

**FARMERS' PERCEPTION ON ORGANIC FERTILIZER APPLICATION  
IN COCOA CULTIVATION (*Theobroma cacao* L)  
(Case Study in Sukosari Village of Kalirejo Distric,  
Central Lampung Regency)**

**ABSTRACT**

**By**

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This research is to find out: 1) Cocoa farmers' perception on organic fertilizer application in cocoa cultivation, 2) Factors correlated to cocoa farmers' perception on organic fertilizer application in cocoa cultivation, and 3) The differences of farmers' perception on organic fertilizer between those who use organic fertilizer and those who use an-organic fertilizer in cocoa cultivation. This research was conducted in Sukosari Village of Kalirejo District, Central Lampung Regency from March to April 2011. Samples of 44 cocoa farmers were taken purposively, consisting of 26 cocoa farmers who used organic fertilizer and 18 cocoa farmers who used an-organic fertilizer. This research used survey method. Correlations among variables were tested by using *Partial Kendall* correlation analysis and the difference of farmers' perception was tested using *Mann Whitney* difference test.

The results showed that: 1) The perception of farmers who used organic fertilizer was that organic fertilizer application in cocoa cultivation was profitable. Meanwhile, cocoa farmers' perception who uses an-organic fertilizer is that organic fertilizer application in cocoa cultivation was sufficiently profitable. 2) Factors correlated to the perception of farmers' who uses organic fertilizer were farmers' needs level and farmers' knowledge level. Meanwhile, factors correlated to the perception of farmers' who used an-organic fertilizer were farmers' experience level, farmers' education level, and farmers' social interaction level. 3) There was no difference of farmers' perception on organic fertilizer between those who used organic fertilizer and those who used an-organic in cocoa cultivation.

Keywords: perception, cocoa farmers, organic fertilizer

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