

## **FARMING BASED ENTERPRISE: AN ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**

**Topic Areas: Cross-disciplinary areas on Socio-Economic and Environment/Ecology, a Case Study**

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### **Abstract**

Indonesia consists of thousands rural areas characterized by their cultural background. A common denomination however, is that main occupation of rural community focus on agriculture. Uncertainty of income derived from farming system has never been considered as a constraint. Rather, it is considered as one of natural challenge to farming activity. Although pessimists thought there is no future for small scale farming systems, the fact that its existence has long been a sustainable support for rural livelihoods can not be ignored.

An idea to enhance productivity is application of farming based enterprises as a model for community development. Interaction between farming activities and small enterprise development has indeed flourished in many instances. Benefits derived mainly are ensured raw materials for the enterprise, and product market for the farmers. However, the existence of such natural interaction has not attracted policy makers to proactively develop systematically, rather they leave the interaction as it is hoping to grow productively.

The purpose of this study is to explore potential model of farming based enterprises to be implemented by carefully examining the interconnection of farming system activity and rural enterprises from an ecological point of view. The study used holistic concept of "ecosystem" to be able to include activities of man within its purview. We recommend that, where possible, the concept of rural development to be implemented should consider local potency, local need and interest, to enforce the establishment of small enterprise involving as many existing sub-systems as possible.