

GENDER ROLE ALLOCATION IN SELECTED COFFEE POSTHARVEST ACTIVITIES

Handoko Hadiyanto

Faculty of Economy, University of Bengkulu
Jalan W.R Supratman, Kandang Limun, Bengkulu 38371 Sumatera - Indonesia
E-mail: mpp_feunib@yahoo.com

Diterima 30 Agustus 2012 / Disetujui 17 Maret 2013

Abstract: *This study analyzed the gender role allocation of wholesale-traders and coffee producers in their post harvest activities in Rejanglebong and Lebong District. It examined the major participants in the coffee postharvest subsystem, identified roles and characteristics, and their problems and needs in performing these roles. These were analyzed using descriptive statistics like frequency, percentage, mean, ranking and standard deviation. Twenty-five wholesale-traders and forty-three coffee producers served as respondents of this study. Coffee business is the major income source of the respondents. Decisions in carrying out postharvest activities were done solely by the males or jointly by males and females since males played the manager's role. Problems encountered in performing coffee postharvest activities were: technical know-how in coffee processing; low and fluctuating prices; lack of storage facilities; occurrence of bad weather condition and too high coffee trees and difficulty in hiring laborers during peak season.*

Keywords: *coffee postharvest activities, gender role, coffee bearing trees, gender role*

Abstrak: *Penelitian ini menganalisis peranan alokasi jender bagi pedagang besar dan produsen kopi dari hasil produksi kopi di kabupaten Rejang lebong dan Lebong, Provinsi Bengkulu. Dalam penelitian ini akan dilihat subsistem perdagangan hasil produksi kopi, mengidentifikasi peranan jender dan karakteristik hasil produksi kopi serta kebutuhan dan permasalahannya. Dalam menganalisis digunakan diskriptive statistic seperti frekuensi distribusi, persentasi, mean, peringkat dan standard deviasi. Responden terdiri dari 25 pedagang besar kopi dan 43 produsen kopi. Bisnis kopi adalah sumber pendapatan utama dari responden. Keputusan membawa dan menjual hasil produksi kopi didominasi laki-laki, bisa juga laki-laki dan wanita bila laki-laki berperan aktif sebagai pengelola penjualan hasil produksi kopi. Permasalahan dalam mengelola hasil produksi kopi di antaranya adalah teknologi prosesing kopi, rendah dan berfluktuasinya harga kopi, kurangnya fasilitas gudang, buruknya cuaca dan tingginya tanaman serta sulitnya sewa buruh pada musim panen kopi.*

Kata kunci: *pengelolaan hasil produksi kopi, peran gender, tanaman kopi produktif, peran jender*

INTRODUCTION

Coffee is one of the most important crops in the Bengkulu Province. It has the potential to compete in the international market which the country plans to expand. Because of the increasing contribution of the coffee industry to the nation's economic growth, it needs more

attention as pointed out by some experts in agriculture.

However, the coffee industry is still beset by problems like inappropriate product handling during harvesting, packing and transporting; poor cultural management brought about by inadequate technology dissemination; unavailability of sufficient financing; absence of

regulations governing trade misconceptions about potassium nitrate; loss of coffee areas. Thus, the domestic industry is unable to cope with increasing domestic and foreign demand despite a suitable agroecological and investment climate and the availability of advanced production and globally competitive postharvest technologies.

Objectives of the study. The objectives of the study were to:

- (1) describe the coffee producers and wholesale-traders in the coffee postharvest subsystem in terms of their demographic characteristics;
- (2) describe the socio-economic characteristics of the coffee producer and wholesale-trader;
- (3) determine the access to and control over productive resources; benefits and satisfaction of needs derived from coffee postharvest activities;
- (4) describe how coffee postharvest roles are allocated to men and women;
- (5) identify the farm labor among men and women in postharvest activities;
- (6) find out the division of labor among men and women in postharvest activities;
- (7) describe the skills and practices followed by men and women in performing coffee postharvest activities, and;
- (8) identify problems of men and women in the coffee postharvest subsystem and their possible solutions.

