

WOMEN'S LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY FARMING AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE HOUSEHOLD REVENUE IN THE DRYLAND AREA OF WEST TIMOR, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

This study discussed the contribution of women's time allocation in farming activities in the dryland region. Further, it discusses factors that affect the allocation of female labor and their revenue contributions to the family revenues. Four villages in West Timor were chosen as research sites namely Fatuketi Village represents the onion horticulture development areas, Lanaus represents the food crop development area, and Pakubaun represents the beef cattle development area from June to November 2022. Data for this study were collected from 232 female farmers spread across three villages. The results showed (1) women had a higher workload in the food crop farming enterprises with an average time allocation of 47 Man Day (MD) per planting season, compared to women working days outside the household was only 4 MD. Meanwhile, the sharing of female labor in onion horticulture farming was 7.10 MD per planting season, while the allocation of women working time for activities outside the household was 2.7 MD. The allocation of women's working time in the livestock enterprise in a year was quite ie. 48.3 MD and the allocation of work outside the livestock enterprise was 84 MD per year. Factors that positively affect the allocation of female labor in farming are the age of female laborers and the number of male laborers in the households. Simultaneously all production factors had a highly significant effect on the allocation of the female labor force. A total of 85.5 percent of the variation in the value of Women time allocation can be explained by the factors in the model. The study also explained that 33 percent of household income derives from women's earnings.

KEYWORDS- Beef cattle, female farmers, food crops, horticulture, Labor allocation, West Timor.

1. INTRODUCTION

Farmers as the largest population in rural areas play an important role in people's lives because farmers become primary suppliers of food as a basic need of the community. Without the presence of farmers, of course, human needs for food are impossible to meet. In addition, working as a farmer can reduce the unemployment rate because the agricultural sector provides extensive employment opportunities as long as it has sufficient capital and knowledge to manage available agricultural resources.

One of the inputs that affect agricultural productivity is labor, which is one of the inputs capable of producing agricultural commodities such as food crops, horticulture, and livestock (OECD, 2021). Women have long been viewed as an important resource in agricultural and rural economies in emerging countries. For example, nearly 50 percent of rural women are considered to be employed. According to statistics, women make up about 43% of the agricultural labor force in developing countries, ranging from 20% in Latin America to 50% in East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (Team and Doss). Women farm workers are critical to raising small animals, providing subsistence food, and generating income. In particular, more people are employed in the production of food crops, horticulture, and other agricultural sectors. Furthermore, women play leading roles in food processing, marketing, consumer-related activities, and value-added food processing (OECD, 2021). In some parts of Indonesia, such as the ENT province, occupations in agriculture and livestock appear to be less profitable, leading men to migrate to urban areas in search of better jobs and income. Prawirasari and Ridho (2022).

This phenomenon has spread to women who remain in rural areas and are responsible for agricultural activities and production (Doss, 2017)

Women working in agriculture is nothing new (Fletcher, 2017). According to history, agriculture originated from the division of labor between men and women, with men hunting and gathering forest products and women doing farm work and housework. Advances in science and technology have turned the agricultural system into a fixed farming system run jointly by men and women. The influx of women workers into the agricultural sector is to meet the basic needs of the people (Sundari. et al., 2005). Various studies (Bhowmik and Jhabvala R. 1996; Bartley, et al., 2005) explained that there are several reasons that encourage women to work for income such as (1) women's desire to be independent in the economic field, (2) efforts to finance their living needs, and the living needs of their dependents, (3) the desire to increase family income, and (4) the increasingly widespread employment opportunities that absorb female labor.

