

The Role of Women in Hotong Farmers Groups in Nusarua Village Fena Fafan District, South Buru Regency

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Abstract: This research aims to find out 1. To find out the role of women in the Hotong farmer group in Nusarua Village, Fena Fafan District. 2. To identify the obstacles faced by the Hotong farmer group in Nusarua Village, Fena Fafan District. There were 42 respondents in this study. The data collection method in this research is 1. Interview. 2. Observation. 3. Documentation. The results of this research show that women have a big role in Hotong farming activities in Nusarua Village. The involvement of women is evident at every stage of agricultural activity, from land cultivation, planting, weeding, harvesting, to post-harvest activities. Women participate more in planting, weeding, harvesting and post-harvest activities because this work requires precision, patience and perseverance. The female labour output in the hotong farming business is higher than the male labour force, at 37.0 HOK, while the male's is at 33.5 HOK. Furthermore, the factor that is an obstacle in the hotong farmer group in Nusarua Village is the limited number of hotong processing machines. Apart from that, limited business capital and lack of agricultural support facilities are also obstacles in developing hotong farming businesses.

Keywords: Role Of Women, Women Farmers, Farmer Groups, Hotong.

SUMMARY

Background

Indonesia is known as an agricultural country where most of the people depend on the agricultural sector for their living. The agricultural sector is one of the strategic sectors in national development because it plays an important role in meeting food needs, providing employment opportunities, increasing community income, and driving the national economy. In developing countries such as Indonesia, most rural communities depend on the agricultural sector for their livelihoods as their main source of livelihood. According to the food and agriculture organization (FAO), the agricultural sector has an important role in reducing poverty and improving community welfare through increasing productivity and empowering human resources in the agricultural sector

Nusarua Village is one of the villages in Fena Fafan sub-district, South Buru Regency. Villages with the majority of their people depend on the agricultural sector for their livelihood. There are several commodities that are cultivated, one of which is Hotong, Hotong is local food that is still cultivated by the same community to this day. For the community, Hotong not only functions as local food but also has cultural values, this is one of the livelihoods of the people of Nusarua village. Therefore, the activity of cultivating hotong is still carried out by involving family members in various stages of production.

Phenomenon discovered in the field show that women have considerable involvement in the activities of hot-cut farmer groups. Apart from carrying out work and responsibilities in the family, women also actively participate in agricultural activities. Women's involvement in the hotong farmer group can be seen in the planting, maintenance, weeding, harvesting and post-harvest activities. In several stages of work, especially work that requires perseverance and precision, women are even more dominant than men so that the success of the hotong farming business cannot be separated from the contribution made by women.

The role of women is also evident in the efforts to meet the family's food needs. Not only are they involved in the production process but also women play a role in processing the harvest, the family's consumption needs, and managing the sale of produce which can increase the family's income. Thus women perform a dual function as managers of the household while contributing to agricultural activities.

Research Objectives

The aim of this research is as follows, to find out the role of women in the Hotong farmer group in Nusrua Village, Fena Fafan District and to identify the obstacles faced by the Hotong farmer group in Nusrua Village, Fena Fafan District

RESEARCH METHODS

Research type

The type of research used in this research is descriptive qualitative research,

Location and Time of Research

This research was conducted in Nusrua Village, Fena Fafan District, which is in South Buru Regency. This research was carried out for a month after this proposal was seminarized.

Population And Samples

the population in this study was a total of 42 members of the Tani Hotong group. Looking at a population that is not too large, the population is decided as a research sample.

Types and Sources of Data

The type of data used in this research is the qualitative analysis data type with the data types being primary and secondary data

Data Collection Techniques

The data collection techniques used in this research are Interviews, Observations and Documentation.

Data Analysis Techniques

The data analysis technique used in this research is descriptive analysis

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Respondent Characteristics

These characteristics include several things, including age, experience, family members, level of education and also occupation. Based on primary data obtained, the characteristics of respondents include the following;

Table 1. Respondent Characteristics

Category		Number (People)	Percentage (%)
a. Age	21-30	16	38%
	31-40	4	9.52%
	41-60	17	40,48 %
	>60	5	11.90%
b. Farming experience	1-10	16	38.10%
	11-20	9	21.43%
	>20	17	40.47%
c. Education	ELEMENTARY	18	42.86%
	SMP	4	9.52%
	SMA	18	42.86%
	S1	2	4.76%
d. Job	Farmer	24	57.14%
	Housewife	16	38.10%
	PNS	2	4.76%

Source: Primary Data (20026)

Based on the research results in Table 1, the characteristics of respondents in this research consisted of age, farming experience, level of education and occupation. These characteristics describe the socio-economic conditions of women who are members of the Hotong farmer group in Nusarua Village.

