

## Community Service Program for the Munsalo Farmers Group, Kuansing Regency, Riau

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### Abstract

**Purpose:** The primary aim of this community service initiative is to address the lack of bookkeeping among farmers in the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group and the inadequate packaging of their rice, currently sold in used sacks and black plastic bags. This research is significant as it seeks to enhance the farmers' administrative practices and product presentation, improving income management and marketability.

**Method:** The initiative employs training sessions on administrative management and effective packaging. Workshops focus on bookkeeping techniques and creating appealing packaging. Additionally, administrative tools and branded sacks for the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group's rice are provided.

**Practical Applications:** The initiative's outcomes have practical implications, enabling farmers to manage their finances better and enhance their product presentation. Improved packaging increases market competitiveness, providing significant advantages for better sales and customer engagement.

**Conclusion:** This community service initiative effectively resolves key issues in administration and product packaging for the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group. The positive feedback received highlights its importance, contributing to a better understanding of the need for enhanced practices in agricultural communities and promoting the farmers' economic well-being.

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### Introduction

The Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group is one of the farming groups engaged in the cultivation and harvesting of rice, as well as the sale of harvest products, located in Munsalo

Village, Kuantan Tengah District, Kuantan Singingi Regency, Riau Province. Munsalo Village, Kuantan Tengah District, Kuantan Singingi Regency, Riau Province is a rural area where most of the population relies on farming as their livelihood. The Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group was established in 2017 and consists of 20 members, with a group leader named Nurhadia. Each member has their own rice field, with an average area of over 2000 m<sup>2</sup> per member. The Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group manages the rice fields in turn and assists each other collectively.

Based on interviews and findings in the field, the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group faces various problems in the rice farming process. The main issue lies in the administrative field. Farmers in the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group do not have any bookkeeping related to capital and income generated from their agricultural activities. Without proper administrative management records, they struggle to maintain effective oversight (Bagio & Athallah, 2020).

In the agricultural context, bookkeeping provides many significant advantages that can help farmers and farming groups manage their operations more effectively. Administrative bookkeeping is the process of recording, managing, and reporting all financial transactions carried out by an organization or individual. Improved financial management, which allows farmers to track all income and spending, comprehend cash flow, and cut down unnecessary costs, is one of the key benefits (Rangkuti, 2023). Moreover, farmers can use administrative bookkeeping to determine the profitability of their businesses, which empowers them to take more profitable decisions like raising pricing or cutting expenses.

Precise information derived from bookkeeping offers a strong basis for making decisions, helping farmers arrange planting seasons, choose crop types, and decide when to sell their crops (Ridho, 2017). Maintaining accurate books also makes it easier to prepare tax returns and comply with legal requirements, which lowers the possibility of legal problems during government audits. Moreover, farmers with transparent financial records are more credible to financial institutions, which facilitates finance availability.

Farmers who keep thorough financial records are better able to analyze trends and make future business plans, such as determining income projections and areas in need of expansion (Sapari et al., 2023; Syafitri & Sari, 2023). Maintaining accurate books also makes agricultural groups' financial administration more transparent, which promotes trust amongst farmers and other stakeholders. Lastly, bookkeeping is a tool that helps farmers become better managers by teaching them about marketing tactics, sustainable farming methods, and resource management (Andriani et al., 2022; Juniarti et al., 2022; Wuli, 2024). All things considered, administrative bookkeeping is an essential component of farm management that promotes long-term growth and sustainability in addition to increasing operational efficiency.

The second issue arises during the harvesting and post-harvest phases. Problems during harvesting include the separation of rice grains from their stalks. Farmers must separate the rice grains from the stalks using traditional methods, such as stepping on harvested rice or beating the cut rice. This separation can be done using machines; however, they must rent and share the machine with the villagers, which takes a considerable amount of time because the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group does not own its own machine. Additionally, the rented machines are large and heavy, requiring farmers to carry the harvested rice from all fields to the machine's location.

Another issue is the lack of proper packaging for rice intended for sale; they only use old sacks and black plastic bags. Furthermore, the range of buyers for the rice from this farmers group is limited to neighboring villages. The priority issues, as agreed upon with the partner, namely the group leader of the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group, Mrs. Nurhadia, are as follows: First, the issue of administrative management recording in the activities of the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group, and second, the lack of proper packaging for the rice to be sold, which currently relies on old sacks and black plastic bags.

The justification for prioritizing these issues, agreed upon by the proposers and partners during the implementation of the PKM program, is that the first issue is critical

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because proper administrative management records determine the effective and efficient sustainability of the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group's development. The second issue is considered important because it affects the productivity of the sale of products from the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group.

*Figure 1. Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group*



The solutions implemented for the prioritized issues are as follows.

First, to address the first issue, the following solutions are needed:

1. Conducting training on administrative management recording in the activities of the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group.
2. Providing administrative tools in the form of stationery and books necessary for maintaining administrative records.

Second, to address the second issue, the following solutions are needed:

1. Conducting training and workshops on the importance of proper packaging for rice intended for sale, rather than just using old rice sacks and black plastic bags.
2. Providing assistance in the form of branded rice packaging tools and vacuum packaging machines for rice.

