

Food Security and Food Control Strategies for The Benefit of The Indonesian People

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INDEXING	ABSTRACT
Keywords: Keyword 1; Food Security Keyword 2; Food Control Strategies Keyword 3; Agricultural Sector Keyword 4; Indonesian Keyword 5; People	Food security is very important for Indonesia, considering the large and growing population. This study aims to analyze food control strategies for food security in Indonesia using comparative descriptive analysis and literature studies. The results show that the implementation of food security strategies in Indonesia has not been optimal, with challenges such as agricultural sector liberalization, inadequate infrastructure, and stalled programs. This research highlights the importance of government intervention, economic efficiency, equitable control of production factors, and partnerships in creating sustainable food security for the benefit of the Indonesian people. Effective strategies to increase food security include food SOE holding, commodity pricing, cooperative development, and agrarian reform.

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INTRODUCTION

The agricultural sector plays an important role in Indonesia's economy, with a significant contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment. According to Afriyanti *et al* (2023), the agricultural sector plays a vital and strategic role in shaping a nation's economic structure. In many countries, it serves as a major source of employment. However, those working in agriculture often experience the highest levels of poverty. This poverty stems from the complex interplay of technological development, natural resource availability, human capital, and institutional policies. Agriculture remains the economic foundation of most nations, particularly in developing countries. Although its contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) has been declining over time, this trend does not diminish the sector's significance or its role in national development.

Indonesia's agricultural GDP growth between 2014 and 2021 remained relatively stable. The sector peaked in 2015 at 13.49 percent and hit its lowest point in 2019 at approximately 12.71 percent, with an average growth rate of 13.25 percent over the period. Despite agriculture continuing to lead other sectors in terms of economic contribution, the number of people employed in this field has declined over the past eight years. On average, agricultural employment accounted for around 32.37 percent of the workforce (Rosyadi *et al*, 2023).

According to Kusuma *et al* (2024), there are several causes of rice imports, such as low supply response due to seasonal conditions, business risks, and time delays that cause reduced rice reserves in Bulog. In addition, the crops of local farmers also cannot

compete with imported products both in terms of quality and price. The concept of the people's economy is very important to improve the living standards of small communities. The people's economy is an economic system that prioritizes the welfare of the community in general over individual profits. This idea was supported by figures such as Ir. Soekarno and Moh. Hatta, who stated that to achieve the welfare of the people, economic democracy must be carried out. The goal of the people's economy is to put the welfare of the people above personal interests. The agricultural sector is one of the fields that can be saved through the implementation of the people's economy, considering that this sector can still develop even though other sectors have fallen due to the crisis.

Analysis of the implementation of the people's economy in the agricultural sector shows that the concept can play a role in saving activities in this sector, such as providing for people's needs through production and normalization of distribution. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to analyze the application of the people's economic system in the agricultural sector in Indonesia and compare it with the ideal concept of the people's economy. This study also plans to analyze strategies in effective food control to increase food security in Indonesia. Thus, the hope of this research is to contribute to the development of people's economic policies in Indonesia's agricultural sector and strengthen national food security.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Definition

Food security is a state in which food needs are met from the individual level to the national level. According to Kristiawan (2020) in his work Food Security, he emphasized the importance of variation in food production and consumption to achieve food security at the national level. He said that food security is a situation where all residents have access to food needs through diverse and sustainable local production. On the other hand, food security includes three important components: food availability, affordability, and use. He emphasized the importance of SWOT analysis to identify factors of internal and external origin that affect food security in an area. Food security as a condition in which aspects of availability, affordability, quality and safety, and food sustainability are met. This definition is in line with Limenta and Chandra (2017), the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 18 of 2012 concerning Food, which states that food security is: "The state of food fulfillment for the state and individuals, which can be seen from the availability of adequate food, both in quantity and quality, safe, varied, nutritious, equitable, and affordable, and does not conflict with the religious values, beliefs, and culture of the community, in order to be able to live a healthy, active, and productive life in a sustainable manner.

