

ABSTRAK

PERSEPSI PETANI TERHADAP KINERJA PENYULUH PERTANIAN LAPANGAN (PPL) DI KECAMATAN GADINGREJO KABUPATEN PRINGSEWU

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Penyuluh Pertanian Lapangan (PPL) memiliki peran strategis sebagai penghubung antara inovasi pertanian dan petani dalam rangka meningkatkan produktivitas dan kesejahteraan petani. Namun, keterbatasan jumlah penyuluh pertanian di Kecamatan Gadingrejo, Kabupaten Pringsewu berpotensi memengaruhi efektivitas pelaksanaan kegiatan penyuluhan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui persepsi petani terhadap kinerja penyuluh pertanian serta menganalisis faktor-faktor yang berhubungan dengan persepsi tersebut. Penelitian dilaksanakan di Kecamatan Gadingrejo dengan menggunakan metode survei dan pendekatan deskriptif kuantitatif. Responden penelitian berjumlah 72 petani padi yang dipilih secara purposive sampling dari kelompok tani binaan penyuluh pertanian. Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara menggunakan kuesioner dengan skala Likert lima poin. Penilaian kinerja penyuluh didasarkan pada tiga tahap kinerja sesuai dengan Peraturan Menteri Pertanian Nomor 91 Tahun 2013, yaitu tahap persiapan, pelaksanaan, serta evaluasi dan pelaporan. Analisis data dilakukan secara deskriptif dan inferensial menggunakan uji korelasi *Rank Spearman*. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa secara umum petani memiliki persepsi yang baik terhadap kinerja penyuluh pertanian. Penyuluh dinilai aktif dalam memberikan bimbingan teknis, menyampaikan informasi, serta mendampingi petani dalam kegiatan usahatani. Hasil uji korelasi menunjukkan bahwa umur, lama berusaha tani, dan status kepemilikan lahan berhubungan nyata dengan persepsi petani terhadap kinerja penyuluh pertanian. Sementara itu, tingkat pendidikan formal dan luas lahan garapan tidak menunjukkan hubungan yang signifikan. Temuan ini mengindikasikan bahwa pengalaman bertani dan kepemilikan lahan memiliki peran yang lebih besar dalam membentuk persepsi petani dibandingkan faktor pendidikan formal maupun luas lahan.

Kata kunci: persepsi, petani, penyuluh, kinerja.

ABSTRACT

Farmers' Perceptions of the Performance of Agricultural Extension Workers in Gadingrejo District, Pringsewu Regency

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Agricultural extension workers play a strategic role as a link between agricultural innovations and farmers in efforts to improve productivity and farmers' welfare. However, the limited number of agricultural extension workers in Gadingrejo District, Pringsewu Regency may affect the effectiveness of extension activities. This study aims to examine farmers' perceptions of the performance of agricultural extension workers and to analyze the factors associated with these perceptions. The study was conducted in Gadingrejo District using a survey method with a descriptive quantitative approach. A total of 72 rice farmers were selected as respondents through purposive sampling from farmer groups assisted by agricultural extension workers. Data were collected through interviews using a five-point Likert scale questionnaire. The assessment of extension workers' performance was based on three performance stages in accordance with the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture Number 91 of 2013, namely the preparation, implementation, and evaluation and reporting stages. Data analysis was carried out descriptively and inferentially using the Spearman Rank correlation test. The results show that, in general, farmers have a positive perception of the performance of agricultural extension workers. Extension workers are considered active in providing technical guidance, delivering information, and assisting farmers in farming activities. The correlation analysis indicates that age, length of farming experience, and land ownership status are significantly associated with farmers' perceptions of agricultural extension workers' performance. Meanwhile, formal education level and farm size do not show a significant relationship. These findings indicate that farming experience and land ownership play a more important role in shaping farmers' perceptions than formal education and farm size.

Keywords: *perception, farmer, extension, performance.*