POTENTIAL FOR CONVERSION OF RICE FIELDS FOR FARMERS IN PENDOWOREJO DISTRICT, KAP. GIRIMULYO, KAB. KULON PROGO, SPECIAL REGION OF YOGYAKARTA

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ABSTRACT
Pendoworejo Village, Kapanewon Girimulyo, Kab. Kulon Progo, DIY is an area designated by the government as LP2B (Sustainable Food Agricultural Land), but in reality, this area is experiencing quite a drastic shrinkage of agricultural land. This is influenced by the existing Trend “culinary with view” in the Kulon Progo area which is directly proportional to the widespread conversion of agricultural land into culinary business buildings. This phenomenon is a consequence of the modernization process in developing regions. This research aims to discover the social and economic impacts of local farmers in Pendoworejo District. To find answers to these problems, researchers used qualitative phenomenological research methods. The data obtained is primary data from interviews with informants who are farmers in Pendoworejo Village. This research shows that agricultural land conversion has the potential to have a social impact on local farmers in the form of reduced urbanization rates, changes in people’s mindsets, cultural shock, and increasing affordability and availability of employment sectors. Meanwhile, the economic impact of agricultural land conversion is reducing unemployment, establishing relationships between entrepreneurs and the community, and increasing household income in local communities.

KEYWORDS
Culinary Tourism
Land Function Transfer,
Land Conversion,
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INTRODUCTION

The conversion of rice fields into non-rice fields is a common occurrence in today’s era of development. One such phenomenon can be found in Kab. Kulon Progo, in the western region of DIY. This area was designated by the government as the "rice granary" of Yogyakarta due to its abundance of agricultural land. According to data from the Girimulyo Agricultural Extension Center (BPP), the agricultural land conversion rate in Pendoworejo from 2018 to 2022 reached 11 hectares. Sarwo Edhy, the Director General of Agricultural Infrastructure and Facilities (PSP) at the Ministry of Agriculture (Kementan), stated in an interview with Kompas.com that the rapid conversion of rice fields would reduce rice production, putting national food security at (Shofihara, 2020).

Dwi Andreas, the Head of the IPB Biotech Center, also noted that the significant reduction of agricultural land was due to unfavorable conditions such as expensive operational costs that did not match the results obtained (Emerina, 2020). (Isa, 2006) identified six main factors that make it difficult to control the rate of conversion of rice fields, including population factors, land requirements, economic factors, socio-cultural factors, environmental degradation, regional autonomy that prioritizes development, and weak government regulations.

The conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural land poses a significant threat to both those directly affected and the broader community. This excessive land conversion leads to a reduction in agricultural areas, resulting in lower agricultural production and harm to these areas (Handayani, 2022). The decline in rice production in Indonesia has persisted over the years. According to data from the Ministry of Agriculture, the area of harvested land decreased from 15,712,025 hectares in 2017 to only 10,657,274 hectares in 2020 (Yanwardhana, 2022). While many writings highlight the negative impacts of agricultural land conversion, it’s worth noting that some farmers and communities do benefit from such land conversion.

This research is based on complaints from farmers who lack privileges or influence over their rice fields. Farmers often experience unstable income due to external factors such as climate, weather, and pests affecting crop yields. Additionally, the cost of agricultural activities such as purchasing fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds has increased disproportionately to the income earned through harvests. Rural industrialization is inevitable and offers employment opportunities beyond the agricultural sector, which has traditionally dominated the countryside. Land conversion to new sectors creates job opportunities across various industries, widens farmers' horizons through social changes, and provides capital for farmers who convert their agricultural land to establish new businesses.
This article uses several references to support the findings and compare them with previous research. The author groups and maps several literature reviews into several topic trends. The first trend is literature that discusses social change in society. Social change in a society depends on the type of environment in which people live. Ferdinand Tonnies identified the shift from mechanical solidarity (gemeinschaft) to organic solidarity (Gesselschaft) as a changing pattern of social relations (Martono, 2012).

Selo Soemardjan defines social change based on its social aspects, including changes in conditions of social institutions such as family, science, economics, law, etc (Soemardjan, 1981). William F. Ogburn describes social change as a change in human culture, which can be categorized into two characteristics: material culture and immaterial culture (Kasnawi & Asang, 2014). Material culture refers to all concrete changes, while immaterial culture refers to all abstract changes.