Food security is an important aspect of Indonesia's nation-building, with the aim of ensuring that all citizens have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, and sustainable food. Below is an explanation related to food security and food distribution strategies for the benefit of the Indonesian people. Food security refers to the ability to meet the food needs of countries and individuals, as shown by the availability of sufficient food, both in quantity and quality, safe, diverse, nutritious, evenly distributed, affordable, and not contrary to the religious values, beliefs, and culture of the community. This aims to ensure that everyone can live a healthy, active, and productive life in a sustainable manner, as well as explained by Simelane and Worth (2020), Batt (2024), and Valentina *et al* (2024). The Government of Indonesia has developed a number of strategies to strengthen food security at the national level, which are outlined in the Food Security Agency's Strategic Plan for the period 2020 to 2024 (Adji *et al*, 2021). The Strategic

Policy on Food Security and Nutrition for 2020-2024 was prepared by the Food Security Agency as a guide for all interested parties in the food and nutrition sector. This policy is aimed at meeting the food and nutrition needs of the community both nationally and individually.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a qualitative research with a literature study approach, which aims to analyze Food Security and Food Control Strategies for food control in Indonesia. Data is obtained from a variety of relevant literature, such as books, scientific journals, articles, and official documents related to the research topic. By synthesizing insights from these materials, the research seeks to identify key challenges and opportunities in strengthening food security, particularly in relation to sustainable development and equitable access to nutritious food across diverse regions in Indonesia.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Food Security

Food Security is a situation where people can meet their own food needs. Based on the explanation from Simelane and Worth (2020), Gratitude (2024), and also Pawlak and Kołodziejczak (2024), there are three factors that can affect the level of food security, namely:

- a. Food availability refers to the conditions under which domestically produced food can be obtained, as well as the entry of food from outside if the main source is unable to meet the needs. This availability can be measured from the national, regional, district/city, to community levels.
- b. Access to food is the ability of people to obtain sufficient and nutritious food, through various means such as: self-production, purchase, barter, gifts, loans, and food assistance. Although the availability of food in an area exists, it may not be accessible to certain communities if they are physically constrained, such as economic, infrastructural, social issues, as well as adequate food variety and quantity.
- c. Food utilization is the management of food by the community and the ability of individuals to absorb nutrients. This utilization includes the way of processing, food preparation and storage, cleanliness and safety of water for cooking and drinking, feeding habits, the level of cleanliness, and the distribution of food in the household as needed, and the health condition of each family member. Mothers play an important role in improving family nutritional health, especially in infants and children, which is often a variable for assessing food utilization in households, depending on the mother's education in that household.

The keywords used to predict food security in Indonesia based on Google Trends data are divided into nine categories and show a significant correlation. Figure 1 illustrates the visualization of the correlation matrix of various aspects of variable indicators related to food security. As an illustration, in search trends related to aspects of food availability, the dark blue color on all boxes indicates that the relationship between these aspects is quite strong and shows a positive correlation.

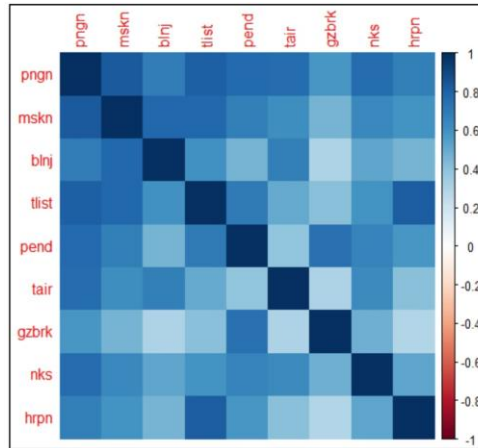


Figure 1. Google Trends Search Keyword Correlation Matrix Visualization

Food is everything that comes from the biological source of products: agriculture, plantations, forestry, fisheries, livestock, water, and water, both processed and unprocessed that are intended as food or beverages for human consumption, including food additives, food raw materials, and other materials used in the process of preparation, processing, and/or manufacturing of food or beverages (Law No.7/1996).

The Role of the Agriculture and Food Security Sector in Indonesia

Food security is now one of the important issues in economic development around the world. Strong food security is the result of high productivity in agriculture. Agriculture has several roles that are considered crucial, including. First, the agricultural sector creates jobs that provide job opportunities and livelihoods. Despite the decline in labor supply, the number of workers in this sector is still quite large. In the countryside, the majority of the population works as farmers. The workforce in the agricultural sector has been steadily decreasing over the past three decades. However, in the same period, the supply of labor in the industrial sector (consisting of manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries) and the service sector increased, especially in the service sector which showed significant growth, as well as described by Widada *et al* (2017), Suryawati and Suratno (2019), and also Hidayah *et al* (2020).