The research results show that the majority of respondents in the Hotong Farmers group in Nusarua Village are in the age range of 41–60 years with 17 people or 40.48%. This age group includes the productive age who still have good physical abilities and experience in carrying out agricultural activities. Apart from that, there were 16 respondents or 38% who were aged 21–30 years, thus showing that young women also participated in the hotong farming business. Respondents aged over 60 years numbered 5 people or 11.90%, meanwhile, 4 people aged 31–40 years or 9.52%. This condition shows that the activities of the Hotong farmer group involve women of various age levels, so that the sustainability of the farming business is maintained.

Farming experience is seen from the data obtained at the research location and is presented in table 4.3 respondents who have more than 20 years of experience are the largest number, namely 17 people or 40.47%. This shows that most women have been involved in agricultural activities for a long time and have quite good abilities in managing hot-tong farming businesses. Respondents with 1–10 years of farming experience were 16 people or 38.10%, while 11–20 years of experience were 9 people or 21.43%. This data shows a combination of experienced farmers and farmers who are still developing farming skills. The experience possessed by women is an important capital in supporting the smooth running of hot-tong farming activities.

The research results show that the majority of respondents had elementary and high school education with 18 people or 42.86% respectively. Respondents with a junior high school education level of 4 people or 9.52%, while there were 2 people with undergraduate education or 4.76%. This state of affairs shows that the educational level of respondents varies quite considerably. Although most of them only pursue primary and secondary education, women are still able to carry out their role in farmer groups through work experience, farming skills and knowledge obtained from the surrounding environment and farmer group activities.

Based on the type of work in the Hotong Farmers group in Nusarua Village, the majority of respondents worked as farmers, 24 people or 57.14%. This shows that agriculture is the main source of livelihood for women in Nusarua Village. In addition, there were 16 respondents or 38.10% who were housewives, however remain involved in the activities of the Hotong farmer group to help meet the family's economic needs. There were 2 respondents who worked as civil servants or 4.76%. This data shows that women not only carry out roles in the household, but also contribute to agricultural activities, so the presence of women is very important in supporting the development of the hotong farmer group in Nusarua Village.

The Role of Women in Hotong Farmers Groups

Women have a high role in the agricultural sector with the main aim being family welfare (Yani and Indrayani 2021). Women have a major role to play in agriculture. The involvement of women in farmer groups not only influences increasing agricultural production, but also functions to meet needs and improve family welfare. Therefore, women are an important factor in supporting the household economy and continuing agriculture. The following researchers conducted an interview with a member of the Hotong farmer group in May 2026 at : 10.15 WIT regarding the role of Female Farmer members in the land processing process up to post-harvest and he stated: *"For the land clearing process, we also participate in cleaning, but for land clearing this is more dominant for men, because for land clearing this requires strong energy for pameri/cleaning and also ground poultry"*. Researchers also got the same thing from respondent Mrs. Tina Batuwael *"for land clearing we women only have a control function over the male workers who work"*. Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that the land processing process requires male labor and the role of women here is as a control function.

The following is the outpouring of workers from the Hotong farmer group which can be seen in the table below

Table 2. Average Labour Output In Hotong Farmers Group

No	Activities	Number of Workers (HOK)		Total (HOK)
		Man	Female	
1	Land Processing	12,5	4,0	16,5
2	Planting	6,0	8,5	14,5
3	Weeding	4,5	9,0	13,5
4	Harvesting	7,0	8,0	15,5
	Freight	8,5	3,5	
5	Post Harvest/Cleaning	3,5	7,5	11,0
6	Amount	33,5	37,0	70,5

Source: Primary Data (2026)

Based on the labor outpouring data in table 2. of each stage of the hotong farming business in Nusarua Village, it can be seen that men and women are both involved in the entire agricultural activity process. This involvement shows that there is cooperation in the implementation of hotong farming businesses, from land processing to post-harvest activities. Each has a role according to the ability and type of work carried out. In some stages of activity, women show a considerable contribution, especially to jobs requiring rigour and perseverance.

Activities in the hotong farming business are carried out through several stages starting from land processing to post-harvest activities. At each stage, there is a division of roles between male and female workers according to the type of work carried out in the field.

