

Social Capital and Community Empowerment: Towards Sustainable Agricultural

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Abstract Sustainable development through community empowerment requires the role of social capital. This research aims to find out the role of essential social capital and supporting social capital in empowering organic farmers toward sustainable agricultural development. The research method used is a qualitative method with Nvivo-12 plus tools. Researchers become the main instrument with data collection techniques using observation and in-depth interviews. The results of the study show that there are two main actors in empowering organic farmers, namely bureaucratic actors and entrepreneurial actors. Both actors recognize the essential role of utilized social capital in bonding and linking, while the support role of utilized social capital is in the form of linking. Bonding social capital is strengthened by the interaction of knowledge and work motivation; bridging social capital is determined by consistency and solutions to agricultural problems, and social linking capital is determined by price certainty and agricultural product certification. Bonding, bridging, and linking social capital empower communities toward sustainable agricultural development. The implication is that social capital has an essential role and a driving role in empowering organic farmers toward sustainable agricultural development.

Keywords Social Capital, Organic Farming, Community Empowerment, Bureaucratic Actors, Entrepreneurial Actors

1. Introduction

An international agreement states that the goal of Sustainable Development is measured by how people empower themselves from a fundamental aspect [1]. The essential element in question is that society is experiencing massive transformative changes, which becomes a challenge for sustainable development [2]–[4]. Sustainable development requires community empowerment [5]. In other words, communities have an essential role in sustainable development [6]. One of these crucial roles is the existence of social capital [7] owned by the community. The role of social capital changes the pattern of community empowerment. Social capital increases community empowerment to change agricultural systems by replacing inorganic farming with organic farming [5]. One of the potential pathways to achieve a sustainable transformation toward an organic farming system is to empower the

community [5], [1]. At the same time, there is a tendency to how organic farming is used, who is involved, and what potential is needed to change people's behavior [5], [3]. become concerns that need solutions

The transformation of organic agriculture is uniquely positioned to help achieve sustainable development goals, because organic farming systems are often at the heart of agricultural production. Their changes require technological changes and broader social and economic structures [8], [9], [10]. In this context, a process that results in significant qualitative changes and rotations that produce significantly different systems, structures, and modes of cognition [11], [12], [10]. While theoretically, there are many paths to sustainable development, all approaches require careful attention to social transformation, actor empowerment, institutional empowerment, and political empowerment [12], [13]. Therefore, achieving sustainable development transformation requires openness and community empowerment through the role of social capital [14], [15], especially in this research on organic farming.

Social capital has become an exciting research area in sociology [16]. Social capital can increase citizens' sense of belonging and community trust. Social capital and the surrounding environment are potential protective factors from depressive symptoms later in life [17], so they can encourage agricultural governance [16], which can guarantee sustainable development [1]. Various kinds of social capital are carried out by multiple actors, including bureaucratic actors [18], [19] and entrepreneurial actors [20], [21]. If bureaucratic actors can act appropriately, they will change people's mindsets significantly [18], [19]. Likewise, entrepreneurial actors can increase community empowerment [22], [21].

Conventional agricultural processing and the use of inorganic fertilizers have damaged the fertility of agricultural soil [23]. Rejecting synthetic pesticides in organic farming has many benefits [11]. One of its uses is to increase soil fertility while increasing productivity [11], [23]. However, successful organic farm production depends on the farmer's choice to grow organic produce [10]. So community empowerment is needed [1], [16], especially for organic farmers, to increase their productivity [11], [23]. The aims of this study are first, to reveal how bureaucratic actors and entrepreneur actors use social capital to encourage people to develop sustainable organic farming and second, to understand the relationship between organic farming and sustainable development.