The second type of literature review is research that has analyzed government policies regarding agricultural land conversion. The LP2B (Sustainable Food Agricultural Land) policy aims to limit conversion activities of rice fields to maintain the existence of green land (Ayunita et al., 2021). Sustainable Food Agricultural Land refers to agricultural land designated for sustainable development and maintenance to achieve national food independence, resilience and sovereignty (Indonesia, 2009). In response to the determination of LP2B by the central government, the regional government has issued Regional Regulation Number 6 of 2021 which aims to protect LP2B by providing support to farmers and prohibiting the conversion of LP2B rice fields (Yogyakarta, 2021).

The third literary trend is writings that discuss the causes of land conversion. Agricultural land conversion is driven by various factors, such as decreasing production yields, inadequate infrastructure for agricultural activities, economic factors related to unstable prices of agricultural products, and cultivation factors such as plant pest attacks (Hastuty, 2017). In addition, social factors such as changes in behavior, landowner relationships, land distribution, decision-making, and government attitudes towards community aspirations contribute to land conversion (Witjaksono, 1996). Land conversion is caused by the construction of housing and industrial buildings, including factories (Mustopa, 2011).

The final trend is research that analyzes the impact of agricultural land conversion. Conversion of agricultural land into non-agricultural land has a negative impact on rice production and domestic food security (Quasem, 2011). However, it also has a positive impact on the income and resilience of farmers affected by conversion (Ruswandi et al., 2016). Research shows that the conversion process in some areas has a negative impact on farmers' welfare,
while in other areas it has an impact on increasing non-agricultural income and unequal income distribution (Barokah et al., 2017).

For example, agricultural land conversion in Hanoi, Vietnam, is considered detrimental to local farmers due to the unequal distribution of benefits between the actors involved, such as farmers, investors and the state (Nguyen et al., 2016). To analyze the impact of agricultural land conversion, it is important to understand the response of farmers as stakeholders. This includes gender, age, education level, farming work, number of dependents, total income, as well as the area and ownership of their land (Nurul Hidayati & A. Kinseng, 2015).

The article focuses on the socio-economic aspects of land conversion in the Pendoworejo area, Kapanewon Girimulyo, Kab. Kulon Progo Yogyakarta. The research identified new findings that farmers experienced culture shock and reduced privacy rights due to agricultural land conversion.

**RESEARCH METHODS**

The research entitled “Potential for Conversion of Rice Fields for Farmers in Pendoworejo District, Kap. Girimulyo, Kab. Kulon Progo, Special Region of Yogyakarta” has been implemented in Pendoworejo Subdistrict, Kapanewon Girimulyo, Kab. Kulon Progo, Special Region of Yogyakarta. This research process begins on September 2, 2022 to December 13, 2022.

This type of research is qualitative phenomenological research by the phenomenon raised in this research, namely converting agricultural land into a culinary business. The data obtained from this study are transcribed or spoken words from the informants who were observed (Moleong, 2016). A qualitative approach was chosen for this research because it has several advantages, such as producing fundamental data obtained from field facts, conducting an in-depth review, being open to several aspects, and being realistic (Raco, 2018). The data required to write this research includes primary data and secondary data.

The primary data source for this research was obtained from seven informants, all of whom were members of the Pendoworejo community. The informants were chosen based on criteria determined by the researchers to increase the accuracy of the data obtained. For this study, the criteria for selecting informants were local people who have worked or currently work as farmers in the Pendoworejo area, and those who are involved and/or affected by the conversion of agricultural land in the same area. This mapping process resulted in the selection of four farmer informants who played a role in the land conversion process, two farmer informants who did not play a role in the process, and one informant who was a village official in the field of development, and thus had knowledge related to the research topic.
Method of Collecting Data

The data obtained from these informants pertained to the land conversion process, including population data, livelihood data, farmer data, and agricultural land data in Pendoworejo District, which was collected year after year to identify the dynamics of socio-economic changes in the village. Another primary data source collected by the researchers was data regarding regulations that apply in the area, such as village regulations, regent regulations, or central government regulations which regulate agricultural activities, including land conversion activities. The third primary data source was data regarding the reality of the land conversion process, including the process, dynamics, results, and impacts felt by the informants. The primary data collection process was carried out using a qualitative approach with in-depth interview methods on October 24 and 31, continued on November 5, 2022.

This research also required secondary data sources in the preparation process. The secondary data sources were in the form of information from various media in Indonesia regarding the dynamics and impacts of agricultural land conversion in Indonesia, ideas from previous scholars to strengthen the findings of this research, and findings from previous researchers who have covered topics similar to the research. The secondary data sources were obtained through documentation from September 2 to December 10, 2022.

