

Role of Trainers in Supporting Beef Cattle Breeders in Waihatu Village, West Seram District

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Abstract – This study aims to examine the role of extension workers in beef cattle breeder activities in Waihatu Village, West Seram District. This research is based on a positivist paradigm and is designed as a survey research, with 30 farmers as respondents. The results showed that on average, the role of extension workers did not work well in the activities of beef cattle breeders in Waihatu Village, West Seram District, both in their roles as motivators, educators, facilitators and communicators.

Keywords – Role of Extension, Beef Cattle Breeders

I. INTRODUCTION

Animal husbandry is a very important sector in contributing to national development. One of the livestock production that contributes to the country is beef cattle. Based on BPS data (2018), it shows that the total production of beef in Indonesia is 16.43 million head per year. However, the availability of domestic demand for beef is still 663,290 tons / year and only 60.9% has been met. This means, this figure shows that Indonesian beef production is still low. One of the factors that causes low beef production is the lack of information available to breeders, thus affecting the knowledge, attitudes and skills of breeders in conducting beef cattle business activities. According to Puttileihalat, P (2019), the low availability of information for farmers causes the degree of farmers' ability to carry out farming activities, which is followed by low knowledge, attitudes and skills. Currently, most of the livestock activities in Indonesia are still small-scale livestock business or small-scale livestock business.

Therefore, the biggest challenge to achieve the success of livestock development is how to motivate and facilitate breeders to be able to independently carry out animal husbandry activities effectively and independently.

One important factor in increasing farmer competence is through the role of extension workers. The role of extension workers can help breeders increase their knowledge and creativity as the main actors and business actors of peterna activities. One important factor in increasing farmer competence is through the role of extension workers. The role of extension workers can help breeders in increasing their knowledge and creativity as the main actors and business actors of livestock activities. According to Mardikanto (2010), the role of extension agents is very important for rural communities to transmit various important information according to community needs, which can be done through the learning process. According to Mardikanto (2010), the role of extension agents is very important for rural communities to transmit various important information

according to community needs, which can be done through a learning process.

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 16 of 2006 concerning Agricultural, Fisheries and Forestry Extension Systems, it is stated that one of the main functions of the extension system is to facilitate the learning process of the main actors in agricultural or livestock businesses. Thus, extension is an activity of a learning process activity where its success is determined by the learning process that goes on as well as possible. This is where the instructor plays an important role as someone who is given responsibility in carrying out learning activities for breeders, so that it can foster motivation for breeders to want, know and be able to carry out these learning activities.

The challenge faced by beef cattle breeders, especially in terms of breeders, is that there are still very few beef cattle breeders who act as professional breeders, namely breeders who carry out their activities are oriented towards achieving business feasibility, so that their livestock business can be profitable and the productivity of the beef cattle they maintain is classified as high. This typology of breeders is usually inseparable from having a need for high achievement, and a belief in science and technology. This will internally relate to the growing motivation and desire of breeders to always learn or the desire to increase their capacity as human learners. Meanwhile, externally, it will relate to the existence of encouragement from outside, especially from extension workers in facilitating breeders so that they can achieve the best possible learning activities.

Encouraging the growth of empowered breeders, especially beef cattle breeders, so that more breeders will lead to professional beef cattle breeders, so extension workers are needed who can facilitate optimal learning activities. Learning outcomes of breeders can be seen from the beef cattle cultivation techniques ranging from; selection of cow breeds, cattle fattening, feeding, and housing. Therefore, the role of extension workers in facilitating farmer learning activities in beef cattle cultivation can be seen in their role as educators and facilitators. According to Baharsyah (2019), to improve the quality of agricultural human resources, the main focus needs to be directed at two things. First, improving the quality of mastery of science and technology. Second, improving the quality of skills accompanied by fostering morale, discipline and work professionalism. Quality improvement must be done through increasing the effectiveness of education, training and agricultural extension, and providing relevant information so that people

can manage and make the best use of the available natural resources.