Social Capital Bonding, Bridging, and Connecting

Social capital as a complete resource is the ownership of a network of institutional relationships based on mutual knowledge and recognition. Social capital is an aspect of the structure of relationships between individuals that allows them to create new values. Social capital is a commonly identified social and organizational trait. This

includes trust among individuals, standards of correspondence, and interpersonal relationships that can increase the efficiency of society and create a platform that can benefit many parties [24]. Social capital is the relationships among individuals – social networks, and the norms of reciprocity and trust that arise from them. Social capital is trust that arises from the interaction process. Trust refers to expectations regarding the reactions expected of others and the willingness to take risks within a certain social background, and the intention to take action to support other group members. The existence of trust is a prerequisite for increasing human social interaction. From this definition, it can be concluded that social capital is a set of informal values or norms that are shared among members of community groups that are interrelated based on values, beliefs, models, and social networks. Social capital consists of aspects of trust, aspects of values and norms, and aspects of social networks. There are three social capitals namely bonding, bridging, and connecting [25].

The dimension of social capital as a bond binds a group or community with a high degree of similarity in certain areas [26], [25]. Forms of social bonding capital describe relationships between people who usually know each other, have close relationships, and frequently interact [25], [27]. Therefore, bonding social capital is formed by people who have the same background and interests [28]. Bonding social capital builds relationships; strengthens exclusive identities, and develops homogeneous groups [29], [30]. However, excessive forms of bonding social capital can lead to bias, giving rise to the idea that groups are outside the system and exclusion from other groups occurs [25]. Therefore, bonds of social capital can be an important source of social support for organic farmers.

The bridging dimension of social capital describes the relationship between people who share the same interests but have different socio-demographic characteristics [31], for example, age, ethnic group, and social class [25]. Bridging forms of social capital stem from weaker network connections (e.g., friends, associates, and more distant colleagues) [29], [30]. Weak network connections because they have different interests. Their function is to exchange information and build consensus [32]. Therefore, the bridging social capital dimension is weaker than the bonding social capital dimension. Its function connects people with more fragile relationships [29].

The connecting social capital dimension describes the relationship of respect and trust that people build with institutions [29], [25]. Measurements of social capital usually place people in positions of relative power or authority [25], [33]. The form of linking social capital is connecting power with society and linking resources with culture. The function of connecting social capital is to connect communities to support the development of community resilience [34]. For example, social capital of frontline employees outlines how the use of online social networks can enable the development of social capital and

the maintenance of social capital [35]. Therefore, the dimension of connecting social capital is weaker than the connecting or binding social capital dimension.

The Role of Social Capital in Empowerment

The role of social capital in empowerment consists of two forms, namely the essential part and the supporting role. Its critical role is the evolution and transfer of knowledge in preserving local knowledge systems [33]. An important part of social capital is to promote inclusion norms, understand needs, and understand different perspectives to shape actions to increase the resilience of responsive communities [34]. Thus, an important role of social capital is identifying sustainable solutions and knowledge sharing mechanisms [34], [33] to ensure community empowerment. While the supporting role is to aid in community resilience in a changing and uncertain environment. [34]; [34], persistently responsive [7], [34], and fostering an environment that is encouraging with a variety of capabilities and resources that is focused on proactive community resilience assistance. [34], [33].

Therefore, community empowerment requires social capital [36], [1], [15]. Both essential social capital and supporting social capital. In essence, people who want to be empowered must have social capital, values accepted by society, and the ability to organize society [37]. Social capital has become the foundation for community development [14]. Communities have social values in various ways, for example the level of formal education and informal education. However, informal education teaches that maintaining a clean environment is better than conventional formal education [38], [37]. Keeping the environment clean is empowerment [38], [38].

The ability to organize the community is one of the characteristics of community empowerment actors [37]. Many empowerment programs fail because the process is rigid, instructive, and uses too many techniques that are inappropriate for the conditions of the local community [5]. Various stakeholder actors in community empowerment include community leaders, business actors, related technical agencies, non-governmental organizations, and village communities as beneficiaries [39]. Non-profit and non-governmental organizations are also prominent participants in the global organizational responsibility movement [3], working in the field of empowerment. Entrepreneurial actors are also increasingly encouraged to achieve community empowerment [4]. Multilevel governance actors are also important for community empowerment [2]. Bureaucratic actors fall into the category of multilevel governance actors because bureaucracy has many levels [2], [14]. Regarding the empowerment of organic farmers for sustainable development, bureaucratic and entrepreneurial actors are very relevant.

The first hypothesis is the difference in social capital, by the actors' causing differences in community

empowerment and the second is community empowerment in organic farming, able to guarantee sustainable development.

