

***Strategy For Strengthening Farmer Group Institutions to Increase Farmer Income: A Case Study in The Barokah Farmer Group, Curahlele Village,***

***Balung District, Jember Regency***

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***ABSTRACT***

*Institutional strengthening can be used as one solution to improve the performance of farmer groups, so that a plan is needed to drive farmer group institutions in increasing financial growth in Jember. The objective of this observation is to classify aspects that are driving strengths and obstacles in increasing the effectiveness of farmer institutions in Curahlele Village. The observation method used is Field Force Analysis (FFA) to classify aspects that are driving strengths and obstacles in increasing the effectiveness of farmer institutions in Curahlele Village and the method used is Interpretative Structural Modeling (ISM) to identify the structure of the relationship between these inhibiting factors. Primary data was obtained from interviews, questionnaires and focus group discussions (FGD), while secondary data were obtained from literature reviews. Respondents from this observation were taken using Purposive Sampling totaling 32 people. The results of observations using Field Force Analysis (FFA) show that the driving factor for strengthening the institutional capacity of farmer groups in Curahlele Village is the availability of inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides which are sufficiently guaranteed from the agency with a score of 1.17, while the inhibiting factor for strengthening the institutional capacity of farmer groups in Curahlele Village is that the activeness of the Gapotan has decreased since there was no chairman to lead with a score of 1.06. The input from this observation is that strengthening farmer group institutions requires good cooperation and assistance with actors in strengthening farmer group institutions, especially from Gapotan, Village Government, Food Crops, Horticulture and Plantation Service and with local Agricultural Extension Officers. The structure of the relationship between these inhibiting factors includes internal factors such as: low capacity of human resources of administrators, low participation of members, and weak monitoring and evaluation activities as the main obstacle elements in strengthening farmer group institutions, while strategic elements in efforts to strengthen farmer group institutions in Gapotan Curahlele village are: increasing management participation through mandatory and routine farmer group activities, optimizing organizational structures, managerial training for farmer group administrators and increasing market access.*

*Keywords: FFA, Intitutional, Farmer Group, ISM*