So far, there have not been many studies on the role of extension workers in the learning process of beef cattle breeders, especially beef cattle breeders in Waihatu Village, West Seram Regency. With this research, it is hoped that it can help reveal the role of extension agents for breeders in cultivating beef cattle, seen from the role of extension personnel as motivators, educators, facilitators and communicators.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a quantitative descriptive method to determine the frequency of the role of extension workers to breeders in the learning process. According to Nazir (1988), the descriptive method is a method of examining the status of a group of people, an object, a set of conditions, a system of thought or a class of events in present time.

The research was conducted in Waihatu Village, West Seram District, with the consideration that Waihatu Village is one of the potential areas for beef cattle farming in West Seram Regency. This research is planned for September to October 2020.

The population in this study were the people in the Waihatu Village with the unit of analysis were 30 beef cattle breeders. The method used for sampling is saturated sampling method. According to Sugiyono (2014), saturated sampling is a sampling technique when all members of the population are used as samples. According to Arikunto, S (2012) if the population is less than 100 people, the total sample is taken as a whole, but if the population is greater than 100 people, 10-15% or 20-25% of the population can be taken. Thus the sample in this study was beef cattle breeders as many as 30 respondents.

The type of data in this research is quantitative data, with data sources namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data comes from field data and secondary data comes from various related agencies related to this research. Secondary data is all data obtained indirectly from the object under study (Sumarsono, S. 2004).

The research variables used in measuring the role of extension workers consisted of; the role of extension agents as motivators, educators and facilitators.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Characteristics of Breeder

Characteristics can describe specific characteristics inherent in breeders based on their thoughts, attitudes and actions towards the environment in order to maintain or meet the needs of life. Characteristics are used as a basis for assessing the diversity of farmer characteristics in conducting beef cattle business activities.

The characteristics of beef cattle breeders are explained in the form of categorization to facilitate descriptive analysis. Characteristics of breeders consist of; age, education level and experience. Table 1 shows the proportion of respondents based on the distribution of beef cattle breeders' characteristics in Waihatu Village, West Seram Regency.

Table 1 The role of the trainer as a motivator

Category	Number (farmer)	Percent (%)
Age :		
Young	3	10
Moderate	25	83
Old	2	7
Total	30	100
Education:		
Low	20	67
Moderate	6	20
High	4	13
Total	30	100
Experience :		
Low	16	54
Moderate	4	13
High	10	33
Total	30	100

Source: Primary Data 2020

Age is the life span that the farmer has passed until the time the research was conducted. Age was calculated starting from the year of birth and rounded up to the nearest birthday at the time of the study, using an interval data scale.

Table 1 shows that the age of beef cattle breeders varies between 23 and 61 years. Based on the distribution, beef cattle breeders in the age category (36 - 48 years) or middle age are in the largest age group, which is 83 percent. While the age group is at least in the old age category at 7 percent. Based on the age of beef cattle breeders, this group can be said to be the productive age group based on their ability to do work.

The findings show that the age of beef cattle breeders in this category has a low level of openness to the entry of new innovations. Most of them also have a low level of education and experience. The results of research in the West Sumatra Region show that the average characteristics of farmers who carry out agricultural activities are 52% under 44 years of age but have low skills in carrying out beef cattle activities (Zulvera, Z., 2014). This is the same as beef cattle farmers in Waihatu Village, West Seram Regency, who have an average age below 44 years but have low skills in raising beef cattle.

In comparison, in Poland the number of farmers who attended training on finance in the field of livestock was 68% aged 26 to 30 years (Nowak, P., Jastrzebiec-Witowska, A., & Gorlach, K., 2016). In the Fars region of Iran, farmers who attend training on the use of pesticides for agricultural land are mostly young farmers under 35 years of age (University of Taheran, 2012). Studies in Indonesia show that farmers at a young age have low farming skills compared to other countries. This means that the low skills of breeders are caused by the low level of education, training and counseling for breeders.