A large number of women are directly involved in small farm activities as managers and workers in their own family businesses. For example, between 10% and 30% of households are headed by women in most countries. Research by Marissa (2013) found that in developed countries such as the United States, women's agricultural activity has nearly tripled in recent decades. Their results showed that most of the farms run by women were very small and mostly related to livestock. The increasing number of women in agricultural production is related to factors such as the migration of rural men, the increase in female-headed households, and the development of labor-intensive cash crops. Furthermore, women are of particular importance to food security from a development policy perspective. Households headed by women account for 3-38% of all households and account for 2-17% of the value of food-producing in developing countries (Asriyani, and Hasman, 2017)

Social and cultural changes, particularly in ENT farming communities, are increasing women's participation in the agricultural economy. Although women play a key role in agriculture in ENT, especially in the three districts, their contribution to food production and the rural economy remains underestimated. As a result, women in agriculture face significant barriers, especially unequal access to and control over key resources and inputs such as land, labor, fertilizers, quality seeds, and credit.

Lack of access to productive resources or assets can have negative consequences (Alkire et al., 2013). Kusumastuti (2012) argues that agriculture underperforms because half of the farmers are women and they do not have equal access to resources and opportunities. Women who have the power to decide on planting materials and inputs are more productive in agriculture. In this case, reducing gender inequality will make a positive contribution to agricultural productivity.

As an arid region, West Timor has enough land to develop food crops, horticulture, and animal husbandry, and to employ women as a labor force. In this region, women play the dual roles of housewives and laborers in agricultural production, as agricultural work involves women's participation in tillage, planting, irrigation, fertilization, harvesting, and post-harvest work. Empower women to contribute directly to farmers' household income. However, there is still limited data or information on the role and contribution of women in rural agriculture in West Timor, especially in food production, horticulture, and livestock.

1. Research Objectives

The objectives of the study were to (1) find out the amount of female labor in the farming activities of food crops, horticulture, and cattle enterprise in the rural areas of several regencies in West Timor, and (2) know factors affecting working time of peasant women in the research locations, and (3) calculating the contribution of women's labor income to household income.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

Research Location and time

This research has been conducted in the dryland areas of West Timor, namely in Belu Regency, North Central Timor (TTU), and Kupang Regency. Data collection was carried out from June to November 2019.

i. Determination of Research Location

The selection of the site and sample farmers was done in two steps, first choosing three districts from a total of five West Timor regencies/cities, specifically Kupang, TTU, and Belu Regencies. The selection of sub-districts and villages comes next.

These include Fatuketi Village in Kakuluk Mesak Sub District as a representation of horticultural crop development areas, in this case, shallot crops, Lanaus Village in Insana Tengah Sub District as a representation of food crop development areas, and Pakubaun Village in East Amarasi Sub District as a representation of beef cattle-based areas.

ii. Determination of Sample Farmer Households

The total population of farm households in each research village was 330 farm households in Pakubaun village, 450 in Lanaus village, and 430 in Fatuketi village. The total population of farm households in each research village location was 330 farm households in Pakubaun village, 450 in Lanaus village, and 430 in Fatuketi village. Of the total population, 20 percent were taken as respondents. The number of respondents was 56, 90, and 86 for Pakubaun, Lanaus, and Fatuketi Villages respectively. The selection of respondents was done randomly.

Data Collection Method

The data collection method is as follows:

1. Observation is to make direct observations about the condition of the research location and activities carried out by peasant women
2. Interviews are data collection through direct interviews with respondents using a questionnaire provided.

Data Analysis Model

To analyze how much the work time of peasant women is measured based on working hours, and working days where 1 working day equal to 7 working hours is then equated with the working day of the woman (WDP) with the following formula:

$$WDP = \frac{\text{Number of labours} \times \text{number of working days} \times \text{number of hours worked perday}}{7}$$

To determine the factors that influence the labor allocation of farm women in farming activities, multiple linear regression analysis is used, with the following formula:

$$\hat{Y} = b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_3x_3 + b_4x_4 + b_5x_5 + \mu_i$$

Where:

\hat{Y} = Outpouring of women working day (WDP)

b_0 = Constanta

b_1 - b_5 = Regression coefficients

x_1 = Number of family members

x_2 = Education level of respondents

x_3 = Age of respondents

x_4 = Arable land area (are)

x_5 = Number of Male Laborers

μ_i = Error terms

Meanwhile, to calculate the contribution of farm women's labor in farming activities, the following formula was used:

$$KPWT = (PWT) / PUT * 100\%$$

Where:

