

PERFORMANCE OF THE FOOD SECURITY OFFICE IN EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY IN NORTH BENGKULU DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

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This study aims to describe the performance of the Food Security Service in efforts to strengthen food security in North Bengkulu Regency in terms of performance measurement theory according to Dwiyanto, 2008 (Bintang & Widowati, 2017), namely productivity, service quality, responsiveness, responsibility, and accountability. This type of research is qualitative research. The location of this research is the Food Security Service of North Bengkulu Regency. The informant selection technique for this research was informal snowball sampling. Data collection was carried out through author observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation studies. Data analysis was carried out through descriptive data analysis techniques. The results of this study indicate that the performance of the Food Security Service in an effort to strengthen food security in North Bengkulu Regency is carried out by distributing vegetable seeds for the use of yards. The people of North Bengkulu Regency, both individually and through organizations, can submit applications. The success of this effort is supported by productivity factors, service quality, responsiveness, responsibility, and accountability that are going well. Some of the obstacles in efforts to strengthen food security in North Bengkulu Regency are the lack of a socialization program, geographical constraints, and resource constraints to reach all areas of North Bengkulu Regency.

INTRODUCTION

This research aims to determine the extent of the performance of the Food Security Service in efforts to strengthen food security in the North Bengkulu Regency. This research was carried out using qualitative methods by collecting information data taken from observations and interviews with six informants conducted at the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service office and in two other locations, namely Padang Jaya Village, which is the domicile of the Women's Farmers Group "Suka Tani" and in Kemumu Village one informant was a sample of residents.

The North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service has the main task of assisting the Regent in carrying out government affairs in the field of food security, which is the authority of the region and assistance tasks assigned to the region. Most of the people who question this main task are quite justified because it is known to the public that agricultural food, food crops, and livestock affairs are carried out by the Department of Agriculture, Food Crops and Livestock Department of Agriculture, Food Crops and Livestock. The Fisheries Service carries out tasks relating to freshwater food. So the question arises, "For what purpose was the Food Security Service formed?"

At first glance, it looks the same as the primary duties of the Department of Agriculture, Food Crops and Livestock, and the Fisheries Service, but in fact, they are different. The Food Security Service does not carry out cultivation duties like the Department of Agriculture, Food Crops and

Livestock, and the Fisheries Service. To carry out its primary responsibilities, the Food Security Service will liaise with many parties from departments/agencies, organizations, the private sector, and the community so that it can plan policy formulation, evaluation, and reporting regarding food.

The North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service's primary duties and functions include Formulating policies in the food sector, Implementation policies in the food sector, and implementation evaluation and reporting, which are divided into three areas, namely the Consumption and Food Safety Sector: Food Distribution and Reserves Sector; and the Field of Food Availability and Insecurity. So, from the function of the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service, we can conclude that the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service does not need to exist if there are no Services/Agencies and private parties engaged in the food sector because there is nothing that needs to be evaluated and reported.

For this reason, the author is interested in conducting this research in more depth regarding the performance of the Food Security Service in efforts to strengthen food security in North Bengkulu Regency.

Based on pre-research carried out at the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service, researchers found that the North Bengkulu Food Security Service carried out activities to procure vegetable plant seeds, which were distributed free of charge to all North Bengkulu residents who wanted to use their home gardens by planting food plants.

Based on the background of the problem described above, a problem can be formulated, namely, how is the performance of the North Bengkulu Food Security Service in efforts to strengthen food security in North Bengkulu Regency?

To answer the problem formulation, several indicators are needed, which are then used to measure the performance of the Food Security Service in efforts to strengthen food security in North Bengkulu Regency, which is seen based on productivity, service quality, responsiveness, accountability, and accountability.

METHODS

This type of research will use qualitative descriptive methods. The location of this research is the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service Office. This research was conducted from June 2023 to July 2023. The instrument in qualitative research is a human instrument, namely the researcher himself. Data collection techniques used include observation techniques and interview techniques. This research uses informant selection techniques using the *purposive sampling method*—data analysis techniques using data reduction, data presentation, and concluding.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research is descriptive research about the performance of the Food Security Service in efforts to strengthen food security in the North Bengkulu Regency. As previously explained, the objective measure of the Food Security Service's performance in efforts to enhance food security in North Bengkulu Regency is by distributing vegetable seeds cultivated in the *greenhouse* of the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service as per pre-research findings.

As explained previously, to answer the problem formulation in this research, indicators are needed to measure the performance of the Food Security Service in efforts to strengthen food security in North Bengkulu Regency, which is seen based on productivity, service quality, responsiveness, responsibility, and accountability.