The formal education of breeders is mostly in the low category (SD) at 67 percent. This is because many breeders choose not to continue their schooling and carry out livestock business and other agricultural activities. The results of research by Irham, H (2016) show that most breeders in Patallasang Village, East Sinjai District only have elementary school education, and choose not to continue their schooling for reasons of continuing the beef cattle business.

The experience of farmers is more in the low category, which is 54 percent. This is because most beef cattle breeders are middle aged breeders who have an average experience of between 2 and 3 years. Even though they have little experience, they are open to receiving new information. The results of the research by Unan, Y and Didin, S (2011) show that the average level of experience of farmers at KSU Tendang Sari Sumedang has a high openness to the entry of new information.

3.2. Role of Trainers in the Implementation of Beef Cattle Breeders

3.2.1. The role of the trainer as a motivator

The role of the extension worker as a motivator is an effort made by the extension worker in providing encouragement or motivation for breeders to be motivated and participate in beef cattle business activities. Table 2 describes the role of extension workers as a motivator for beef cattle breeders in Waihatu Village, West Seram District.

Table 2 Role of Extension Officers as Motivators

Category	Number (farmer)	Percent (%)
Low	17	57
Moderate	10	33
High	3	10
Total	30	100

Source: Primary Data 2020

Based on Table 2, it shows that 17 respondents or 57% stated that the role of the instructor as a motivator was in the low category, meaning that the instructor did not properly explain his function to provide motivation or encouragement for breeders in relation to beef cattle cultivation techniques. Farmer motivation is always obtained among fellow breeders in sharing information about beef cattle cultivation techniques. Meanwhile, there are only 3 breeders in the high category or 10% of them are breeders who have kinship with extension agents, so the frequency of meetings often occurs in discussing beef cattle cultivation techniques.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the extension worker does not play a role as a motivator or impetus for farmers to be involved in extension activities or trainings related to beef cattle cultivation techniques, so this greatly affects the behavior of breeders in efforts to develop beef cattle. The results of the research by Ediset and A. Anas (2013) showed that changes in the behavior of buffalo breeders in the Antrada Kabau Animal Group, Koto Baru District, Dharmasraya District were very low due to a lack of motivators from extension agents and fellow group members.

3.2.2. Role of Trainer as Educator

The role of extension workers as educators is an effort made by extension agents to be able to increase breeders' knowledge of new ideas and train their skills. Table 3 describes the role of extension workers as educators for beef cattle breeders in Waihatu Village, West Seram Regency.

Table 3 Role of Extension Officers as Educators

Category	Number (farmer)	Percent (%)
Low	25	83
Moderate	3	10
High	2	7
Total	30	100

Source: Primary Data 2020

Based on Table 3, it shows that 25 respondents or 83% stated that the role of the instructor as an educator is in the

low category, which means that the extension worker has never held a participatory learning process with breeders about beef cattle cultivation techniques. The low role of instructors as educators causes the knowledge and skills of farmers to be low. This condition affects the majority of breeders who still carry out beef cattle activities in traditional ways, such as not being confined and still using a loose system, and breeders who are not aware of the quality of good feeding. The results of research by Zulfikar L, Anneke K. Rintjap, A (2017) show that beef cattle breeders in Sangkub District, Bolaang Mongondow Utara Regency, rarely get the opportunity to learn in a participatory manner with extension workers.

Respondents who stated that the role of extension workers was in the high category, namely 2 breeders or 7%. This farmer is a person who always makes approaches with extension workers at the district level to get help and other information. These breeders are people close to the local government, so their assistance and other facilities are always prioritized.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the low role of instructors as educators results in low breeders' knowledge and skills in conducting beef cattle cultivation activities.