Data Analysis Method

For this research, we used the qualitative data analysis method from Miles and Hubberman, which consists of three stages: data codification, data presentation, and taking a conclusion (Afrizal, 2014). The codification stage involves representing raw data in a detailed manner (Sebastian et al., 2019). According to Strauss and Corbin (1990), this process can be broken down into three stages: open coding, axial coding, and selective coding (Sebastian et al., 2019).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Social Impact of Land Conversion

1. Suppressing the flow of urbanization

Many young people have a strong desire to move to urban areas due to the lifestyle that society has created there. Society assumes that without urbanization, young people will not develop properly. However, interest in the farming sector among youth is decreasing due to advancements that make earning a living and other activities easier. This was mentioned by BG in an interview conducted on 10/31/2022.

"There are now fewer people in this area seeking employment in the city due to decreased urbanization, particularly towards factories." (BG, Interview 31 October 2022)
Likewise with SB’s statement on 5/11/2022 as follows:
"When I was young, there were a lot of them. It could decrease like that because there are more and more job opportunities in this area, which will reduce the rate of urbanization." (SB, Interview 5 November 2022)

The following was also conveyed by AM on 10/31/2022:
"Most of the young people choose factories and shops in Wates. Farmers still exist, but they are rare. Farming is hard, sir. It's easier in stalls like this"(AM, Interview October 31, 2022)

The high rate of urbanization in an area is influenced by the lack of variety in the types of employment opportunities in that area. The decline in urbanization rates in Pendoworejo Village is a consequence of the development of an area into an urban area. The first stage of development of a village into a city according to Lewis Mumford is the policy stage which is characterized by the shift from the agricultural sector to sectors other than agriculture because industry begins to grow in this area (Kartono, 2010). The massive land conversion carried out to build the business sector certainly requires a lot of workers from various age groups, including youth. The increasing availability of job opportunities in quantity and type in an area reduces the interest of young people in urbanization. Changes in the tendencies of young people's attitudes here are a form of immaterial social change (abstract social change).

2. Changes in Society's mindset

The influx of tourists from different areas visiting Pendoworejo has brought new information and habits to the local community. This frequent interaction has started to influence the rural community's mindset, causing them to adopt some urban lifestyle practices. Previously closed-minded and solely focused on agriculture, the rural communities are now opening up and responding to the ongoing modernization in their area. As stated by informant BG during an interview on October 31, 2022.

"Changes in people's thinking patterns that are different from before this existed. In the past, the term was a bit old-fashioned, now there is an improvement in the way of thinking, the way of interacting with tourists, that's a positive impact." (BG, Interview 31 October 2022)

In the past, agricultural land was only perceived as a field of rice plants that would eventually be turned into rice. Nowadays, people recognize that this land can offer more than just agricultural products. It can be viewed as an area with potential for various tourist activities, depending on the interests of the urban market. This aligns with a statement made by AN on October 31st, 2022.

"The innovation currently offers a tour package where tourists can rent a VW car to explore the natural beauty of Pendoworejo and its surroundings." (AN, Interview 31 October 2022)
Village communities are encouraged to develop their own culinary sectors independently, in line with SB's statement during the 11/5/2022 interview.

"Watulemper was created by Padukuhan and the land is rented. The process involves a group gathering together and discussing their desired business ventures with each other." (SB, Interview 5 November 2022)

Village communities are able to see this potential and develop it as a business sector in their home area. In this case, the "market" is an economic element which is included in the material aspect which influences people's thinking patterns as an immaterial aspect of social change.

3. Cultural shock for local farmers

The social landscape of Pendoworejo Subdistrict is rapidly changing in various aspects of life. This transformation began with the establishment of the culinary business "Ampirono Coffee" in 2020, which became a catalyst for the development of other businesses. This phenomenon has been unfolding for two years now, which is a relatively short time for significant social change to occur in a region. As a result, the rural community of Pendoworejo is now exposed to urban tourists, creating a need for mutual adjustments between the locals and visitors to ensure stable conditions. Failure to adapt to the situation may lead to culture shock and negative impacts (Maizan et al., 2020). It was discussed by Ririn in an interview on October 24, 2022.

