

# **The Influence of Social Capital on the Performance of Rice Farmers in Lamoeri Village, Angata District, South Konawe Regency**

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**Abstract.** This research aims to determine the influence of social capital on the performance of lowland rice farmers in Lamoeri Village, Angata District, South Konawe Regency. Social capital is measured using three dimensions: trust as the basis for social interaction, formal and informal institutions, and networks in building cooperation to facilitate collective action for community survival to influence the improvement of farmer performance in lowland rice farming. Meanwhile, performance is measured based on the area of land planted, the number of workers, the capital used, and the allocation of working time. The research results using multiple linear regression analysis tools show that social capital, including institutions, norms, and cooperation, positively impacts the performance of lowland rice farmers in Lamoeri Village, Angata District, South Konawe Regency.

Keywords: Social capital, performance, lowland rice

## **INTRODUCTION**

The agricultural sector is very important to the national economy but is still considered unable to meet the subsistence needs of the majority of farmers in Indonesia, so strategies are needed to develop the agricultural sector. To overcome this, major changes are needed in development, especially in the agricultural sector. One of the efforts currently being intensively undertaken is to improve farmer performance. With good performance, it is hoped that high profitability will also increase so that it can improve farmer welfare.

In connection with development efforts in the agricultural sector, it is very important to understand individual farmers' use of various forms of capital; it is not enough to just discuss capital as known in economic theory. It is also important to know the forms of transactions that, in economic theory, are considered non-economic because they cannot directly maximize material benefits. Economic capital transactions are always accompanied by immaterial capital, one of which is social capital (Pierre Bourdieu, 1986).

Starting from this idea, it is important to know the relationship between social capital and the performance of lowland rice farmers in Lamoeri Village, Angata District, South Konawe Regency.

## **LITERATUR REVIEW**

Field (2005) states that social capital is defined as "social networks, the reciprocity that arises, and the value of achieving common goals". Social capital is often interpreted differently. Some research states that social capital is a community-level attribute, although other research

treats social capital as an individual-oriented approach. The diversity of definitions of social capital arises from different levels of analysis. In line with this, Supriono (2008) states that social capital is the relationships that are created and the norms that shape the quality and quantity of social relations in society across a broad spectrum, namely as a social glue that maintains the unity of members of society together.

Putnam in Mohartono and Koeshandrajana (2013), defines social capital as the social relationships of individuals or groups that can develop norms of mutual trust and form social networks for several economic purposes. Putnam assumes every individual or group has equal access but ignores the social context. In simple terms, social capital can be shown by the important components that accompany it, namely trust, belief, norms of reciprocity, rules, and networks. In other words, the existence of social capital can be demonstrated by the ability of people in a group to work together to build a network to achieve common goals. The cooperation that is realized is characterized by a pattern of reciprocal and mutually beneficial internalization and is built based on trust supported by positive and strong values. This strength will be optimal if it is supported by a proactive spirit in creating relationships based on the principles of trust and a willingness to share and benefit each other.

#### **a. Trust**

Trust is a person's belief in another person's ability to carry out a transaction or commitment relationship and that that party will fulfill their obligations properly as expected and accept the risks they will accept (Andriani and Halmawati, 2019). Trust is a psychological state consisting of the intention to accept weaknesses and reveal weaknesses to others based on positive expectations from intentions, behavior, and expectations (Pravitasari and Raharso, 2017). Trust is a mental condition that is based on a person's situation when making a decision, he will prefer decisions based on the choices of people he can trust more than those he trusts less (Trisusanti and Karneli, 2017).

Trust is a form of desire to take risks in social relationships that is based on a feeling of confidence that others will do something as expected and will always act in a pattern of mutually supportive action, at least others will not act to harm themselves and others (Putnam, 1996).

#### **b. Networking**

Collaboration networks are a dynamic infrastructure of social capital owned by farmer members of farmer groups, both in collaboration with fellow members in the same group in daily life as well as other parties outside the group (Fanbellisa, et al. 2017). Social capital takes the form of collaborative networks between people. The network facilitates communication and interaction, allows trust to grow, and strengthens cooperation.

Healthy communities tend to have strong social networks. People know and meet other people. They then build strong relationships, both formal and informal (Onyx, 1996). Putnam (1995) argues that close social networks will strengthen members' feelings of cooperation and the benefits of their participation.

#### **c. Institutional**

Farmer institutions are expected to be able to help farmers get out of the problem of farmers' economic inequality, but up to now they are still not functioning optimally. It requires adequate mastery of agricultural technology and competitive ability from farmers to be able to withstand market demand. The existence of farmer groups helps farmers access information, production

advice, and a vehicle for learning. However, a farmer group also needs strengthening so that it can develop and be ready to accept innovations.

Group strengthening strategies are seen from both institutional and social aspects. The institutional strengthening strategy, which includes group structure and culture, is a strategy aimed at improving the structure and culture of the group. Social strengthening strategies, namely strategies aimed at improving social aspects, include growing group trust, the role of the community in supporting group development, strengthening interactions within groups, increasing social awareness among group members, strengthening attitudes or a sense of belonging, fostering social solidarity, social capital, and social integration, so that aid is considered a trust that must be socially accountable (Anantanyu, 2011).

## RESEARCH METHODS

Sampling from the research population was carried out using the proportional random sampling technique, resulting in 35 respondents spread across 7 farmer groups from a total of 163 farmers in Lamoare Village, Angata District, South Konawe Regency.