1. Land Processing

Land processing activities are the initial stage in the hotong farming business. In this activity, male labor is used more than female labor. The male labor output reached 12.5 HOK, while the female workforce was 4.0 HOK with a total of 16.5 HOK. The high involvement of men is influenced by the types of work that require heavier physical effort, such as clearing land, hoeing, and preparing planting areas. However, women also help in the land preparation process according to their abilities

2. Planting

Based on the results of a researcher interview with one of the members of the Farmer Group in May 2026 at 11.00, the following data was obtained: *"for this hotong planting process, we as female workers take experts because to plant the hotong you don't need to make a pond or bed again, the process of planting the hoong only needs to overlay the hotong seeds on the ground that has been cleaned so that the hotong will grow shoots by itself. Then, when we plant it, we only need to clean wild grass in the land because this hot plant is rare and even difficult to recognize disease pests"*. The same information was also received by researchers from Mr Ledrik Solissa as chairman of the Hotong group at the same time at 11.15 00 WIT as follows: *"the process of planting this hotong does not take too long because the planting process is very easy by simply scattering the seeds on the cleared land. But after the planting process is complete we have to go to the land once a week to make sure the hotong plant is completely safe and that no grass enters the land, for this planting process it is more about women who take experts for the planting process and men for cleaning after this hotong is planted"*. Based on data obtained from the interview results, it can be explained that at the planting stage, the planting process is carried out by scattering seeds on previously cleared land. In this planting process, women have a higher level of involvement than men. Female labour was recorded at 8.5 HOK, while male labour was 6.0 HOK for a total of 14.5 HOK. The large participation of women at this stage shows that women have an important role in the activities of planting hotongs. The planting process requires precision and patience so that seeds can be planted well so as to support plant growth. Meanwhile, men continue to play a role in helping the planting process so that work can take place more quickly.

3. Weeding

The following is based on the results of an interview with Mrs. Sarci Maluta in May 2026 based on the results of the interview, they obtained the following information: *"for this weeding or cleaning process, we always collaborate between women and men, this weeding process aims to grow optimally"* the following data was obtained from Mrs. Ina Teslatu in May 2026 at the same time Mrs. Ina said that *"for this process, we always work together where we both take part in the process of treating this hotong plant because it can speed up the growth of hotong"* Based on the data obtained by researchers, it can be explained that the Hotong weeding activity is also dominated by female workers. Where, based on the results of the study presented in table 4.3 above, the female labor output reached 9.0 HOK, while the male's was 4.5 HOK with a total of 13.5 HOK. This weeding aims to ensure that the hotong plant grows more fertile, faster and freely without being blocked by wild grass. The high level of female involvement at this stage shows that women have perseverance in caring for plants so that the condition of the plants is maintained properly

4. Harvesting And Transport

At the harvest stage, the involvement of men and women appears almost balanced. In the table above, female labour is 8.0 HOK, while male labour is 7.0 HOK for a total of 15.5 HOK. This condition shows that both parties have an important contribution to the cuttlefish harvesting process. Women play a role in picking and collecting crops, while men help with jobs that require more energy. Apart from harvesting activities, the process of transporting harvest products is mostly carried out by men with a total of 8.5 HOK compared to women with 3.5 HOK. This is because transporting crops requires physical strength in carrying the hotong products to storage or processing locations. Based on data the researcher obtained from one of the respondents from Lesnussa Vector Father in May 2026 at 12.00 as follows *"the hotong harvest process is quite difficult because the harvest process is still carried out manually due to limited machines and tools, where we as a group have to take it carefully so that the hotong remains safe and nothing is left behind, so the harvesting process is also quite time consuming and energy"*. The researchers also obtained the same thing from Mrs. Uli Solissa as the administrator of the Hotong Farmers Group as follows *"for the harvesting process*

itself is quite half dead because it requires energy and time, apart from that, we don't have the tools for the harvesting process and transportation from land to village, so after we harvest the cuttings we divide each group member, whether female or male, so they can transport to the village without transportation assistance”.

5. PostHarvest

Based on data from interviews, researchers obtained data from respondents, Mrs. Leni Lesnussa, as a member of the group, as follows *“after harvest we again clean the land for planting the following berries. After that, we chose the hotong that we had harvested, we tied it apart between the hotong that wanted to be made for breeding and the hotong to be managed for resale”.* The same information is also perole researchers from Mrs. Eka Solissa as follows: *“after post-harvest the cuttlefish are separated for sale and made into seeds. Apart from that, after the post-harvest process took place, we as women also took part in land clearing”.* Based on this information, the researchers concluded that in post-harvest or cleaning activities, women again showed greater involvement than men. Female labour output reached 7.5 HOK, while male employment was 3.5 HOK for a total of 11.0 HOK. Post-harvest activities include the process of cleaning, sorting and preparing the cuttings before storage or further processing. The high participation of women at this stage shows that women have an important role to play in the Hotong Farmers group to maintain the quality of the harvest through work that requires their thoroughness.