RESEARCH METHOD

A total of 68 respondents was considered in this study. The sampling techniques yield were both purposive and simple random. The respondents

of the study were limited to the coffee producers with at least five coffee bearing trees and coffee growers engaged in trading.

Primary data for this study were taken mainly through the use of interview schedule, preliminary and follow-up farm visits and focused observation. Key informant testimonies were used to validate the information. Secondary data/information which included statistical data on coffee and names of coffee growers and traders were taken both from the AEKI (Asosiasi Eksportir Kopi Indonesia) files and department of Agriculture in Bengkulu Province.

The study is largely descriptive. Data analysis were made using descriptive analysis like frequency, percentage, mean, ranking and standard deviation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

More than three-fourths (88 percent) of the coffee wholesale-traders and coffee producer respondents were males (59.77 percent) (*Table 1*).

The male coffee producers were relatively older (47.36 years old) than the male wholesale-traders (47.31 years old). Mean age of female wholesale-traders was 53 years old while female producers was 50.46 years old.

The males had relatively higher educational attainment than female counterparts in this study. Results indicated that the average household size of the respondents was five.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Characteristics	Male		Female	
	F	%	F	%
Sex				
Wholesale traders	22	88.00	3	12.00
Coffee producers	30	59.77	13	30.23
Age				
Wholesale-traders				
31-39	4	18.18	-	-
40-48	8	36.36	1	33.33

49-57	7	31.82	2	66.67
58-66	2	9.09	-	-
67-75	1	4.54	-	-
		X=47.31	X=53.00	
		SD=8.85	SD=10.42	
		R=31-69	R=46-56	
Coffee producers				
37-46	7	16.27	3	6.97
47-55	8	18.60	8	18.60
56-64	9	20.93	-	-
65-73	6	13.95	2	4.65
		X=47.36	X=50.46	
		SD=12.84	SD=14.58	
		R=37-73	R=42-73	

Years of schooling

Wholesale-traders				
(0-6) Elem.	8	36.00	3	100.00
(7-10) HS	7	31.82	-	-
(11-15) Col	7	31.82	-	-
		X=8.91	X=1.33	
		SD=4.24	SD=1.55	
		R=0-15	R=1-6	

Characteristics

Characteristics	Male		Female	
	F	%	F	%
Coffee producer				
(0-6) Elem.	14	46.47	12	92.30
(7-9) YHS	8	26.67	1	7.67
(10-12) SHS	8	26.67	-	-
		X=8.40	X=4.23	
		SD=3.62	SD=2.93	
		R=0-15	R=1-6	

Household Member

Wholesale-traders				
2 & below	12	54.54	2	66.67
above 2	10	45.45	1	33.33
		X=2.69	X=2.65	
		SD=1.42	SD=1.34	
		R=1-7	R=1-9	
Coffee producers				
2 & below	23	76.67	8	61.54
above 2	7	23.33	5	38.46
		X=2.69	X=3.00	
		SD=1.47	SD=1.34	
		R=1-7	R=1-9	

Membership in Organization

Coffee producers				
Member	23	76.67	9	69.23
Non-member	7	23.33	4	30.77

Status				
Coffee producers				
Member	5	21.74	3	33.33
Officers	18	78.26	6	66.67

Most of the males (23 percent) held key positions both in the social and farm organizations. The cooperative is men's domain membership because no female included in this study was a member.

Coffee production was the basic source of income of the respondents. The mean income of male wholesale-traders was Rp301,900,000,- ranging from Rp8,000,000,- to 2 milliards rupiah a year. The average income of male coffee producers was Rp54,597,000,- and the females was Rp7,800,000,-. It is interesting to note, however, that the females had a relatively bigger income from all sources ($X = 149,130,700$) than the males ($X=107,316,000$).

Coffee production was perceived to be the domain of males, decision making rested on them (84%) because they were more knowledgeable, responsible and had the capability in terms of farm management (44 percent) than the females. Females were mostly confined at home to take care of their children and perform other household chores.

