



## PERCEPTIONS OF STUDENTS OF FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY UNIVERSITY OF MUHAMMADIYAH MALANG ON THE FUTURE OF FARMERS IN INDONESIA

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### ABSTRACT

#### ARTICLE HISTORY

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As a young generation with high potential skills, students play an essential role in shaping the future. However, many of them make it up and undervalue the agricultural sector. In response to these, this study aims to analyze the student perceptions of the future of farmers in Indonesia. The results showed that factors influencing the analysis of student's perception of the farmers have a significant positive relationship, namely between the variables of students' perception and profession as a farmer. The Product Moment Correlation test showed that the *r* count (Pearson Correlation) reached 0.667, meaning that the relationship between the two variables was large or strong. Several factors, such as attitude, motivation, interest, experience, and expectation, significantly correlate to a farmer's future as a profession. *R* count value reached 0.667 showed that the correlation between the student's perception and the future of farmer occupation is substantial. It interprets that the greater the perception of students, the greater the interest in that profession.

## INTRODUCTION

As a young generation with high potential skills, students have a vital role in shaping the future (Muzayanah, 2020). The development of the country's agricultural sector still becomes a particular concern due to the lack of young generation's interest in the profession of agriculture. Many set aside and ignore or even undervalue such professions (Rahmah Insani et al., 2018). They tend to desire higher waves and work in

the industrial sector, generally in urban areas (Gulo et al., 2018). Indeed, some say that being a farmer does not require a high level of education (Saputro, 2020). Consequently, the lack of interest in agriculture will threaten Indonesia's sovereignty over food production (Pradana & Mayangsari, 2018).

Young farmers have a distinct characteristic in their generations which expectedly advance the agricultural sector. In short, the characteristics deal with improving creativity, collaboration, and connectivity in doing business (Tintin Febrianti, 2019; Navia, 2021)). The crisis of young farmers and the control of old farmers can affect the development of the agricultural sector, mainly agricultural productivity (Muhammad, 2018). According to the Central Statistics Agency, the number of millennial farmers is decreasing. For instance, from 2017 to 2018, the number declined by 415.000 people (Ningsih, 2021; Haris, 2019). Survey results concealed that the number of male and female farmers in Indonesia is dominated by the aged > 45 (Tim, 2018).

In addition, the low interest of youth in agriculture is in line with the fact that the proportion of young farmers is deficient (Anwarudin et al., 2020). However, the presence of millennial farmers helps increase progress and provide jobs or even become an entrepreneur (Savira et al., 2020). The profession of a farmer is a very profitable job if they study deeper and pursue it properly (Lamia et al., 2021). Millennial farmers are those whose ages are around 19-39 (Savira et al., 2020). They can influence income growth because they quickly adapt and keep up with the development of new technologies (Khonitan & Utami, 2018).

The agricultural sector affects the fulfillment of food raw material needs in society. People cannot live well without sufficient food in quality and quantity (Kusumaningrum, 2019). Still, the work to fulfill food needs faces many obstacles from various factors, such as environmental conditions, climate change, land use change, and pest attacks that decrease crop yields (Budi Kusumo et al., 2020). According to Malow, food needs are one of the most fundamental physiological needs that must be met by all humans (Panceng et al., 2020).

Moreover, as a student and the young generation educated in the faculty of agriculture and animal husbandry, they are expected to possess views and perceptions on an agricultural sector that can contribute to the development of agriculture to open the future of farmers as a profession. The purpose of this study is to analyze the perceptions of students of the Faculty of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research utilized the qualitative descriptive method. According to Jane Stokes, the method based on numerical information or quantity is typically associated with statistical analysis (Busti, 2019).

The research was conducted at the Faculty of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang, from May to July 2022. The location was intentionally selected because it is one of the excellent faculties at the University.

### Sampling Method

This research used the data source supported by primary data and secondary data. Primary data were obtained by disseminating questionnaires, while secondary data included the previous literature. The sampling technique applied purposive sampling, in which specific considerations must be met. Those criteria consisted of

students at the Faculty of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang who are going to take a thesis course. The Slovin formula was applied to take the sample.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

n = Total sample

N = Population

e = margin of error to be decided by the researcher

### Data Analysis Method

The primary data or questionnaire was analyzed using quantitative descriptive to describe the collected data. Next, the respondents' data were moved to *Microsoft Excel* and processed through *SPSS 26 for Windows*. The results were further verified using the Product Moment Correlation test.