Overall, the total outpouring of female labor in the Hotong Farmers group in Nusrua Village reached 37.0 HOK, while for men it was 33.5 HOK with a total of 70.5 HOK. This data shows that women have a large contribution to the hotong farmer group in Nusrua Village. However, the success of this hot-cut farming business cannot be separated from cooperation between men and women in carrying out every stage of agricultural activities. Women are predominant in planting, weeding, harvesting and post-harvest activities, while men are more involved in jobs that require greater physical labor, such as land processing and transporting crops.

Factors inhibiting the Hotong Farmers Group

Based on the results of observations made by researchers in the field, there are several factors that are obstacles for the hotong farmer group in Nusrua village as follows, the limitations of machines for processing hotong. The hotong farmer group in Nusrua village's unavailability of hotong machines is an obstacle for the farmer group because processing hotong takes quite a long time and requires energy. The following is based on the results of an interview with a member of the farmer group Mrs. Ela Solissa *“for this hot processing process there are no processing tools or machines yet, so we still mow manually by mashing it using mortars and pestles, this is one of the inhibiting factors for us because it takes quite a long time to process the hotong in quite large quantities”.* Apart from that, researchers also received information from Mr “Wilfan solissa *“for the processing of hotong, apart from machines that are not available, we are also hampered in processing hotong because the lack of adequate agricultural facilities makes us have a little difficulty in processing and also in this farming process. As a result, we produce this cuttlefish, which also requires time so that productivity is low.*

The following is a table of factors that are obstacles in the Hotong farmer group in Nusrua village

Table 3. inhibiting factors in the group of hotong farmers

Inhibitory Factors	Conditions Found	Impact on the Hotong Farmers Group
Limitations of hotong processing machines	The farmer group does not yet have a special machine for processing hotong so the processing process is still carried out manually	The processing process takes longer and more labor
The processing of the harvest is still traditional	Most farmers use simple tools in cleaning and processing hotong	The productivity of the processing of the hotongs is low
Lack of support for agricultural facilities	Facilities supporting the processing of agricultural products are still limited	The quality and quantity of hotong production is not yet optimal

Source: primary data (2026)

Based on the results of research in the Hotong Farmers Group in Nusrara Village, there are several factors that are obstacles between Laim, one of the inhibiting factors in the Hotong Farmers Group in Nusrara Village is the limitations of the Hotong Processing Machine. Until now, most of the processing of crops is still carried out manually using simple tools. This condition causes the processing process to take longer and more labor. The limitations of the hotong processing machinery also have an impact on the low productivity of the farmer group. The traditional process of cleaning and processing harvests means that production results take a long time so they cannot be processed optimally. In addition, the high use of manual labour leads to a workload of group members farmers, especially women, are becoming larger because women are more involved in post-harvest activities and processing of hotong products.

Another factor that also influences is limited business capital so that farmer groups are not yet able to provide hot-cut processing machines independently. The lack of agricultural support facilities is also an obstacle in improving the quality and amount of hot cut production. Therefore, support is needed from the government and related parties in providing agricultural tools and machines so that mutual aid farming activities can run more effectively and efficiently.

Conclusion

Based on the results of research on the role of women in the Hotong farmer group in Nusrara Village, Fena Fafan District, South Buru Regency, several conclusions can be drawn as follows:

1. Women have a big role in hot farming activities in Nusrara Village. The involvement of women is evident at every stage of agricultural activity, from land cultivation, planting, weeding, harvesting, to post-harvest activities. Women participate more in planting, weeding, harvesting and post-harvest activities because this work requires precision, patience and perseverance.
2. The female labour output in the hotong farming business is higher than the male labour force, at 37.0 HOK, while the male's is at 33.5 HOK. This shows that women have a significant contribution in supporting the sustainability of the Hotong farming business and helping to improve the household economy of farming families.
3. The characteristics of the respondents show that most of the women belonging to the farmer group are of productive age, have considerable farming experience and the majority work as farmers. This condition is one of the factors that supports women's activity in various activities of hot-tong farmer groups.
4. The main factor that is an obstacle in the hotong farmer group in Nusrara Village is the limited number of hotong processing machines. Processing of crops that is still carried out manually means that work takes longer and more labor is used so that the

productivity of hotong processing is not optimal. Apart from that, limited business capital and lack of agricultural support facilities are also obstacles in developing hotong farming businesses.

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