



## VEGETABLE CULTIVATION TRAINING IN SUPPORTING ECONOMIC AND FOOD SECURITY IN COVID 19 PANDEMIC ERA

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### ABSTRACT

*This training is a training on the cultivation of vegetable crops for the local community to stabilize the economy of the community during the covid-19 pandemic. The training held in Rt.05, Sindangheula Village, Banjarharjo District, Brebes Regency involved the participation of citizens while prioritizing health protocols. The purpose of this training is to improve economic conditions amid pandemic conditions that slightly disrupt the economic condition of Sindangheula villagers and educate healthy lifestyles by consuming organic vegetables of their own crops. In addition, this training is also one of the working programs of KKN BMC UNNES Year 2020. This research uses a qualitative approach. The focus in this study is how people use vegetable cultivation to anticipate food and economic problems during the Covid-19 pandemic. This research data source is obtained through primary and secondary data sources. Primary data is obtained by the authors through subject and research informants. The immediate benefit of this training activity is in addition to information and skills how to cultivate vegetables in the yard of the house and can ultimately improve economic and health conditions by producing organic vegetables from the yard of their own home. The target audience of this training activity is mothers and teenagers in Rt.05 Sindangheula Village and the trainees are 4 people. The result of this activity is that the training goes well according to the original plan and the trainees are very enthusiastic about this training and they understand how to cultivate good vegetables.*

Pelatihan ini adalah pelatihan budidaya tanaman sayuran bagi masyarakat setempat guna menstabilkan ekonomi masyarakat selama pandemic covid-19. Pelatihan yang di laksanakan di Rt.05, Desa Sindangheula, Kecamatan Banjarharjo, Kabupaten Brebes ini melibatkan partisipasi warga dengan tetap mengutamakan protokoler kesehatan. Tujuan pelatihan ini adalah untuk meningkatkan kondisi ekonomi di tengah kondisi pandemic yang sedikit banyak mengganggu kondisi ekonomi warga desa Sindangheula dan mengedukasi pola hidup sehat dengan mengkonsumsi sayuran organic hasil panen sendiri. Selain itu pelatihan ini juga merupakan salah satu program kerja KKN BMC UNNES Tahun 2020. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif. Fokus dalam penelitian ini adalah bagaimana masyarakat memanfaatkan budidaya sayuran untuk mengantisipasi masalah pangan dan ekonomi di masa pandemic Covid-19. Sumber data penelitian ini diperoleh melalui sumber data primer dan sekunder. Data primer diperoleh penulis melalui subjek dan informan penelitian. Manfaat langsung dari kegiatan pelatihan ini ialah sebagai tambahan informasi dan keterampilan cara membudidayakan sayuran di pekarangan rumah dan pada akhirnya dapat menyejahterakan kondisi ekonomi dan kesehatan dengan menghasilkan sayuran organic dari pekarangan rumah sendiri. Khalayak sasaran dari kegiatan pelatihan ini adalah ibu-ibu dan remaja di Rt.05 Desa Sindangheula dan peserta pelatihan berjumlah 4 orang. Hasil dari kegiatan ini adalah pelatihan berjalan dengan baik sesuai rencana awal dan peserta pelatihan sangat antusias dengan adanya pelatihan ini dan mereka memahami bagaimana cara membudidayakan sayuran yang baik.

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## INTRODUCTION

The village is one of the systems that exist in the order of society that is inseparable from others. According to R. Bintarto, the village is the embodiment or unity of geography, social, economic, political, and cultural that exists in a region in its reciprocal relationship and influence with other regions. Thus in accordance with Sindangheula village located in Banjarharjo sub-district, Brebes regency. Judging by the history of Sindangheula village based on the source of pl. Sekdes Sindangheula (2017) the origin of this village can be told through legend around the 14th century where at that time the area was still named Sindangnagara Girang area which is in the territory of Galuh kingdom.

Pakuan (Siliwangi), then at one time a couple named nini kanang and aki kanang searched for a place to live in an area surrounded by slopes or hills and arrived somewhere called Sindangnagara Girang, by chance when he arrived at the location where he stood there was a part of the forest here called in sundanese term Canggeghar the chicken ran fast and flew then followed by aki kanang and nini kanang which finally arrived somewhere surrounded by a large tree and the exact rock that now houses Kiraksa Bajing to the north of the dayeuh hall (the current Village Hall).

This is the first place that was then used as a final stopover to be used as a settlement by aki Kanang and nini Kanang. This is related to when prince Papak and prince Panjunan stopped by, a few moments later the prince was comfortable and happy to stay in the area to spread the religion of Islam, then finally the area was called Sindangheula Village or also got another term namely Garuda ngupuk (garuda sit) which is geographically flanked by 2 (two) large streams namely Cigora River and Cilimus. Indirectly if a village is flanked by two large streams and surrounded by mountains then the person who will live in the area or village will feel at home and comfortable.

