Household options and limitations in marginal upland areas of Java

Marginal Area Symposium
October 2003

CASERD-JIRCAS
Collaborative Study
1997-2000
reported by Junko Goto
Indonesia since the late 1990s
-the turbulent era of transition-

- 1997- Rupiah crisis
- May 1998- end of the Soeharto regime (1968-98)
- 1999 East Timor crisis
- From B.J. Habibie to Abdurrahman Wahid (Gus Dur) (Oct. 99)
- Megawati Soekarnoputri as President (July 2001)
- El Nino drought – 97-98 rice shortage
- increased inequality and poverty
- difficult Road to -decentralization -democratization
- people’s economy
- agribusiness development for small farmers
A Banana-based FSR project, Southern Cianjur

- Project to improve small farmer income and welfare by agriculture development
  
  **P2RT**: Pengembangan Pertanian Rakyat Terpadu  
  **SPAKU**: Sentra Pengembangan Agribisnis Komoditas Unggulan

- **SUP-Pisang (AIAT)**  
  - Cropping Patterns: banana, feed grass, upland rice/peanut/soybean  
  - Soil Conservation: ridges + sheep manure  
  - Higher Yielding Varieties + Livestock (sheep)  
  - CASER-JIRCAS socio-economic follow-up survey
a truck carrying sheep (region’s main road) →
upland fields ↓

water buffalos →
children taking care of sheep, going home (village road)

a mosque
a relatively wealthy villager’s house (motorbike – PPL)
Land assets & livestock

- **Average size of farm operation, 0.92ha**
  - 0.20ha lowland, 0.72 ha upland
  - owned: 81% lowland, 85% upland
  - average # plots: 1.35 lowland; 2.06 upland

- Most farm households have **sheep** (4.3 head/farm) and **chicken** (7.1 head/farm)
  Only, a few farm households have a **buffalo**.
  (Water buffalos hired for land tilling.)
A farmer house and farmland location
(an example)

- House:
  - Lowland: 0.08 ha (2 pt)
  - Upland: 0.12 ha (3 pt)
  - Upland: 0.30 ha (7.5 pt)

- Village road:
  - 1 km to Lowland
  - 1 km to Upland

- Village office:
  - 1 km to Upland

- Parents with two children:
  - Sheep, chicken
Farm Labor Input

Labor input -- lowland

Labor input -- upland
Scatter diagram by farm types

- progressive farmer
- subsistent
- barely subsistent
- parttime farmer
- with remittance
How to improve small farmer income?

-- Household options: niches in the local economy --

TKW (Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, JKT, …)

local non-farm jobs

part-time

non-ag income

multiple-job holder

C-1

better-off with remittances

E

Market

generous employer

C-3

progressive

success

agricultural income

A

Subsistent

B

starter farmer

C-2

C-1

C-2

multiple-job holder

C-1

C-2

C-3

C-3
Reasons of dissatisfaction with own farming system

Frequently cited reasons (51 respondents)
The numbers below correspond with choices in Form C, Question 2.

1) rainfall inadequate, etc.
2) lack of water sources for farm use
3) soil conditions not favorable
4) poor harvest because of pest and diseases
5) lack of farm labor for peak seasons
6) prices of fertilizers, chemicals, seeds, keep rising
7) prices of farm product low
8) poor infrastructure for marketing (road)
9) lack of middlemen for marketing

90 % farmers, not satisfied with own farming system
How to **balance** between:

- **subsistence vs market-oriented farming**
- **farming vs off-farm income generation**
- **income generation vs natural resource conservation (soil & water, forestry resources)**

Thank you very much for your attention