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Budhi Gunawan

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THESIS/DESSERTATION ABSTRACT
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Topic FLOATING NET CAGE CULTURE: A STUDY OF PEOPLE INVOLVEMENT IN THE
FISHING SYSTEM OF SAGULING DAM, WEST JAVA No. of Pages
Researcher Mr. Budhi Gunawan A5 G85 92
Adviser Dr. Fernando N. Zialcita
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Statement of the Problem

The aquaculture activity or floating net cage culture (FNCC) in Saguling Dam was regarded as a proper solution to the resettlement problem among the people affected by the dam project. The growth in the number of FNCC units and the increase in the volume of annual fish yield showed that FNCC was a beneficial activity. However, only a few people could afford to be involved in this activity. The disability for involvement of the people was often attributed to the characteristic of FNCC of being capital-intensive. Production supply and marketing systems, and environmental constraints were the other factors causing the low involvement of the people and the failure of many fish farmers to sustain this activity.

This study argues that these factors were not enough to explain these problems. In this light, the study attempts to answer the question: what are the other factors that hinder the people, especially those with less capital, from becoming involved in FNCC, and/or that cause the fish farmers not to sustain the activity?

Procedure

The study was conducted from the third week of August 1991 till the second week of January 1992. Data were gathered with the use of two research techniques, namely, interview, for which an interview guide was used as a tool, and observation. Data-gathering was begun with FNCC data collection. Fish farmer data collection came next. And then, the researcher conducted an in-depth study of a kampung (hamlet).

Treatment of Data

This study, which employs the descriptive approach, is intended to explain certain phenomena on the FNCC activity, as well as the dynamics of the social system. Both the qualitative and quantitative data were used. Qualitative data were collected to describe how the fish farming system worked and how the dynamics of the social system took place. Quantitative data from the secondary sources were obtained to support the former. To provide a clearer illustration of FNCC, transcriptions of some fish farmers' life profiles are presented in the appendices.

Findings

Over the years, FNCC had experienced several changes. Nevertheless, the relatively high profit that could still be obtained from the FNCC had remained the attractive factor that encouraged the people to engage in this activity.

As regards the **factors constraining** people involvement in the FNCC activity, the study found that the technical factors--capital, production input supply and marketing, and environment--and social factors (social processes taking place within the community)--e.g., sociopolitical events at the village level, elite participation and domination in FNCC, lack of cooperation among the community members--were, although in different ways, responsible for the poor involvement of the people in FNCC.

Conclusions

The study concludes that the problem of poor involvement of the people was not merely a techno-biological and economic problem but a social one as well. In this regard, the technical factors were the given factors required for fish farming development, which could either greatly or slightly influence people involvement and survival in FNCC, depending on the dynamics of the social and fish farming systems.

As regards involvement and survival, in the existing condition of the fish farming system, only those who had politico-socioeconomic relations/endowments were able to engage in and sustain the FNCC activity.

Recommendations

Based on research findings, the researcher formulated six recommendations. These were as follows: (1) the importance of beginning the activity with a comprehensive study of the target area for FNCC development, which will clearly identify the target project beneficiaries; (2) need to impose restricted entry to protect the target beneficiaries of the project; (3) provision of credit, like agricultural credit, and the involvement of the existing cooperative in the initial implementation; (4) strengthening of the fish farmer association; (5) NGO involvement to complement the governments' (as it sometimes lacked) capacity to help the fish farmers; and (6) conduct of further research, especially in relation to the issue on communal resource management.