

Title: The Economic Performance of Fishpond Culture in Parigi Moutong Regency, Central Sulawesi-Indonesia the Way Forward for Food Security Strategy

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Abstract: Tomini gulf in Parigi Moutong, Central Sulawesi covers of 10,306 hectare area, in which about 35% is utilized for fish pond culture. The average productivity is below the national level (1.23 ton/ha/year out of 2.50 ton/ha/year). While the fish consumption per year is also lower (18.97 kg/cap) than the national level of 21.82 kg/cap. In 2007, the culture fisheries of Indonesia was supplied by Java dominantly for about 53.78% and Sulawesi contributed for 27.60% (about one-fifth portion was shared by Central Sulawesi province). This situation shows that fish culture which is dominantly in form of fishpond for shrimp and milkfish. But they are remain less in their economic performance. At the sometimes, the peoples consumption behavior is also reluctant to achieve the sufficient nutrition of animal protein from fish. This phenomenon may indicate that food security in the study area relatively fragile from both side of producers and consumers.

The objectives of the study are: (1) determine the economic performance of fishpond culture; (2) to verify the food security status from the markets driver of producers and consumers; (3) to outline the food security strategy to achieve a betterment in communitys welfare in general. Cross-section data were gathered from the survey of 157 respondents (fishpond owner).The frontier production function of fishers in the study area and their cost and returns were estimated accordingly. Marketing analysis of the fish products in the study was also explored. Finally, this study is also outlined the strategy to secure food from fisheries products observed using descriptive qualitative.

In overall, the results found that the production function behaves pretty good and has increasing returns although very light. However, it is found that the technical efficiency is not efficient ($TE=0.803$). But, the cost-and-returns is about three folds. All of this indicate that in the short run, the economic viability of fish culture industry indicates a good prospect. Therefore, the threats and weakness are on fishers capability in allocating the inputs in their production activities. Similarly, it goes to the consumers driver. It is really indeed need to be improved on the awareness of the community (producers and consumers) in order to achieve a better welfare, through managing the food security from fish products in the study area.