KPWT = Contribution of the revenue of Peasant women

PWT = Revenue of peasant women in this case from farming enterprises

PUT = Total revenue of farm households

With the criteria (OECD, 2021)

1. When KPWT = 0-30% then the contribution of revenue of peasant women is relatively low
2. When KPWT = >30-60% the contribution is classified as moderate
3. When KPWT = > 60-100% its contribution is relatively high

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Overview of the Research Location,

Fatuketi Village is one of six villages in Kakuluk Mesak Sub-District, Belu Regency, with an area of 1,189.4 ha, of which 23.85% is agricultural land and has the potential for the development of horticultural crops including shallots. The village has a population of 2,351 people and 1179 of them are female residents.

Lanaus Village is one of the villages in the Insana Sub-District, North Central Timor Regency, has an area of 8 km² with a population of 1,541 people consisting of 725 men and 816 women and a population density of 191 people per Km². The area of agricultural land is approximately 300 ha.

Pakubaun Village is located in East Amarasi Sub-District, Kupang Regency with an area of 92.97 km² and a population of 2,402 people, and a population density of 26 people per square meter. This village belongs to the cattle development area of Bali Timor.

Residents in the three research villages have the main livelihood as farmers and various branches of farming are raised. Starting from food crops (Secondary crops), horticultural crops, and animal husbandry.

Characteristics of Respondents

The characteristics of respondents based on data obtained from all three study areas can be described as follows:

- a) Fatuketi Village. The age of respondents in Fatuketi Village ranges from 17-65 years, and the average age of respondents is 37.36 years old. The number of family dependents is 5.2 people with a range of 1-11 people. The average level of education of respondents' farmers is 5.16 years which means only 5th grade. From the data collected, 71 percent of farmer respondents were educated in elementary school, 11 percent had a junior high school education, and 5 percent had a high school education. Respondents' experience in farming ranges from 15-40 years, but respondents have only been in the onion farming business for 5 years. The average area of land planted with shallots is 0.46 ha with a range of 0.14-0.92 ha.
- b) Lanaus Village: The average age of respondents in this location is 46.47 years with a range of 25-76 years, the Education Level of respondents in this area is less than the education level of respondents in Fatuketi because 3.03 percent are undergraduate educated, although the majority of respondents have an elementary school education (60.0 percent). The average number of family dependents is 5 people with a range of 2-8 people. Respondent farmers in this area have good experience in farming, which is 17 years with a range of 3-30 years. The land area for farming food crops in this location ranges from 0.08-2.55 ha. The variety of food crops cultivated is corn, cassava, and sweet potatoes.
- c) Pakubaun Village: The average age of respondents in Pakubaun is 41.3 years, ranging from 26-50 years old. Meanwhile, the average education level of respondent farmers is 7 years (equivalent to junior high school grade 1) with an average family dependent of 5.5 people, and the family size range is 1-11 people. The average livestock business experience is 7 years. The average number of cattle ownerships is 10.6 males and 28.33 females. The area of farming land is between 0.53-10.31 ha and the average is 3.28 ha.

Female Farmers working time in Agriculture.

Women's working time is defined as the amount of time that women farmers devote to their activities. Usually, the working time of women farmers is divided into two broad activities, namely economic activities and non-economic (domestic) activities. The following is a description of the working time of women farmers in the research sites.

a. Allocation of Female Labor in Food Crop Enterprise

Utilization of labor in food crop farming in Lanaus village, Insana Tengah sub-district, TTU Regency generally involves all family members, including female farmers. Sources of labor can come from within or from outside the family. Workers from within the family consist of husbands, wives, and children who have entered working age.

The working time of women's labor is the amount of time devoted by women, both wives and daughters of productive age to farming activities, economic activities or just to help ease the work. The method used is Men's Working Day (MWD).

