engaging with any of the disputing farmers.

The farmers within the village community possess a collective wisdom and established framework for effectively addressing longstanding conflicts that arise among their members. Farmers persist in engaging in this practise due to its potential to effectively mitigate conflicts among them while also ensuring minimal adverse consequences for the future.

It also suggests that there won't be any long-term effects, fostering interpersonal bonds inside the village. Farmers engaged in conflict resolution during their daily lives do not exhibit hostile behaviour towards one another.

Farmers experiencing conflict continue to carry out their daily routines without apparent disruption, displaying a remarkable ability to maintain a semblance of normalcy despite the presence of conflict-related challenges. Farmers engaged in conflict exhibit a lack of concern when navigating their interactions, displaying a notable absence of efforts to avoid or acknowledge past conflicts.

As a result, the absence of future implications results in a lack of social interaction within the village community. Farmers engaged in conflict resolution during their daily lives do not exhibit hostility towards each other.

Farmers experiencing conflict continue to carry out their daily routines without apparent disruption, displaying a remarkable ability to maintain a sense of normalcy despite the presence of conflict-related challenges. Farmers engaged in conflicts exhibit a lack of concern when engaging in interactions, displaying a notable absence of efforts to avoid or address prior conflict issues.

The resolution of conflicts among wetland farmers continues to rely on traditional patterns that have been practised since ancient times. These traditional patterns persist as effective methods for addressing conflict issues among wetland farmers. Furthermore, this particular pattern of conflict resolution has demonstrated efficacy in preventing the escalation of conflicts among the aforementioned farmers.

The aforementioned traditional pattern has organically developed over the course of the local village community's existence up until the present moment. It is posited that the existence of conflict within village communities is an inherent and perpetual phenomenon. However, it is also widely held that such communities possess the capacity to effectively address and resolve conflicts that arise among their members.

The gradual transition of the village community into an urban society is being facilitated by the development of the adjacent district. Concurrently, there is an observable increase in the level of self-awareness and self-understanding among wetland farmers regarding conflict resolution.

7. Conclusion

This study conducted a qualitative assessment of the issue, current state, and legislative systems pertaining to the traditional conflicts faced by rice farmers. Data was collected from the rice farmers, and their perceptions were analysed to develop themes for interpreting the results. After thorough examination, this research has identified four overarching themes, namely Village Condition, The Emergence of Sharecroppers, Rice Planting Limit, and Conflict Resolution.

The first theme can be understood as an investigation of the lifestyle and architectural design of farmers residing in wetland areas, who primarily engage in rice cultivation. These individuals construct their dwellings at a specific distance from

the river, in order to preserve adequate space for their livelihood activities. The second theme delves into the concept of living as a sharecropper, which refers to farmers who primarily cultivate rice farms on land owned by others rather than seeking to acquire their own land for expanding their rice production. The villagers have designated the village of Tambak Sirang Darat as a rice-producing village and a duck-producing village. In the village, there exists a system wherein intermediaries are employed to facilitate the transfer of land, thereby streamlining the transaction process. The third theme, referred to as rice planting limit, encompasses the importance of rice cultivation, the constraints imposed by landowners on its utilisation, the value of rice cultivation in meeting fundamental necessities, and the intergenerational transfer of rice farmland through equitable division among heirs.

The matter of conflict resolution has been a subject of discussion regarding the conflict resolution patterns observed among rural rice field farmers in the context of rice production continuity. It has been observed that farmers tend to employ traditional conflict resolution methods rather than modern ones. In this context, conflicts arising from rice planting limitations in the fields are resolved through decision-making processes that are rooted in customary practises. These practises involve :

This study has shed light on various aspects of traditional conflict resolution among traditional rice farmers, thereby contributing valuable insights and knowledge on this matter. The research presented here has made substantial theoretical contributions by enhancing our understanding of traditional conflicts related to rice cultivation and fields. It sheds light on the current status of this issue and provides insights into the perspectives of villagers, particularly regarding traditional conflicts. These findings offer a comprehensive and illustrative portrayal of the Indonesian context, which researchers can utilise. This study has provided valuable insights into the prevailing conflicts in the agricultural sector, highlighting the need for government and policymakers to prioritise this sensitive issue in order to enhance farm productivity and promote sustainability within society.

corresponding to any research endeavor, this study has concluded with specific limitations. One primary constraint of this study pertains to its exclusive focus on traditional conflicts, while neglecting contemporary challenges encountered by farmers in

their daily activities. Additionally, the research solely concentrates on rice field farmers, thereby failing to investigate the perspectives of farmers engaged in cultivating other crops and organic products. This study has undertaken qualitative data collection exclusively from a single village and subsequently synthesised its findings. The present study has overlooked certain potential areas and dimensions that could be explored by future researchers. These researchers may employ the same conceptual framework and utilise qualitative methods to yield generalised findings. Additionally, subsequent investigations could incorporate external factors such as the legislative system and government policies pertaining to rice farming within the same domain. Furthermore, future research endeavours could be conducted in diverse geographical and demographic regions to examine and generalise the concepts discussed in this study to other areas.

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Appendix Interview Guide:

1. Are there any sharecroppers in the village?
2. Are there any farmers who own their paddy fields?
3. What is the farmer's name, and where is his/her house located?
4. Is the cultivated rice field your own or someone else's?
5. how much rice land is cultivated?
6. How long have you been a sharecropper?
7. What is the process of acquiring the land?
8. Did the buyer provide it or someone else?
9. What is the process of buying and selling paddy fields in this village?
10. What is the evidence of ownership of paddy fields in this village?
11. Does the landowner often visit the paddy field?
12. How is the production shared with the landowner?
13. Does the cultivated paddy land belong to neighboring residents or people outside the village?

14. Is the farmer working on the paddy field alone or inviting family members?
15. Who is involved in working the rice fields?
16. Have farmers ever experienced conflict with other farmers?
17. What was the problem of the conflict that the farmer experienced?
18. Was there physical or other violence in the conflict?
19. What is the boundary process for planting rice?
20. Do they use certain boundaries? Why do they use these boundaries?
21. On what kind of land are planting boundaries used?
22. Do other farmers know about the boundary markers?
23. What are the conditions in the conflict process?
24. Does the conflict involve the family?
25. Was the conflict resolved?
26. What was the conflict resolution process?
27. Who took the initiative to resolve the conflict?
28. Why did you take the initiative to resolve the conflict?
29. Who was involved in resolving the conflict?
30. Were they willing to be involved?
31. How was the situation after the conflict was resolved?