More than half of the wholesale-trader respondents derived their capital from saving (76 percent). The mean capital of wholesale-traders of Rp.207,500,000,- ranged from 10,000,000 to 1,5 milliards rupiah. On the other hand, most of the coffee producers (35 percent) did not use any capital for postharvest work because their coffee trees were lased or contracted by the coffee contractors. For those producer-respondents whose capital was obtained from family savings (28 percent), the mean capital was Rp46,687,500,- a year.

Acquiring of loans from banks by the wholesale-traders was done mostly by the males, they being a member or officers of farmer cooperatives (16 percent). Decisions on the form of payment were made mostly by the males.

Result showed that majority of the male coffee producers (63 percent) owned lands while 23 percent were amortizing owners. It was observed that the male respondents had

more access to coffee production and post-production technologies than the females, thus, major decisions rested on them.

Results showed that the males had more access to and control over productive resources such as land, credit, and technology. Role allocation of post harvest activities such as harvesting, packaging, hauling, grading or sorting, and transporting were mostly assigned to males. The findings indicated that since the female roles was basically in storage and ripening and marketing (Hadiyanto, 1996), the activities performed by them were assumed to be lighter and easier compared with other postharvest tasks. Generally, these findings may indicate that physical capacity/capability and place of work had served as criteria for assigning gender role in coffee postharvest activities. Results showed that harvesting was a male dominated post-harvest work. The limited participation of the females in harvesting may be due to their work at home as housekeepers and child-hearers which is more than a full time job and classified as work in the traditional market which means unpaid labor (Hadiyanto Suwarno, 1998).

The family and hired laborers were employed in coffee packaging and other post-harvest activities. Thus, the activity was not purely family labor.

It was observed that the usual time of harvesting coffee by the respondents was between 9.00 o'clock a.m. to 3.00 o'clock p.m. The major practice of determining the appropriate time for harvesting coffee was to count 15 days from flower induction (80%) (AEKI, 2006). On the method used in harvesting, the findings indicated that climbing the tree and the use of picking poles were the common practice for harvesting. Regarding the liner used for packaging coffee, majority of the wholesale-traders (76 percent) and coffee producers (72 percent) used gunny sack and wood basket. The use of these liners would protect the coffee from damage and these were usually available and at low cost.

A great majority of the wholesale-traders and coffee producers sorted coffee usually by quality.

The choice of marketing channel by the wholesale-traders was limited to the export-buyers who provided them capital and other farm inputs needed for the coffee business. On the other hand, the coffee producer sold their coffee to contract buyers. With respect to the places where coffee were sold, the buying stations and producers respectively. High price, cash on delivery, convenience, and no transportation cost were the motivating factors for the choice of the marketing outlets of the respondents. The prices were usually determined by the sellers.

Majority of the producers (60%) perceived themselves as richer than the other in the community. As such, they did not resort to loaning money from formal and informal credit institution. On the other hand, poor housing was the indicator for being poor by those respondents who felt they were less fortunate.

All 43 coffee producer respondents perceived that the coffee business contributed to their needs (51 percent) and their share from the contractors allowed them to finance other agricultural needs (19 percent). As a whole, coffee farming was considered a lucrative business.

Result showed that lack of training, marketing, and technology used for coffee production and post-production hindered the active gender-role allocation of the coffee producers.

Some of the difficulties encountered by the respondents as regards to harvesting were technical know-how in coffee processing (20 percent), low and fluctuating prices (16 percent), and lack of storage facilities; occurrence of bad weather condition and too high coffee trees and difficulty in hiring laborers during peak season.

These problems were remained through the postponement of harvesting time (20%), extension of the picking poles to a length such that it could reach the fruits at the upper most branch (16 percent) and giving of additional incentives (16 percent). Mishandling of coffee fruits (26 percent) was the common problem in packaging of the coffee producers. However, to

solve this, the super big and undersized coffee seemed to be a problem. To solve this, the super big and undersized coffee were excluded in the crates (28 percent). Weight loss and low quality of coffee were identified as problems on coffee storage.