The results of the study showed that in each stage of the food crop production process, women worked together with their husbands and children for a duration of 5-7 hours per day. The distribution of female farm workers in each stage of farming activities can be followed in Table 1:

Table 1. Women and Men working time in food crop activities in West Timor

No	Kind of Activities	Female (MWD)	Male (MWD)	Total (MWD)
1	Land Preparation	31.30 (48.89%)	38.43 (55.11%)	69.73
2	Planting	8.07 (63.55%)	4.63 (36.45%)	12.70
3	Fertilization	0.06 (27.28%)	0.16 (72.72%)	0.22
4	Weeding	12.49 (40.79%)	18.13 (59.21%)	30.62
5	Pest and Disease Control	0.12 (51.29%)	0.26 (68.42%)	0.38
6	Harvest	11.34 (51.29%)	10.78 (48.71%)	22.13
7	Total	63.39 (46.72%)	72.29 (53.28%)	135.68

The data in the table above shows that the allocation of working time for women and men in food crop farming production activities is almost balanced. From 135.68 MWD, the allocation of labor for women farmers is 46.72%, meaning that the allocation for male workers is still higher (53.28%). However, if examined in detail, it turns out that there are several stages/activities that the outpouring of female labor is higher than that of men, for example in planting activities, the outpouring of female labor is higher (63.55%), in addition to pest and disease activities, harvesting is also dominated by farmer women's work.

b. The working Time of Female Labor in Horticultural Farming (Shallots)

The outpouring of labor in activities carried out by women farmers in order to increase income. In this study, data were obtained on the outpouring of female farmers and their families, namely husbands and children as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. The outpouring of female, male, and child labor on onion farming in Belu Regency, West Timor.

No	Type of Activities	Female (MWD)	Male (MWD)	Children (MWD)
1	Land preparation	1.70	1.80	0.90
2	Nursery	0.50	1.90	0.50
3	Planting	1.10	1.20	0.40
4	Fertilization	0.90	0.80	0.50
5	Maintenance	4.90	8.30	7.00
6	Harvesting	0.90	1.10	0.40
7	Post Harvest	0.90	0.59	0.50
	Total	10.90	16.60	10.20

c. The working time of female farmer labor in the Beef Cattle Husbandry

Data on women's working time allocation in the study area were obtained by asking respondents to estimate the amount of time they worked in cattle business activities throughout the year. Labor is one of the important production factors in cattle husbandry, both semi-intensive (*fattening systems*) and extensively rearing systems. Activities in the livestock business generally are herding cattle (extensive system), cutting leaves and grass, and giving to the cattle. Tethered and moved livestock and provide water (*fattening systems*).

The amount of labor used in the livestock business is determined by the season. In the dry season, the use of labor is higher and takes longer than in the rainy season. For example, in the *paron system*, farmers devote 137 WDP of working time to finding, cutting, and bringing them home to be given to cattle, and during the rainy season require less work time, namely 79 WDP. In the extensive system where cows are released and grazed in pastures, the working time in the dry season is 252 WDP, and in the rainy season 141 WDP. Most of the work is done by men. Women's involvement is only in feeding and gathering forage. For these two activities, the working time of women farmers is 113 WDP a year.

Factors Affecting the Female Labor Working Time

Analysis of factors that influence the use of female farm workers in crop farming activities, horticultural crops, and beef cattle business in the study area. The factors that are suspected are the number of dependents of the family (X1), the level of education of women farmers (X2), the age of the respondent (X3), the amount of house income (X4), and the area of land ownership (X5). For this reason, multiple linear analysis was used using the SPSS version 16 program package. The results of the analysis are presented in Table 3 below:

Table 3. Results of Regression Analysis of Factors Affecting Women's Work Outflow in Family Farming in West Timor