Five categories or Linkert scale applied in the questionnaire, namely strongly agree, agree, neither agree, disagree, and strongly disagree, using the points 1 to 5 were distributed online.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Identity of the Respondents

The percentage of male and female respondents was 51%, and 39% was obtained from six different study programs students, namely Agribusiness, Agrotechnology, Aquaculture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry, and Food Technology. These students will immediately take a thesis course.

**Table 1 Identity of the Respondents**

Characteristics	Parameters	N = 90	%
Gender	Male	39	39,0
	Female	51	51,0
			100%
Study Program	Agribusiness	32	32,0
	Agrotechnology	15	15,0
	Aquaculture	10	10,0
	Animal Husbandry	9	9,0
	Forestry	7	7,0
	Food Technology	17	17,0
			100%
Admission Year	2019		

### Validity and Reliability Test

In the validity test carried out in this research questionnaire, there is a variable X (student perception) which contains 10 statement items and all are valid. Variable Y

professional farmer) contained 8 statement items and all were declared valid. After conducting the validity test, the reliability test will then be carried out.

**Table 2 Result Validity Test**

Variabel	$r_{\text{count}}$	$r_{\text{table}} 5\% (90)$	Validity
Perception	0,726	0,207	Valid
Farming profession	0,661	0,207	Valid

### **Students Perception**

Several factors influence the student's perception, parallel with what Stephen P. Robbins dan Timothy stated: attitude, motivation, interests, experiences, and expectations.

### **Attitude Factor**

Judging from questions one and two regarding the attitude factor, many respondents answered strongly agree, it can be said that respondents have an interest in interacting and direct activities such as plant cultivation, fish farming, or livestock activities. Using 90 samples with a significance value of 5%, the correlation coefficient value is significant at 0.491 which states that the Spearman rank correlation value is 0.207. A significance value of 0.000 then  $H_0$  is rejected, which means that there is a significant relationship. The significance test of the T-test resulted in a significant number of calculations for the relationship between attitude factors and the future of the farming profession because  $t_{\text{count}} 5,287$  was greater than  $1,987 t_{\text{table}}$ . The attitude factor is one of the supporting factors of one's perception because attitudes are not real and cannot be seen directly but can be felt and seen from the behavior and behavior of the individual (Kholisoh, 2018). The high interest in student's attitudes toward the future of the farming profession, the more excellent the opportunity to become a millennial farmer by promoting many renewable innovations.

### **Motivation Factor**

The results of the motivational factor correlation test can be said that the correlation coefficient value is significant at 0.392 which states that the spearman rank correlation value is 0.207. The significance value is 0.000 then  $H_0$  is rejected, which means that there is a significant relationship at the 0.01 level. The significance test of the T-test produces a significant number of calculations, based on the calculation results it can be seen that there is a significant relationship between motivational factors and the future of the farmer profession because  $t_{\text{count}} 3.997$  is greater than  $t_{\text{table}} 1.987$ . Motivation is the first step to shaping the future of the younger generation (Kamaratih & Putri, 2019) which can make the younger generation have the nature of optimism in a career in their chosen field.

### **Interests Factor**

It is stated that there is a correlation by looking at the correlation coefficient value of 0.447 or more significant than  $r_{\text{table}} 0.207$ , which can be said to be a relationship between one of the factors of the perception of students of the Faculty of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, the University of Muhammadiyah Malang on the future of the

farming profession. The significance value is 0.000 then  $H_0$  is rejected, which means that there is a significant relationship at the 0.01 level. The significance test of the T-test produces a significant number of calculations, based on the calculation results it can be seen that there is a strong relationship between the interest factor and the future of the farmer profession because  $t_{\text{count}} 4.687$  is greater than  $t_{\text{table}} 1.987$ . The factor of student interest as the younger generation is very few who choose to work in the agricultural sector, the younger generation is less and less interested in becoming farmers (Wahyudi, 2018). For students of the Faculty of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, University of Muhammadiyah Malang, they conclude that each individual has an attraction or interest in owning a business in the field of animal husbandry, so there is still an opportunity to continue to be a young farmer.

### **Experience Factor**

It is stated that there is a correlation by looking at the correlation coefficient value of 0.344 or greater than  $r_{\text{table}} 0.207$ . The significance value is 0.001 then  $H_0$  is rejected, which means that there is a significant relationship at the 0.01 level. The significance test of the T-test produces a significant number of calculations, based on the calculation results it can be seen that there is a strong relationship between the experience factor and the future of the farmer profession because  $t_{\text{count}} 3,436$  is greater than 1,987. Based on the answers of the respondents, it can be concluded that students are still hesitant to have a lot of experience before being at the Faculty of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. Therefore, individual students have not mastered it, but this experience factor can be considered as a learning process that in the future will provide results that have been passed (Qowaid et al., 2020).