"Farmers often feel awkward or embarrassed when planting around the culinary area due to the "tepo seliro" mindset in rural communities towards those who are eating." (Ririn, Interview 24 October 2022)

This statement is supported by a statement from BG in an interview dated October 31, 2022, which reads as follows:

"There was a situation where a farmer was unsure about people snacking in his field. He felt uncomfortable because he wanted to work for himself and not be distracted by people eating snacks and taking photos. (BG, Interview 31 October 2022)

There was another statement from informant AN in the interview 10/31/2022 as follows:

"Initially, farmers who engaged in culinary tourism felt embarrassed and lacked confidence while working on their rice fields. However, as time passed, they became accustomed to the crowds and gradually overcame their insecurities." (AN, Interview 31 October 2022)

In Pendoworejo, it can be challenging for both locals and tourists to adjust to the diverse environment. Farmers, in particular, may feel overwhelmed by the changes happening around them and may struggle to adapt. Similarly, immigrants visiting the area may also find it difficult to adjust to the more traditional and rural lifestyles of the local community.
4. Increased affordability and availability of employment opportunities.

The bright prospects for the culinary tourism industry have triggered other investors to build similar businesses in the region. As of November 2022, thirteen restaurants have been built spread across Pendoworejo District. Affordability is the key to ease of human activity. Likewise with the conditions in Pendoworejo Subdistrict, the land conversion that is taking place in this area has an impact on local residents becoming more accessible to jobs. This is in accordance with Informant AM's statement in the interview 10/31/2022 as follows:

"Adding to the hustle and bustle of earning a living is easy and close. In the past, you had to go everywhere to get some money, sir." (AM, Interview October 31, 2022)

This is supported by similar information from ST in an interview on 11/5/2022 as follows:

"Very much agree, sir, so lively and helpful. Providing employment opportunities for people whose homes are far away." (ST, Interview 31 October 2022)

An overview of the condition of Pendoworejo which has been transformed into an area busy with development was conveyed by NT on 31/10/2022 as follows:

"My house used to be quiet in 2018 and before. Now, there are many culinary businesses and the area is bustling. Previously, it was just rice fields." (NT, Interview 31 October 2022)

Residents in the Pendoworejo area find it advantageous to work in close proximity to their homes. This eliminates the need for expenses such as fuel/transportation costs, lunch expenses, vehicle maintenance costs, and incidental costs associated with daily commuting. The various developments in the area are a tangible representation of social change.

Economic Impact of Land Conversion

1. Reducing Unemployment Rates

Unemployment is a prevalent social issue in developing regions, caused by an excess of human resources without adequate job opportunities. In Pendoworejo, the employment sector was primarily dominated by agriculture prior to the trend of land conversion. As a result, the number and variety of available jobs were limited. However, converting rice fields into new business buildings has led to increased and diversified employment opportunities. This is supported by various informant statements, such as the joint interview with SB on 5/11/2022, where the first statement was made:

"It is evident from an economic standpoint that unemployment was once prevalent. However, various industries such as Kopi Klotok, Ampirono, and Dadapsumilir have absorbed a significant portion of it. For instance, klotok coffee employs at least eight individuals." (SB, Interview 5 November 2022)
The statement by BG was supported by a resident named AM in an interview on October 31, 2022.
"In the past, many people were jobless, but with the presence of stalls, this situation has improved significantly." (AM, Interview conducted on October 31, 2022)

Another Ngrancah resident, SG, made a similar statement during an interview on October 31, 2022:
"There are many neighbors in the area (that employed by the stalls). It provides employment opportunities for previously unemployed individuals, including housewives who can now work independently." (SG, Interview 31 October 2022)

The culinary tourism sector in the Pendoworejo area is experiencing growth, creating new job opportunities. It is important for these jobs to be carried out with professionalism and organization to ensure the economy runs smoothly. This marks the beginning of a system of division of labor, known as organic solidarity, which is a characteristic of society and business (Martono, 2018). For instance, in the Pendoworejo District, a culinary business may have several professions including chefs, cashiers, waiters, managers, cleaning services, and even parking attendants. These professions are interdependent and complement each other, requiring organic solidarity to operate effectively.