2. Materials and Methods

The research used is descriptive qualitative research. The researcher himself became the main instrument. Researchers conducted observations and in-depth interviews with informants naturally. Researchers made observations of natural conditions related to the research focus, namely organic farming. While interviews were conducted with bureaucratic actors (actor I and actor II), who both work as farmers in their daily lives, and entrepreneurial actors (actor III and actor IV), who specialize in organic farming, each actor had five members. One representative of each actor was then randomly chosen to participate in in-depth interviews about organic farming and be analyzed during the interviews. The interview begins with open-ended questions, followed by structured questions according to the research topic. All answers are recorded and transcribed. Consultations last 45 to 60 minutes at a time.

The results of observations and interviews were processed using the CAQDAS (Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software) system tool, namely Software in the Nvivo 12 Plus application. The stages are data collection, reduction, presentation, and conclusion. In the conclusion section, the researcher continues to make observations by looking at the results of data reduction and remains focused on the research objectives to be achieved.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Results

Rice farmers start, develop and maintain their agricultural processing systems by settling in farmer groups. Each farmer group has members in one paddy field that cannot be separated from one another. They use technical irrigation to carry out their agricultural processes regardless of the season. They plant rice every planting season and harvest rice every harvest season. The management of the farmer group is responsible for managing the group, starting from the process of ploughing the fields to harvesting. The main income for organic farmers is generated from selling the organic rice they produce. Farmers interact with their families and fellow organic farmers in farmer groups during this organic rice cycle and build networks with agricultural extension workers, local government, and the community. Based on the results of in-depth interviews with 2 actors, one representative from a bureaucratic actor and one representative from a randomly selected entrepreneur actor who is an expert in the field of organic farming that have

been processed using Nvivo-12 plus, the two main actors who are research informants are Bureaucrats Actor (BA) 65% and Entrepreneurs Actor (EA) 70%. As depicted in figure 1:

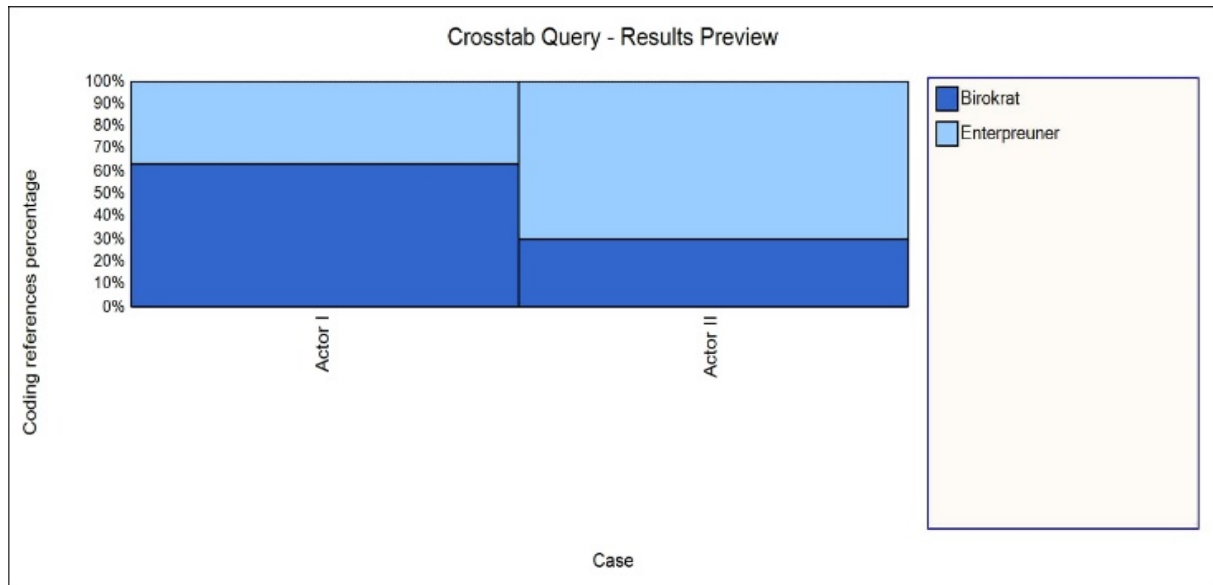


Figure 1. Percentage of Bureaucrat Actors and Entrepreneurial Actors

Table 1. Dimensions of social capital, interacting actors, and operating components of social interaction