CONCLUSION

(1) The coffee post harvest business is male dominated. Both male wholesale-trader and producers are more educated than their female counterparts. The male respondents were relative younger than the females. The respondents were small household size. The males are more visible in social or farm organizations than the females. (2) Socio-economic profile of coffee producers show that the males had an average coffee bearing trees of 66. The female coffee producers had only five fruit-bearing trees on the average. The male coffee producers had relatively longer exposure in coffee production. On the other hand, the male respondents' mean years in coffee post harvest activities did not vary widely. These activities were harvesting, packaging, hauling transporting, and marketing while females' dominance were revealed in storage and ripening, transporting, and marketing. Because these are lighter tasks that women can perform. Lack of storage facilities and technical know-how of the respondents in coffee processing constrained then, hence, the immediate selling of fresh fruits after harvest. (3) Gender inequality exists. The males have more access to and control over productive resources such as land, credit, education, and time. (4) Role allocation of postharvest activities to men and women were decided either solely by male or jointly by male and female. Reasons given for role allocation were physical strength of men, difficulty of tasks, and expertise of the doers. Thus, the social norm which asserts that the women's place is at home is still very much evident. (5) Farm labor patterns used in coffee postharvest were more on hired than family labor. (6) Gender division of labor depended on three factors namely: labor availability and technology, place of work, and the physical strength. Hence, the limited participation of

women in the coffee postharvest work. (7) In general, men had more activities in the postharvest subsystem than women. They spent longer time in them. The activities in which women dominate were storage and ripening, and marketing. (8) Skills/method used in the coffee business were age-old harvesting, packaging, hauling, and storage techniques. Practices have not changed. Coffee are cheaper during the months of March, April and May. Undersirable signs or effects of constant spraying of chemical fruit inducers were revealed. (9) Lack of storage facilities and technical know how of the respondents in coffee processing constraints them, hence, the immediate selling of fresh fruits after harvest.

Recommendations. (1) Coffee production and wholesale-trading had very bright prospects as shown by the income derived. The following are needed to boost the current industry and be globally competitive aside from catering to the local needs. (2) An annual convention can be institutionalized for tackling problems of the coffee industry. This can be part of the actions of a coffee R&D center. (3) More articulation of gender and development approach as a means of bringing forth balanced and sustainable development needs. The information should reach men and women alike so they can appreciate why all this talk on gender issues is important. Role allocation can be improved if both are aware of the hindrance of stereotyping of men and women roles at home and in society. Hence, more training on gender should be conducted for all sectors. (4) A government-assisted agency or institution which will act as a marketing outlet of coffee products.

REFERENCE

- Fajardo, Feliciano R. 2003. *Agricultural Economics*, Fourth Edition. Manila, Philippines: Published REX Book Store.
- Hadiyanto, Handoko, dan Bambang Hadi-suwarno. 1998. Peranan Ekonomis Wanita dalam Usahatani di Pedesaan, Penelitian Gender DIKTI, Bengkulu: Universitas Bengkulu.
- Hadiyanto, Handoko. 1996. Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Marjin Tataniaga Kopi di Kabupaten Rejang lebong, Provinsi Bengkulu. *Penelitian DP4M DIKTI*. Bengkulu: Universitas Bengkulu.
- Hadiyanto, Handoko. 2000. *Analisis Faktor-faktor yang Mempengaruhi Ekspor Kopi Provinsi Bengkulu dan Implikasinya terhadap Strategi Pemasaran Ekspor*. Penelitian DP4M. DIKTI. Bengkulu: Universitas Bengkulu.
- Lincolin, Arsyad. 2004. *Ekonomi Pembangunan*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit STIE YKPN.
- Sugiyono. 2009. *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif dan R&D*. Bandung: Penerbit Alfabeta.
- Sumodiningrat, Gunawan. 2003. Peranan Lembaga Keuangan Mikro dalam Menanggulangi Kemiskinan Terkait dengan Otonomi Daerah, *Jurnal Ekonomi Rakyat*, Tahun II, no, 1 Maret.
- Todaro, Michael P. and Stephen Smith. 2006. *Economic Development*, Ninth Edition, United Kingdom: Published by Arrangement with Pearson Education Limited.