3.2.3. Role of the Extension Officer as Facilitator

The role of the extension worker as a facilitator is the role of the extension agent in serving, meeting the needs of farmers, facilitating farmer complaints or bringing farmers together with other sources of information. Table 4 describes the role of extension workers as facilitators for beef cattle breeders in Waihatu Village, West Seram District.

Table 4 Role of Extension Officers as Facilitators

Category	Number (farmer)	Percent (%)
Low	15	50
Moderate	9	30
High	6	20
Total	30	100

Source: Primary Data 2020

Based on Table 4, it shows, as many as 15 respondents or 50% stated that the role of the extension worker as a facilitator was in the low category, meaning that the extension worker did not play his role as a facilitator well in meeting the needs of breeders. In addition, extension workers rarely match breeders with resources that can assist breeders in conducting beef cattle business activities, and do not try to

solve the various problems that exist at the farmer level. This condition causes the relationship between extension workers and breeders to be less familiar and tend to be familiar. Most of the farmers thought that even if the extension worker carried out his function as a facilitator, what was clear was not to all breeders but only to a handful of people. The results of Sundari's research, Abdul H, Nurliza (2015) show that the role of Agricultural Instructors is sufficient as a facilitator to increase beef cattle production in Pontianak Regency.

Respondents who said the role of extension workers as facilitators was in the high category as many as 6 people or 20%. Breeders in this category are breeders who are always facilitated by extension workers, especially with regard to assistance programs from the local government, for example providing beef calves to be raised as well as other assistance.

The condition of providing assistance unilaterally by extension agents has caused jealousy among other breeders who want to provide assistance not only to certain breeders but to all breeders who carry out beef cattle business activities. Thus, the role of extension workers as facilitators does not carry out its functions properly for all breeders, so conditions can trigger new problems among beef cattle breeders.

3.2.4. The Role of the Extension Officer as a Communicator

The role of extension workers as communicators is as a source of messages to convey information related to beef cattle business activities to breeders. In addition to delivering messages, an agricultural extension agent has the role of providing responses and answering questions raised by breeders. Table 5 describes the role of extension workers as communicators in beef cattle breeders in Waihatu Village, West Seram Regency.

Table 5 Role of Extension Officers as Communicators

Category	Number (farmer)	Percent (%)
Low	23	77
Moderate	1	3
High	6	20
Total	30	100

Source: Primary Data 2020

Based on Table 5, it shows that 23 respondents or 77% stated that the role of extension personnel as communicators was in the low category. This shows that extension workers do not interact well with breeders, so there is no change in farmer behavior in beef cattle business activities.

The conditions above can occur in accordance with the opinion of the breeders who state that extension workers as communicators have never helped breeders in making decisions, how to solve the problems that are being faced by breeders, accelerating the flow of information only to certain breeders, not helping breeders to improve their farming skills, and extension workers. difficult to find when breeders have difficulty. The results of research by Rahman A and Trismiaty (2018) show that the low interest of the younger generation in Jetis District, Bantul District, Yogyakarta Special Region to carry out animal husbandry activities is due to the lack of role of extension agents in their function as communicators.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that extension workers as communicators do not perform their functions properly with beef cattle breeders. This can be seen from the very low level of interaction between breeders and extension workers, the lack of information sources, the low ability of farmers and the frequency of extension that is almost not optimal.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

4.1. Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that the extension workers did not carry out their role properly with beef cattle breeders in Waihatu Village, West Seram District, both seen from their role as motivators, educators, facilitators and communicators.

4.2. Suggestion

1. The role of instructors as educators is to further improve their performance in their role as motivators.
2. The role of extension workers as educators is to increase their attention in providing learning facilities for breeders, so that it will increase the success of farmer learning activities.
3. The role of extension workers as facilitators must be able to address various problems at the farmer level with other stakeholders.
4. The role of extension personnel as communicators must be able to provide various information to farmers in carrying out poyyong cattle activities.

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