The other side of his social life is sindangheula village. The livelihood obtained by the sindangheula villagers of Banjarharjo district of Brebes district earns from agriculture because the location of the land in Sindangheula village is very fertile, sailors and overseas. In the current pandemic conditions, Covid-19 reduces people's income assets in Sindangheula village. So there needs to be training that can improve the economic condition of citizens, one of which is with training on more advanced and modern vegetable cultivation. On the other hand, this training is also oriented to help the people of Sindangheula village who experienced an economic crisis during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

## PROBLEM

The problem experienced by the people in Sindangheula Brebes Village during the Covid-19 pandemic is that people's incomes are reduced. So there needs to be training that can improve the economic condition of citizens, one of which is with training on more advanced and modern vegetable cultivation. On the other hand, this training is also oriented to help the people of Sindangheula village who experienced Economic crisis during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

## METHOD

The focus of this community service activity is how the community utilizes vegetable and fruit cultivation to anticipate food and economic problems during the Covid19 pandemic. This community service activity is carried out in the form of training.

Vegetable cultivation training is carried out in two stages. The first stage is the provision of material related to vegetable cultivation and the second stage in the form of vegetable cultivation practice. The evaluation phase of this community service activity is carried out by the community service team and the trainees. The evaluation includes the activeness of participants during the training, the level of attendance of participants and the ability of participants in practicing vegetable cultivation materials.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The COVID 19 pandemic has changed the structure and order of society. People are required to make changes in various activities. Outdoor activities should be suppressed to stop the spread of COVID19. This condition is in contrast to the community that requires getting out of the house to work and get the goods needed for daily use. Food needs are a major problem in the future, people need independent food sources. One way to have a self-sustaining food source is to grow vegetables or fruit in the yard of the house. The resulting plants can also be sold so that they have a new source of income in times of pandemic.

In community empowerment activities the knowledge system is important to be aware of because it will affect the next activity. Sindangheula people basically mostly work as rice farmers and some shallot farmers. However, the community does not yet have an interest in planting in the yard as an alternative or can even be the main field of fulfillment of basic needs. Agriculture is only done on farmland in general. Sindangheula people prefer to open culinary businesses at home such as selling seblak food and other market snacks. About 80% of the people do the culinary business. In addition, Sindangheula people have a narrow yard so it will not be easy to grow vegetable crops if they do not do it properly.

Local knowledge possessed by farmers and agricultural innovation can be used as a reference to support the activities of empowering vegetable cultivation in the yard of the house. Such as the empowerment of narrow land around the dwelling with verticulture technology with cultivatable plants such as chili, eggplant, mustard, lettuce, red spinach, spinach cabut, land kale, leeks, celery, and cabbage flowers (Suyadi and Nugroho, 2017). The verticulture farming system is a vertical or multi-storey agricultural cultivation system (Sutarminingsih in Minarni et al. 2017). The use of a narrow yard with vegetable cultivation can help the family's independence in meeting the basic needs in the covid-19 pandemic.

Vegetable Cultivation Training activities conducted in the framework of KKN UNNES Together Against Covid-19 in Rt. 05 Sindangheula village, Banjarharjo sub-district, Brebes district. This training was attended by 5 people Rt. 05 Rw. 02 consisting of mothers and children and because it was carried out in the midst of the pandemic condition Covid-19 was carried out by complying with health protocols that are to keep a distance and use masks. This activity is in the form of educating the benefits of vegetable cultivation in the midst of covid-19 pandemic conditions, providing vegetable cultivation materials through lectures and direct practice and distribution of vegetable seeds to trainees. This activity lasts for 1 day and for the development of vegetable growth is reported once a week through WhatsApp group KKN UNNES BMC Rt.05.

The training activities began with the education of the benefits of vegetable cultivation in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic, especially for the food independence of citizens amid the economic conditions that are being deteriorated due to the covid-19 pandemic and to produce good organic vegetables to maintain health in the midst of the pandemic.

**Figure 1. Submission of Vegetable Cultivation Materials**



The delivery of vegetable cultivation materials includes the introduction of ways of seeding various types of vegetables, nursery care, vegetable planting media, crop maintenance and harvest time of various types of vegetables. Participants are quite proactive in

the delivery session of this material seen from some of the questions asked by participants during the delivery of vegetable cultivation material.

The next session is a hands-on practice with trainees using tools and materials available around such as used buckets and plastic used cooking oil, making it easier for trainees later when going to practice themselves in their own homes. The practice begins by seedling mustard seeds and tomatoes and then transferring mustard and cayenne pepper to a wider growing medium. planting media used is a mixture of soil, manure, and rice husks. This vegetable plant is planted in pots because the average yard of sindangheula villagers is not so wide, plants in pots can also be planted for vertical plants so it is suitable for narrow land.

**Figure 2. Vegetable Cultivation Practices**



During the training, participants are quite responsive to the activity, judging by the questions asked. After the training was completed, participants were given vegetable seeds so that participants could try to grow in their own homes. After taking the training participants understand how to grow and care for vegetables

## CONCLUSION

The problem-solving model with vegetable cultivation training to improve the economic condition of the citizens of Rt.05 Sindangheula village is effective enough to provide economic welfare solutions for citizens. With this training, participants get additional information and skills on how to cultivate vegetables in the yard and can ultimately improve economic and health conditions by producing organic vegetables from their own yard. Organic vegetables are also very important to be consumed to maintain the health of the body in the midst of pandemic conditions as it is today.

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