Variable	Coefficients	Std Error	t-Stat	P-value
Constanta	15.73	16.91	0,93	0.36
Family size (X1)	-1.27	2.20	-0.58	0.56
Level of Education (X2)	-0.83	1.03	-0.80	0.43
Age of the women's labor (X3)	0.35	0.23	1.48*	0.14
Size of Arable Land (X4)	-0.08	0.09	-0.84	0.40
Number of Male Laborers (X5)	0.79	0.04	20.56**	0.00
R ²	0.85			
R ² Adjusted	0.84			

*) Significant at 0.15

**) Significant at 0.01

The results of data analysis using multiple linear regression analysis obtained multiple linear regression equations as follows:

$$Y = 15.73 - 1.27X_1 - 0.83X_2 + 0.35X_3 - 0.08X_4 + 0.08X_5$$

1. Partial Test (t-test)

The t-test was used to determine the effect of each independent variable (Xi) namely family size, level of education, age, arable land size, and the number of male workers in the household on the dependent variable (Y) namely the outpouring of female farm workers.

- Family Size (X1), based on the information in Table 1, it is known that the value of the t-stat is smaller than the t-table ($-0.58 < 1.988$). This means that partial family size has no significant effect on the outpouring of female farm workers. However, the regression coefficient value of -1.27 shows that the more the family size, the less the women's working time in family farming. Thus, if the number of dependents in the farmer's family increases, the amount of working time decreases. The reality on the ground shows that female farmers tend to reduce their working time when the number of dependents in their family increases. In this case, if the number of household member's increases by 1 unit, it will reduce the outpouring of working time for women farmers by 1,267 HKO.
- Education Level (X2): From the results of the regression analysis as shown in Table 3, the regression coefficient for the education level of Women Farmers is -0.83 with a t-stat value of -0.80 while the t-table value is 1.99, which means that $t\text{-stat} < t\text{-table}$ so that the level of education has no significant effect on the outpouring of female peasant labor. However, a negative coefficient sign means that there is a tendency that the higher the level of education, the less outpouring of female farm workers in the study area. It is understood that a higher level of education encourages women to work outside the agricultural sector. The results of this study are not in line with research [9] where the level of education has a positive and significant effect on the outpouring of women's work. If there is an increase in the average of 1 unit of education level, it will increase the outpouring of women's working time by 0.068 HKO *ceteris paribus*.
- Age (X3): The value of the regression coefficient for the age variable (b_3) = 0.35 explains the magnitude of the effect of age on the Y variable (work time of female farmers). From the results of the t-stat test (1.48), it has no significant effect on Y. The regression coefficient value of 0.35 means that each additional age of female farmers by 1 unit will increase the workload of female farmers in the research area by 0.35 HKO. If further interpreted, the increasing age of the respondents will be accompanied by the results of this study which are not in line with the results of research [10] which states that there is a negative relationship between age and women's working time, where every 1% additional respondent's age will decrease the working time of women farmers. as much as 0.008 HKO with the assumption that other factors are constant.
- Size of Arable land (X4): The variable size of arable land has a regression coefficient of -0.08 indicating the magnitude of the influence given by the size of arable land on the amount of working time of women farmers. The results of the t-test gave a t-stat value of -0.84 and it was not significant. This means that the variable area of land cultivated does not have a significant effect on the variable of women's working time in family farming. If the land area increases, the working time of women farmers decreases. This is presumably because women farmers have to divide their working time for domestic work. The results of this study are in line with the results of research Kusumastuti (2012) the variable of land area has a negative effect on variable Y because every 1 percent increase in the land area will reduce the outpouring of working time for women farmers by 1,469 HKO *ceteris paribus*.
- Number of male workers: Testing the significance of the variable number of male workers in the household has a very significant effect. The results of the t-test get a t-stat value of 20.56 and are greater than the t-

table 1.9889, thus partially the variable number of male workers in the family has a very significant effect on the outpouring of female workers. an increase in one unit of male labor will increase the value of the female workforce by 0.79 HKO. This can be explained that the female workforce is complementary to the male workforce in the research area.