Social Capital	Actors	Components of social interaction	
		Bureaucratic Actor	Entrepreneurship Actor
Bonding	Farmers	They gain knowledge about the benefits of organic agricultural products; have strong motivation and desire, and discuss and exchange ideas with each other about the benefits of organic farming; provide education to farmers, and assist organic farmers.	They invited him to come to his house and often met in the fields. In this case, the each actors invite their members to come to their homes or to the rice fields in order to discuss the development and sustainability of organic farming.
Bridging	Agricultural Extension and Local Government	They consistently campaign about organic farming, and find solutions to agricultural problems.	Agriculture is seriously ill because it has already contained a lot of poison.
Linking	Community	Price competition and dominance of inorganic rice, labelling the product, buying the harvests of the assisted farmers at a higher price than the price of rice in the market, and. then marketing it online and offline.	It holds an organic certificate, packs its products under the brand "Pakkampie" rice and markets it online through several social media.

Source: Processed results of interviews and observations

These two actors have different approaches in the development of organic agriculture and coaching the members they have in developing organic farming. Actor 1 (bureaucratic actors) uses more of a bureaucratic approach (65%), while actor 2 (entrepreneurial actors) uses more of an entrepreneurial approach in member coaching and development organic farming (70%)

Both actors maintain and use various components of social capital to interact. We divide our findings into two parts: first, we characterize members operating in social capital that engages, processes, and markets (section 4.1). Second, we explain the important and supporting role of social capital in the livelihood system of organic farmers (section 4.2).

The NVIVO 12 Processed Results explained that, AB Bureaucrat Actor, (Haris Alimin) through his social media (Facebook and Instagram) in the past 3 years, actively used a bureaucratic approach in developing organic farming, and introducing organic products. This was proven up to 75, 68 percent of the number of uploads, while only 44 percent of uploads use the entrepreneur approach. Meanwhile, Entrepreneur Actor AE, (Masri Ibrahim), is more active in introducing his organic farming on social media (Facebook, Instagram) with an emphasis on the entrepreneurial side. only around 24.32 percent.

3.1.1. Components of Social Capital in Social Relations of Organic Farmers

This section describes our findings about the components of social actors that operate within two types of social actors, namely bureaucratic and entrepreneurial, which are relevant to the social relations between organic farmers and other actors. (See Table 1). Bureaucratic actors build ties with farmer groups, and farmers tend to be indirect, only providing motivation and knowledge about the importance of organic farming when they meet. However, the entrepreneur has a different way of building bonds by calling his house and the meeting place of the "Bukit Melintang" farmer group.

Bureaucratic actors bind farmer groups through knowledge, motivation, and discussion of agricultural issues. Meanwhile, entrepreneurs bind farmer groups through organic rice samples in their respective homes. The two actors protect farmers through education and face-to-face assistance. Likewise, the two actors cultivate organic agricultural land because they are aware of the dangers of non-organic farming implemented by farmers. The processing involves agricultural extension workers and local governments as organizations that have the power and authority to regulate and formulate organic farming policies. Bureaucrats buy organic rice to avoid price competition and domination of inorganic rice. They even dare to buy at a higher price than the market. Unlike entrepreneurs, he attaches importance to the certification of the organic rice label he owns, "Pakkampie" rice. Even so, the two actors market organic rice offline and online.

3.1.2. Bonding Social Capital: Knowledge and Motivation

The interviews show that the two actors interact with organic farmers through ties of social capital. First, farmer groups, with which the scientific elements of social capital function. Science covers the benefits of organic rice, the dangers of inorganic rice, and the importance of maintaining sustainable agriculture, as quoted from the following bureaucratic and entrepreneurial actors:

"Q: Why are you interested in organic farming, and how do you develop organic farming ideas?"