Second, agricultural products are a basic need needed by the community. With the increasing number of population, the need for food commodities has become a priority in meeting basic needs. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency regarding per capita consumption of the community from 2017 to 2021, per capita consumption of food commodities such as rice, chicken eggs, sugar, red pepper, and cayenne pepper experienced high figures, as well as explained by Tenriawaru *et al* (2024).

Implementation of the Agricultural Sector in the People's Economy

The people's economy is an economic model that prioritizes the values of togetherness, with an independent society and has a character that is in line with Pancasila. One of the main principles in the people's economy is the importance of the role of the government. It is hoped that this economic system can run in an efficient, fair, sustainable way, and empower the community. The distribution of resources is carried out through market mechanisms, government involvement, and cooperatives. The distribution of resources is also distributed evenly, with cooperatives as the main driver of the economy. Economic actors, including members of cooperatives and labor, are allowed to own shares.

Government Intervention

Currently, the government is implementing the Job Creation Law to facilitate and accelerate export and import activities of food products. This policy also aims to create collaboration with SOEs so that the distribution of agricultural products can be carried out evenly. For example, SOEs now play a role in distributing food from producers to consumer centers using trains to eastern Indonesia. To strengthen this collaboration, the government has established a state-owned holding in the food sector so that the food system can be more structured. SOE holding in the food sector involves the merger of several companies, such as Perum Perikanan Indonesia, PT Pertani, PT Sang Hyang Seri, and others (Nugroho, 2020). This SOE holding is named ID FOOD where the leadership of the parent business entity will be taken over by PT Rajawali Nusantara Indonesia (RNI) (Utoyo *et al*, 2019). The purpose of SOE holding in the food sector is so that government programs in the food sector can be completed more quickly and efficiently. It is important to note that mergers between SOEs are not an easy process.

Government Policy to Stabilize Food Security in the Agricultural Sector

The agricultural sector is the main foundation in Indonesia's economic development, as almost all of the country's economic activities focus on that sector. Food security is one of the main focuses for the government because the food sector plays a big role in agriculture. However, if we look at the current conditions, the agricultural sector no longer gives bright promises (Timmer, 2024). In terms of job creation, the agricultural sector should have a significant contribution and be the largest among other sectors. In addition, the government can also implement additional policies such as: (a) Empowerment for development to increase productivity and competitiveness. The community can be empowered through the development of technology resulting from research, which of course must be able to be applied by farmers in the field, and mastery of this technology can be done through counseling and research. It is hoped that this method can have a positive impact on improving farming and farmers' welfare (Faqih *et al*, 2020). (b) The provision of facilities for the community should not only be limited to the procurement of production facilities but also include other necessary agribusiness development facilities, including market information, increased access to the market, capital, and the development of cooperation with other business institutions (Nugroho, 2021). (c) Revitalization of institutions and food security systems in the community (Karyadi, 2021).

Improvement of Agricultural Vocational Education and Training

To achieve food sovereignty, it is very important to have quality and reliable human resources in the agricultural sector. This is so that they can make meaningful progress in producing high-quality and competitive agricultural products. Therefore, there is a need for a transformation in the qualifications of farmers who are currently considered less educated and skilled to become farmers who are educated, skilled, professional, and able to implement innovations in the agricultural sector, as well as explained by Darmadji (2016) and also Muliadi *et al* (2024).

CONCLUSION

Food security is an important aspect of Indonesia's nation-building, with the aim of ensuring that all citizens have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, and sustainable food. Below is an explanation related to food security and food distribution strategies for the benefit of the Indonesian people. Some of the main elements that have an impact on food security are the availability of food, the ability of the community to reach food, and how the food is used. Food availability must be improved by developing

diverse and environmentally friendly local production. The ability of people to access food also needs to be improved so that everyone, especially the underprivileged group, can get enough food. Food utilization is also important so that people get adequate nutritional intake.

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