(1) Productivity not only measures whether a performance is efficient or not but is also related to the effectiveness of organizational activities in providing services to the community. In the context of the organizational performance of the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service, the work productivity provided is a reference for whether or not a predetermined target or plan has been achieved. As with the data collection method, researchers conducted interviews and observations and found that residents could get vegetable seeds by showing their ID CARD, and each resident could individually get 25 vegetable seeds. However, apart from individuals, you can also submit requests on behalf of an organization. Observations: researchers had the opportunity to see records of seed distribution for the first quarter of 2023. More than 60,000 seedlings had been distributed. From these records, it is known that there are still very few individual people who ask directly to the Food Security Service with an ID card. However, judging from the seed distribution list for February and March alone, no less than 60,000 vegetable seeds were distributed. This figure, of course, has indirectly

increased the amount of food that is quite large for North Bengkulu Regency. The level of productivity achievement for this activity, if measured based on productivity effectiveness, is good. As found, the distribution of vegetable seeds was carried out in collaboration with various parties who were more competent in knowing the condition of the community. Replanting if the sources are no longer available and adjusting the sowing time if there is an order from a partner program that helps distribute vegetable seeds to the people of North Bengkulu Regency. Socialization of the food security strengthening program is also still being intensively carried out by holding meetings through the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Council forum and visits to villages, including invited visits to village consultation forums and visits to farmer groups. Of course, for each visit, the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service prepares seeds so that residents can immediately feel the benefits of socialization.

(2) Quality of Service: all North Bengkulu residents can request seeds from the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service. Individually, by showing their ID CARD, residents will receive 25 vegetable seeds. It is limited because this seed distribution program is for the use of yards. Apart from individuals, organizations can also apply by submitting an application letter. There are several procedures that the application letter will go through. With the request, the organization can get the requested number of vegetable seeds. The required course is to ensure that the seeds will be used for yard use or the use of vacant land in residential areas. To ensure this, officers will be sent to survey the location according to the contents of the application letter. If it turns out to be convincing that the seeds are for use in the yard, the distribution of the sources will be processed through the applicant's organization. When distributing seeds to transit locations provided by the organization, socialization will be carried out first by the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service. This socialization contains the aim of distributing seeds and requires organic treatment as well as food patterns with the hope of consuming food that is diverse, nutritious, balanced, and safe (B2SA). All of these procedures will apply to any organization that will distribute Food Security Service seeds to the community. However, if the organization asks for it to be planted in the office yard, then this procedure does not apply. The survey procedure was also not carried out at the request of the PKK Mobilization Team from the district level to the village level. However, there will still be Food Security Service officers who will be sent to provide outreach before the seeds are distributed to the community at locations prepared as gathering places before the seeds are dispersed. From this description, we know how the quality of the Food Security Service's services is, of course, also determined by the resources of the apparatus, which plays a role in handling all the necessary needs, how the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service apparatus can find out the needs and expectations of the community in order to fulfill food strengthening in the Regency. North Bengkulu. Apart from apparatus resources, service quality is also strongly supported by facilities and infrastructure.

(3) Responsiveness is the government's ability to demonstrate harmony between programs and activities and develop programs in accordance with the needs and aspirations of the community. To see how responsive the Food Security Service is in distributing seeds, of course, it

cannot be separated from how the sources are provided. As a result of interviews, observations, and documentation, researchers know that initially, various types of vegetable seeds were sown in relatively equal numbers in the Greenhouse of the Food Security Service of North Bengkulu Regency. Still, currently, according to the interviewee's explanation, it appears that chili seeds dominate. This is inseparable from how the Food Security Service responds to the aspirations of the people who prefer chili seeds compared to other vegetable seeds. However, even though the Food Security Service has provided more chili seeds. Regarding the food consumption pattern program, which is a national program that is also participated in by the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service, it allows residents to take more chili seeds. Still, they also have to plant other vegetable seeds.