2. Simultaneous Test (F Test)

The F test is a simultaneous test and is used to determine the effect of the factors together on the outpouring of labor for women farmers.

Table 2. Analysis of Variance (Anova)

	Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	423090.43	6	70515.07	80.84	0.000 ^a
	Residual	72398.16	83	872.27		
	Total	495488.59	89			

^a Very significant at < 0.01

From the results of the analysis, it is known that the F-stat value is 80.84 while the F-table value is 2.21. So, F-stat > F-table so that the independent variables, namely family size, level of education, age, size of arable land, and the number of male workers together have a very significant effect (P = 0.000) on the outpouring of female farm workers in the study area.

3. Coefficient of Determination (R²)

The result of the analysis as seen in Table 1 above showed the Adjusted R² value was 0.84 (84%). This value indicates all independent variables namely family size, education level, age, arable size, and the number of male labor forces were able to explain the dependent variable's variation by 84 percent, and 16.0 percent is influenced by other variables outside the model.

The Contribution of Female Farm labor force to Household Farming Revenue

The contribution of female farm workers to farming activities (food crops, horticulture, and cattle business can be calculated from the contribution of income and the outpouring of working time during one working period (1 year). To calculate the contribution of female farmers' income, first calculate the income of women farmers in all family farming activities with the formula (Maulana, et al., 2019):

$$\text{Farmer Woman Revenue(FWR)} = \frac{\text{Number of farm women MWD}}{\text{Total of HKO in Farming}} \times \text{total farm revenue}$$

$$\text{FWR} = \frac{760.8}{2303.89} \times \text{Rp. 14775944.41} = \text{Rp. 4,876,061.65}$$

Furthermore, to find out the contribution of farmer women's income to household farm income, it is calculated by the formula proposed by Maulana, et al., (2019) as follows:

$$\text{CFWR} = \frac{\text{PWT}}{\text{PUT}} \times 100\%$$

$$\text{CWFR} = \frac{4,876,061.65}{14,775,944.41} \times 100\% = 32.99\%$$

According to the calculations above, women farmers can provide an annual contribution of Rp. 4,876,061.65, or 32.99% of the total income from household farming, which indicates that their contribution is only moderate. The findings of this study are mostly consistent with those of a previous study (Lewa, 2014), which discovered that the CWFR on family agricultural income was 39%. The results of this study are in line with those of Lopes et al (2017) in Zambia and Nigeria who estimated the average contribution of female labor in crop production at 40% in Zambia, and 37% in Nigeria. According to the study's findings of Jelamu (2015), women farmers contributed a total of 54.9 percent to the income of lowland rice family farming. This outcome is significantly better than the findings of this study.

Conclusions and recommendations

The conclusions of this research are as follows:

1. The working time of women farmers in food crop activities in dryland areas in West Timor is quite high. Almost all stages of food crop farming involve female workers, from land preparation to harvesting. The total working time of women farmers is 63.39 HKO (46.68 percent of the total labor force in the household for food crop farming. While in horticulture farming (shallots) it is 538.9 HKO because women farmers devote their energy to all farming activities from land preparation to the post-harvest stage. The working time of female farmers in the livestock husbandry, in this case, beef cattle are 113 HKO per year. Not all stages of activities are carried out by female farmers, only activities of cutting leaves and grass, and giving water to livestock but sometimes women are also herding cattle.
 2. The working time of female farmers is significantly and positively affected by the age of female farmers and the number of male labor forces in the household, while other factors do not significantly affect the working time of women farmers.
 3. The contribution of female farmers' income to household farm income is quite large, namely 39%.
- Recommendations
1. In light of the significant amount of female labor engaged in agricultural activity, efforts must be made by the government and other interested parties to offer advice and training to female farmers in order to advance their knowledge and skills.
 2. To provide a source of income for farming households, a firm in the non-agricultural sector must be established due to the tendency of female farmers to cut back on labor hours as their education level rises.

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