The type of data in this research is quantitative data, data in the form of numbers or qualitative data, which comes from primary and secondary data. The data collection technique was carried out through interviews using guided questions and observation by making direct observations of rice farmers to complete primary data that had not been revealed through interviews, literature, and documentation.

The variables observed in this research are:

- a. Social capital variables are: (trust, network, and institutional).
- b. Lowland rice farming performance variables are land, labor, capital, and time.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of the relationship between the social capital of trust, networks, and institutions of farmers and farming performance, namely, land area, number of workers, labor costs, number of days worked, and capital for fertilizers and medicines based on price (Rp) and quantity (kg) in Lamoeri Village, Angata District. The analysis used to test the relationship between social capital and farming performance in Lamoeri Village is the Spearman Rank (rs) analysis version 26. After analysis, two variables have a relationship with farming performance. The analysis results obtained can be seen in Table 4.35.

Table 4.35 Relationship between Social Capital and Farming Performance in Lowland Rice Cultivation in Lamoeri Village

No	Variables that were observed	Value Correlation Coefficient	Probability	Relationship Level	Identify the level of the relationship
1	Social Capital	0.475	0,004	Significant	Quite Tight
2	Trust	0,456	0,006	Significant	Quite Tight
3	Networking	0,359	0,034	Significant	Not Tight
4	Institutional	0,414	0,013	Significant	Quite Tight

Source: Primary data processed, 2022

Keterangan: Level signifkacnt  $\alpha \geq = 5\%$  (0,5)

Table 4.35 shows that the results of the Spearman Rank correlation analysis, namely, social capital, trust, and institutions, have a significant relationship with farming performance, while the network variable does not have a significant relationship with farming performance.

In general, the relationship between social capital and farming performance in Lamoeri village was obtained from a Spearman rank analysis of 0.475 with a probability value of 0.004 which is smaller than the significance level at the  $\alpha$  level of 0.05. This shows that there is a real or significant relationship between social capital and farming performance in lowland rice cultivation in Lamoeri village. Social capital includes trust, networks, and institutions.

The relationship between trust and farming performance in lowland rice cultivation in Lamoeri village was obtained by a Spearman rank analysis of 0.456 with a probability value of 0.006 which is smaller than the significance level at the  $\alpha$  level of 0.05. This shows that there is a significant relationship between trust and farming performance in lowland rice cultivation in Lamoeri village.

Based on the results of the analysis of the trust variable and farming performance, there is a significant relationship. This is based on farmers having a general level of confidence in the medium category, which was tested using interval class analysis. Most farmers carry out their farming activities independently and together, such as using labor for land processing, planting, maintenance, and post-harvest, so that they do not need help or labor from outside the family. This is also supported by the age of farmers who are in the young and medium category. Trust in fellow farmers can be seen from the activities of borrowing and borrowing tools and business capital. Involving the government, community leaders, and people outside the village in rice farming activities.

The relationship between network social capital and the performance of lowland rice farming in Lamoeri village, Angata District, was obtained by a Spearman rank analysis of 0.359 with a probability value of 0.035, which is smaller than the level of significance at the  $\alpha$  level of 0.05. This means that there is a significant relationship between network social capital and farming performance in lowland rice cultivation, with a not-close relationship level. ricefield.

Networked social capital in farming includes cooperation between farmer groups in terms of irrigation work for rice fields and involving community leaders in decision-making and planning. Some farmers carry out harvesting activities using a profit-sharing system. This is very helpful for farmers because they do not need to spend money (capital) on harvesting activities. Apart from that, workers' orders for harvesting are communicated together so that the rice harvesting equipment (machines) can work on one stretch of rice field. The aim is to make it easier to reach the equipment (harvesting machines). Because moving equipment (harvesting machines) from one location to another requires a lot of energy and costs. This is very helpful in reducing costs in lowland rice farming. On the other hand, through this network, farmers can easily obtain market information and sales prices for grain, as well as information on the availability of fertilizers and medicines they need. However, not all farmers have deep networks in several farming activities and therefore carry out activities independently. Rice harvesting activities are carried out independently using tools (sickles), so this will be inefficient and ineffective if viewed from the perspective of time. Then some farmers do not have access to market information to find out the selling price of grain when making a sale.

The relationship between institutional social capital and the performance of lowland rice cultivation in Lamoeri village was obtained by a Spearman rank analysis of 0.414 with a probability value of 0.013, which is smaller than the level of significance at the  $\alpha$  level of 0.05. The results of the Spearman rank value show that there is a relationship between institutional social

capital and farming performance in a quite strong category. This relationship is expressed as activeness in group activities, farmers will involve themselves when there are meetings or work carried out in cooperation. One example is cleaning rice fields, which is carried out jointly. This will help in solving the problem. And in transporting the harvest, farmers will cooperate in transportation while still providing costs (wages), this is to make it easier for farmers to no longer look for labor from outside the village.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

This research concludes that farmers' social capital based on indicators of trust, networks, and institutions in lowland rice farming in Lamoeri Village, Angata District, is in the high category. Social capital has a significant relationship with farmer performance in lowland rice farming, with a value of Correlation Coefficient 0.475 and a fairly close relationship level.

Based on the discussion of this research, it can be suggested that the social capital of lowland rice farmers needs to be maintained so that it can increase the income of farmers in Lamoeri village and allow extension workers and the government to be able to pay attention to and guide farmers in carrying out lowland rice farming so that trust can be built between all parties involved in and related to rice farming.

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