### **Expectations Factor**

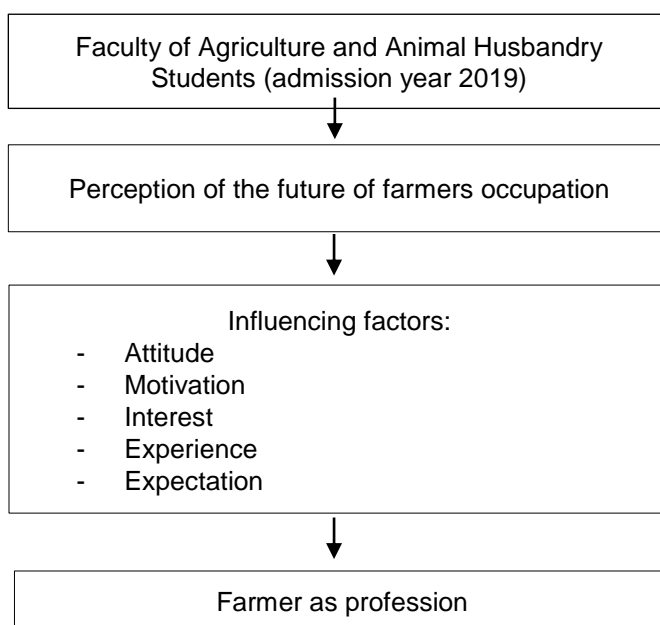
Apart from these factors, there is hope. The theory put forward by Robbins, is that acting will give strength in the form of hope to the individual (Sari et al., 2021). It is stated that there is a correlation by looking at the correlation coefficient value of 0.577 or more significant than  $r_{\text{table}} 0.207$ . The significance value is 0.000 then  $H_0$  is rejected, which means that there is a significant relationship at the 0.01 level. The significance test of the T-test produces a significant number of calculations, based on the calculation results it can be seen that there is a strong relationship between the experience factor and the future of the farmer profession because  $t_{\text{count}} 6.627$  is greater than  $t_{\text{table}} 1.987$ . Respondents who answered statements regarding expectations dominantly answered strongly agree that each individual can cultivate agriculture and can become a millennial farmer. If the individual feels that their expectations are small and unsure, they will feel difficulties and obstacles in living it (Solikhah & Suminar, 1851).

## **DISCUSSION**

Based on the results of the correlation test that has been carried out, it can be seen that there is a relationship between the factors of attitude, motivation, interest, experience, and hope for the future of the farmer profession. From all these factors it is stated that the  $r_{\text{count}}$  of each factor is positive which is called the relationship between the two variables. In addition to having a positive relationship, the values of the correlation coefficient are also interpreted as having a strong relationship. The experience factor has a significant relationship with the farmer profession variable and its interpretation is a strong relationship (Nasution, 2020).

The variable of the student's perception factor has a positive relationship with the variable of the farmer profession, namely that the perception that students have can advance and have opportunities for the future of the farming profession in Indonesia. This can happen because the farming profession can be used as a great opportunity for students as the younger generation to be able to continue this profession called millennial farmer by applying innovations. Perception factors involved in this research are attitudes, motivations, interests, experiences, and expectations as the intended measurement to find out whether students of the Faculty of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, the University of Muhammadiyah Malang who as the younger generation are willing and have thoughts to innovate as millennial farmers by looking at of these factors.

Faculty of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, the University of Muhammadiyah Malang as a forum for students to be able to encourage students to choose a career as a farmer profession according to their field. Applying systematics during learning on campus leads to the farming profession for students according to their study program.



**Figure 1 Research Framework**

## CONCLUSION

### Conclusion

Several factors, such as attitude, motivation, interest, experience, and expectation, significantly correlate to a farmer's future as a profession. R count value reached 0.667 showed that the correlation between the student's perception and the future of farmer occupation is substantial. It interprets that the greater the perception of students, the greater the interest in that profession.

## Suggestion

The students interested in agriculture and wanted to be millennial farmers should be able to maximize their opportunities. With the discovery of innovations, they can apply the knowledge they have learned at the university by working in the related sectors or becoming a millennial farmer.

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