"A: I am interested in organic farming because I get a lot of knowledge about the benefits of organic agricultural products. I am looking for landowners (not smallholders) to discuss and share ideas about the benefits of organic farming." (BA)

"Q: Why do you want to assist farmers, and how do you motivate farmers to switch from inorganic farming to organic farming?"

"A: I accompany organic farmers because I want to provide education and understanding about the benefits of organic rice. I invite them to come to my house to discuss organic farming, so they have a strong motivation and desire to produce organic rice" (EA)

3.1.3. Bridging Social Capital: Consistency and Problem Solutions

Bridging social capital involves two actors: agricultural extension workers and local government. These two actors have the power and authority to prohibit and permit the use of inorganic materials in agricultural processing. Results of interviews with bureaucrats and entrepreneurs:

"Q: You are registered as a State Civil Apparatus, why do you have concern for the development of organic agriculture?"

"A: As SCA (State Civil Apparatus), I have to protect nature and society from harm caused by damage to the agricultural environment. As an alumnus of an agriculture degree, I want to share the benefits of the knowledge I got in college." (BA)

"Q: What factors motivated you to leave inorganic farming?"

"A: I am interested and moved to love organic farming because according to agricultural extension workers, Indonesian agriculture is seriously ill because it has already contained a lot of toxins from inorganic farming. So, the solution to this problem is that agricultural extension workers and local governments must consistently socialize organic farming." (EA)

3.1.4. Bridging Social Capital: Consistency and Problem Solutions

Marketing social capital involves the surrounding community or organic rice buyers. The two actors acknowledged that price competition for organic rice with inorganic rice was still dominated by inorganic rice. Therefore, the two actors buy organic rice from farmers even though the price is higher than the price of rice on the market. The results of the interview are as follows:

“Q: How do you empower the organic farmers that you foster?”

“A: I asked farmers to dry all the grain I bought at their location. I again spent thirty-five thousand rupiah per sack as compensation to the farmers who sun-dried my grain. Not only that, I again gave IDR 500 per kilogram to the farmers after they cleaned or milled the grain into rice. So if the price of inorganic grain is usually Rp. 4,000, so I bought it for Rp. 4,500.” (BA)

“Q: What will you do after getting an organic certificate from the relevant official institution?”

“A: After holding an organic certificate, I am more confident and introduce my product through social media according to the name Pakkampie rice with several variants such as organic fragrant pandan rice (EA).

3.1.5. An Important Role and Support for Social Capital

In the previous section, we identified and described the main actors who interact with these two types of organic farmers and the components of social capital in their interactions using the concepts of bonding, bridging and linking. In this section, we focus on the role of social capital in the livelihood systems of organic farmers. We will also describe the results of their livelihoods. We find that access to marketing plays an important role contributed by social capital, whereas access to processing functions has a supporting role. The overall description is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of the role of social capital in the empowerment system

Type of roles	Form of roles	Social capital utilized
Essential roles	Access to marketing	Bonding dan linking
Supporting roles	Access to processing	Bridging

Source: Processed results of interviews and observations

Social capital used to build bonding and linking requires access to marketing. The process of creating something so that it can add economic value is one of the principles of marketing. The two actors explained the entrepreneurial spirit and motivation. The results of the interview are as follows:

“Q: How do you supervise your assisted farmers, so

they don't use chemical fertilizers and maintain the quality of organic rice, even though you are a State Civil Apparatus?”

“A: I give organic rice plant seeds and organic fertilizer to farmers to plant. During the planting and harvesting process, I always accompany the farmers and supervise them, so as not to use chemical fertilizers or poisons. I do this because I will also buy organic rice produced, in the end the quality can increase the selling price. (BA)

“Q: Apart from the health factor, what do you think is the organic rice business opportunity in the market in the community?”

“A: Most importantly, my family and I eat healthy rice, the aroma is very different, and the rice is not stale for two days. Thus, organic rice is in great demand by consumers for consumption and therapy for sick people. There are a lot of them. The large number of consumers who are looking for organic agricultural products, especially organic rice, causes prices to soar. This attractive price is a business opportunity for organic rice farmers.” (EA)

Access to organic farming processing bridges social capital because interview results show that organic farmers feel satisfied when their families consume organic rice. They eat organic rice to maintain health, and the price of organic rice is also higher than inorganic rice.