2. Strengthening Networks between Entrepreneurs and the Community

In Pendoworejo, the transformation of agricultural land into business land was accomplished with the collaboration of various stakeholders, including local communities, farmers, village officials, entrepreneurs, investors, and others. To ensure the successful development of this land, these actors must work together in harmony and cooperate to achieve mutual benefits. Entrepreneurs who build on this land must acknowledge that it is a source of livelihood for local farmers. Therefore, they should compensate the affected parties by providing rental or purchase funds, or by reaching agreements that benefit the community. The parties must establish a relationship through the use of agricultural products as raw materials for food production. This is consistent with Ririn's statement in the interview on 10/24/2022:
"Some business sectors purchase using local products like rice and secondary crops from local farmers. (Ririn, Interview 24 October 2022)

This statement is supported by the results of an interview conducted by BG on October 31, 2022:
"After the restaurants was built here, there was an increase in supply of agricultural produce as it met the demands of the residents." (BG, Interview 31 October 2022)
On October 31, 2022, AN expressed a similar statement in an interview, stating:
"Entrepreneurs take advantage of MSMEs in the surrounding area, such as snack businesses, herbal medicine businesses, fisheries and the provision of goods and raw materials." (AN, Interview 31 October 2022)

Creating positive relationships was demonstrated through the hiring process of employers who give preference to individuals from the local community. This assertion is supported by the Ulu-ulu of Pendoworejo Village, Ririn, made a complete statement:
"The positive impact can be seen in the absorption of employees in every business sector specifically for residents of Pendoworejo Village, except for professional chefs or coffee baristas who come from other areas, because they have to be professionals." (Ririn, Interview 24 October 2022)

The local community is an important stakeholder that is affected by changes brought about by the establishment of a business. To compensate, the entrepreneur agreed to prioritize hiring human resources from Pendoworejo as their workforce. This signifies that the community is transitioning from traditional and simple thinking to a profit-oriented and rational mindset. This agreement is unprecedented in the agricultural-dominant Pendoworejo area, and it has created material (concrete) social change in the social relations between residents and entrepreneurs.

3. Increasing Community Household Income

When new businesses prioritize hiring local workers, it can have a positive effect on the income of the surrounding community. In an interview on 01/05/2023, Arif (30), the manager at Kopi Ingkar Janji, explained how their hiring of individuals from the Pendoworejo community has benefited both the business and the community:
"We have the minimum wage in Kulon Progo, but the majority are already more than the minimum wage." (Arif, Interview January 5 2023)

This is supported by attached documentation in the form of a salary chart for Kopi Ngkar Janji employees in December 2022 as follows Kopi Ingkar Janji Employee Salary Chart December 2022 in image 1.

The conversion of agricultural land doesn't just lead to farmers leaving their profession. In fact, many local communities have multiple family members living under one roof, which allows for more than one person to support the household financially. Farmers who still work in agriculture often feel like their well-being is worse off than those with regular salaried jobs, due to the instability of agricultural products. Therefore, other family members who work in non-agricultural sectors help support the household economy. For example, MJ is a farmer who also works as a parking attendant at a culinary business in Pendoworejo as of 01/05/2023.
On average, you get Rp.70,000 parking spots per day. During peak hours, it can go up to hundreds. If it's from farming, it's a little less. In three months, the net income is only two million Rupiah. That's barely enough to cover my daily expenses. "(MJ, Interview January 5, 2023)

MJ shared that the income generated from farming amounted to Rp. 2,000,000 every three months, or approximately Rp. 666,000 per month. This indicates a growth in income of approximately 20% to 28.7%. Additionally, the residents of Pendoworejo benefit from the stability of household income, as young individuals who have entered the workforce and are employed in the culinary industry contribute towards the overall financial independence of the community.

CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Conclusions

The process of converting agricultural land into non-agricultural land in Pendoworejo District has had several impacts in social and economic aspects, both positive and negative. The social impacts of agricultural land conversion in Pendoworejo District include reducing the rate of urbanization, changing the mindset of local communities to be more open, cultural shock for local farmers, and increasing the affordability and availability of employment opportunities. The economic impacts of agricultural land conversion include reducing unemployment, strengthening networks between entrepreneurs and local communities, and increasing the income of local farming households. However, this conversion also has negative social impacts on local farmers, including loss of privacy rights because they are used as culinary tourism "products".
Suggestion

Local farmers in Pendoworejo experience both positive and negative social and economic impacts due to agricultural land conversion. However, the overall impact on the community's socio-economic aspects is greater than the negative impact. This is mainly because local farmers have a low income if they solely rely on their agricultural products to survive. Nevertheless, if the rate of agricultural land conversion continues, it will pose a threat to the availability of green land in Pendoworejo. Therefore, the government needs to create regulations that can control the rate of agricultural land conversion and ensure that they favor the welfare of local farmers as stakeholders. This will help foster collective awareness from the grassroots level to always preserve agricultural land.

REFERENCES