(4) Responsibility can be determined based on the implementation of organizational activities that are in accordance with existing work mechanisms and work procedures. So the question is: Has the performance of the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service been carried out in accordance with the regulations? Responding to this question, Mr. Ir. Heri Purnomo, MM as head of the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service, explained that the basis for creating a greenhouse and procuring vegetable seeds was a direct order from the Regent of North Bengkulu in 2016 to Plt. the head of the Food Security Service at that time was Mr. Casendra, SP. Until now, the only administrative regulations for administering seed distribution have been official policies. However, as is known from previous findings, several administrative rules must be obeyed by the applicant, which must also be attended by officials at the Food Security Service related to the procurement, care, and distribution of these vegetable seeds. Among other policies which are administrative regulations are: Individual residents who request sources must show their North Bengkulu ID CARD to be recorded in order to know the distribution of sources; Individually limited to 25 roots; Through the organization, you have to go through the application letter and survey procedure, apart from that, the Food Security Service will also assist in distributing seeds by providing outreach so that the roots are not mistakenly planted in accordance with the provisions, namely for the use of yards and empty land in residential areas. From the results of the interviews, it was discovered that the organizations that helped more in the distribution of vegetable seeds were the District PKK Mobilization Team and agricultural PPLs, who asked for the villages under their guidance. From the findings in the field, we can state that the responsibility of the Food Security Service is to comply with the administrative regulations set, both for service recipients and also for the Food Security Service as a service provider.

(5) Accountability performance of the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service in the procurement of vegetable seeds, maintenance, and distribution to the community in carrying out its activities must be carried out, and attention to applicable norms and regulations. Based on the results of observations, researchers found that accountability in the procurement of vegetable seeds, maintenance, and distribution to the community was accountable in its implementation. This is based on the results of observations in the field where the procurement of goods is based on the Budget Work Plan for the

Consumption and Food Safety Sector of the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service. It's just that assessing the level of equitable distribution of seeds can be said to be not yet accountable. There are still many residents who do not get vegetable seeds for various reasons, such as limited yards and busyness, and there are still some areas that still allow their livestock to roam freely. Of course, these reasons will be another matter that will not be the primary target for utilizing the yard by growing vegetables. This is an obstacle faced by the North Bengkulu Regency Food Security Service in implementing orders from superiors. To deal with this problem, the Food Security Service continues to take various approaches through outreach and coordination with other agencies/agencies. Some of the efforts made are by providing ready-to-harvest plants to offices and schools so that it is hoped that people will realize the benefits so that reasons for being busy, lack of yard space, and stray livestock can begin to be reduced. From the efforts carried out by the Food Security Service, it appears that as executors of the duties of superiors, they are trying their best to carry out these duties. The Food Security Service reported this situation through the Food Security Council Forum. However, researchers did not find any form of responsibility towards superiors regarding the distribution of seeds.

CONCLUSION

The performance of the Food Security Service in efforts to strengthen food security in North Bengkulu Regency, seen from the indicators previously explained, can be concluded as follows:

- (1) Productivity: the Food Security Service is trying to ensure that the people of North Bengkulu can increase their food sources by using their yards. So, the Food Security Service provides vegetable seeds, which are distributed free of charge.
- (2) Quality of Service: The Food Security Service provides free vegetable seeds on an ongoing basis so that people don't need to worry if their plants are no longer productive and need rejuvenation. Apart from that, the Food Security Service also assists in the use of yards in the area; in collaboration with PKK, it will form the Dasa Wisma Group, and in partnership with PPL, it will create a Sustainable Food House Area (KRPL)
- (3) Responsiveness: so that this program continues to be liked by the community, the Food Security Service always pays attention to input, criticism, and suggestions from the community regarding what seeds the community is more interested in, also by socializing the importance of a hopeful food pattern by consuming food that is nutritionally balanced and safe (B2SA) while introducing new types of food which can also be used as a choice of food crops that can be produced in the yard so that it attracts people's interest to try cultivation and then feel the benefits.
- (4) Responsibility relates to the obligation to carry out the authority received by the Food Security Service in managing the distribution of vegetable seeds. In terms of distributing seeds, of course, it cannot be separated from planning, preparation, procuring seeds, making planting media, selecting sources, sowing, and caring for them so that they can then be

distributed. As the executor of authority, the Food Security Service carries out a lot of collaboration with manure providers, agricultural shops, glassware shops, institutions, and organizations. So, from this collaboration, the seed procurement program can run sustainably without worrying about stopping, even if the supporting funds (APBD) cannot be disbursed. To expedite the process, the Food Security Service has also appointed two greenhouse officers who are responsible for making planting media and caring for seeds while in the greenhouse. These two officers are included in the Freelance Daily Labor (THL) section, whose honorarium is charged to the APBD.

- (5) Accountability: Just as responsibility is responsibility for authority, accountability is responsibility for that authority. In this case, the North Bengkulu Food Security Service is responsible to the Regent of North Bengkulu. However, as per the researcher's interview with Mr. Ir. Heri Purnomo, MM, head of the department, said that greater responsibility is moral responsibility to society. People who have started to use their yards should not be disappointed because they cannot rejuvenate their plants, which already need to be rejuvenated.

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