3.2. Discussion

The two main actors who became research informants were 65% Bureaucratic Actors (AB) and 70% Entrepreneurial Actors (AK). Bureaucratic actors in this study are the same as multilevel governance actors [2], while entrepreneurial actors are primarily concerned with increasing community empowerment [18]. Bureaucratic actors as civil servants in the regions have the awareness of saving sustainable development through the invitation of organic farmers.

The social capital dimension of bonding by bureaucratic actors binds farmers and farmer groups through knowledge, motivation, and discussion of agricultural issues, because they have high similarities in rice field [26], [25]. Meanwhile, entrepreneurs bind farmer groups through organic rice samples in their respective homes. Entrepreneurs have a closer relationship. They know each other and interact frequently [27], [25] because they are a group of farmers. Both bureaucratic and entrepreneurial actors support bonding social capital, which will be faster through close relationships.

Bridging social capital involves two actors: agricultural extension workers and local government or rural services. They interact for consistency and to address farming issues. Agricultural extension workers and local governments have a different social class [25] from organic farmers. Even though they are of the same age and tribe, they are

still of productive age and come from the Bugis tribe. Bureaucratic actors interact because of the fundamental interests of sustainable development, and network connections are weaker [29], [30] compared to bonds of social capital. Likewise entrepreneurs also have weak network connections. However, both of them realized the importance of saving agricultural land from the dangers of chemical poisons due to the use of inorganic chemicals and fertilizers. They also bridge agricultural extension agents and local governments to interact with farmers and their farmer groups.

They connect social capital more with an organic product marketing approach. The results of the study show that connecting social capital interacts with the community to ensure organic rice prices and the availability of organic rice certificates. Governments or positions of power determine trust in rice prices and certification [33], [25]. Bureaucratic actors help organic farmers increase the added value of their organic rice so that the government gives a higher price than inorganic rice. Instead, entrepreneurs help organic farmers certify their organic rice. Therefore, marketing linking provides added value to organic rice products so that organic farmers are more enthusiastic about organic farming.

Finally, the role of social capital in empowering organic farmers consists of important and supporting roles. Table 2 summarizes the role of social capital in the organic farmer empowerment system. Important social capital is having access to marketing, promoting inclusion norms, understanding needs, and understanding different perspectives [34], [40]. Meanwhile, supporting social capital is processing access to support community resilience [34], [41]. The important role of social capital is used for bonding and linking, while the supporting part of social capital is used for bridging. Important roles are used to develop and transfer knowledge [33], making it easier to build bonds and links. Supporting roles are used to be responsive in the long term [7], [34] to be empowered. Bureaucratic actors and entrepreneurs agree that essential social capital is used to bind and connect, and supports social capital to bridge.

4. Conclusions

The main finding of this research is that bureaucratic and entrepreneurial actors realize the importance of empowering organic farmers through the role of social capital. The organic farmer empowerment system appears in two levels, namely the essential role and the complementary role. Forms of essential roles use social capital in the form of bonding and linking, while forms of complementary roles use social capital in the form of linking. Bonding social capital is strengthened by the interaction of knowledge and work motivation; bridging social capital is determined by consistency and solutions to agricultural problems, and social linking capital is

determined by price certainty and product certification.

Literature on the role of social capital in the empowerment system has explored how the combination of bonding, bridging and linking social capital works. However, the workings of these bureaucratic and entrepreneurial actors involve interactions between different actors and spaces, suggesting that these dynamics have not been adequately explored in the wider literature. However, further studies are needed regarding the role of social capital of organic farmers. For example, if the government continues to enforce inorganic farming policies and the demand for organic rice continues to fall, organic farmers will experience pressure on their businesses.

Meanwhile, in agricultural policies, especially those that promote integrated farming systems, a combination of bureaucratic and entrepreneurial actors supported by reciprocity between organic farmers and local governments is a good practice. Access to organic agricultural production facilities is part of the responsibility of local governments to provide them as a product of public policy. It is very beneficial for organic rice farmers to continue to practice integrated farming systems. The focus on integrated agriculture will strengthen the role of various elements of social capital for sustainable development.

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