According to (Ratnasari et al., 2017), the success of a farming business is determined by how the management is carried out in that enterprise. Therefore, effective management practices are essential for farming, which can be achieved by applying management principles and executing all management functions, including planning, organizing, implementing, and supervising effectively. Thus, an agribusiness approach is necessary for developing farming enterprises to yield appropriate and adequate profits (Ketty et al., 2020). This is supported by other research indicating that training can increase production and reduce production costs (Wiralestari et al., 2018).

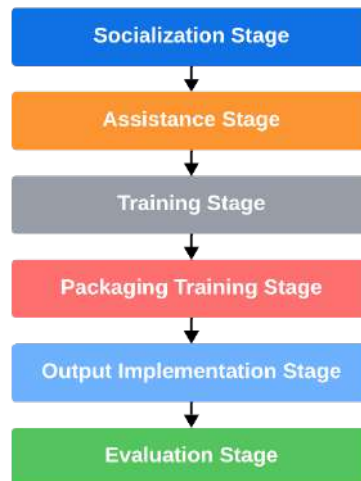
The aim of this PKM (Community Service Program) activity is to introduce and teach the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group about agricultural administration/record-keeping so that farmers can accurately determine whether their farming efforts are generating profits or, conversely, resulting in losses. The benefits of this activity include assisting the farmers' group in recording every expense and income from their agricultural endeavors. Additionally, it serves as a source of information for researchers for further studies, for the government in determining agricultural policies, and for parties interested in helping farmers as business partners.

## **Method**

The stages or steps in implementing the proposed solutions to address the partners' issues involve six stages: socialization, provision of assistance in the form of administrative

tools such as stationery and books, and branded rice sacks for the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group, training on administrative management recording, and awareness of the importance of proper packaging for harvest products, followed by evaluation and monitoring of the activities.

Figure 2. Stages or Steps in Community Service Implementation



a. Socialization Stage

The purpose of socialization is to introduce the PKM program to the partners. During this stage, the objectives of implementing the PKM, the benefits for the partners, the execution procedures, and the forms of cooperation offered will be explained. It is hoped that a suitable timeline will be established for the partners in the implementation of the PKM.

b. Assistance Stage

In this stage, the service team will provide assistance in the form of administrative tools, including stationery, books, and branded rice sacks for the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group.

c. Training Stage

In this stage, the service team will conduct training on administrative management recording and emphasize the importance of good packaging for products.

d. Packaging Training Stage

In this stage, the service team will provide training on packaging rice using branded rice sacks from the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group.

e. Output Implementation Stage

In this stage, the service team will write articles for publication in the Journal of Community Service, write articles for mass media, and complete other required outputs and additional outputs.

f. Evaluation Stage

The evaluation stage involves monitoring the implementation of activities, starting from the procurement of supporting tools for the administrative process and rice packaging, to understanding the recording of administrative management.

## Result

The results of the community service process with the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group showed that the activities proceeded smoothly and received support from various parties, especially from the partners of the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group. This PKM (Community Service Program) activity was carried out directly around the rice field area of the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group to observe the activities conducted by the group. A total of 10 members of the farmers group attended this community service event, consisting of 2 men and 8 women. In addition to the group leader and members, 2 active students from the



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Islamic University of Riau were also involved in the community service.

*Figure 3. Photo of the training session and distribution of items*



The community service was held in two sessions: one for training and the other for the distribution of administrative tools and branded rice sacks for the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group. The first training session focused on administrative management recording in the activities of the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group and the importance of good packaging for rice intended for sale, rather than just using old rice sacks and black plastic bags. The second session involved the distribution of administrative books and branded rice sacks for the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group.

*Figure 4. Distribution of administrative books and branded rice sacks for the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group*



After the training and distribution of PKM tools, the PKM members, along with the members of the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group and the students, held a communal meal on a stage in the rice field surrounding the Munsalo Kopah planting area.

*Figure 5. Communal meal with the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group and the Community Service Team*



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The response from the farmers' group to the community service was very positive, and they were enthusiastic about receiving the materials and the administrative tools provided. The evaluation conducted by the PKM team will monitor the development of administrative management within the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group over the next few months and assess changes in rice sales before and after using the branded packaging from the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group.

### **Discussion**

The community service initiative involving the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group exemplifies how targeted interventions can enhance agricultural practices and support local communities. The inclusive nature of the program is evident in the participation of both male and female members of the farmers group, alongside the involvement of students from the Islamic University of Riau, which fosters collaboration and a sense of shared responsibility for agricultural development. A key objective of the initiative was to improve administrative management among the farmers. By providing training on proper bookkeeping and systematic record-keeping, the program aims to enhance their ability to track income and expenses, which is crucial for evaluating the profitability of their agricultural activities and making informed business decisions.

Moreover, the emphasis on proper packaging for rice is another critical aspect of the initiative. Transitioning from using old rice sacks and black plastic bags to branded packaging can improve the marketability of their products, helping attract more buyers and enhancing the perceived value of their produce. The program's plan for ongoing evaluation and monitoring of administrative practices and sales performance is vital, as it allows farmers to track their progress and make necessary adjustments over time. The focus on measuring changes before and after implementing branded packaging provides valuable data that can be used to refine strategies further.

The positive response from the farmers indicates a strong willingness to learn and adapt, which is essential for the long-term success of the initiative and the sustainability of their businesses. Future programs could build on this model by incorporating additional training sessions that cover marketing strategies, financial management, and sustainable farming practices. In conclusion, the community service initiative with the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group serves as a valuable case study for effective agricultural community development. By concentrating on administrative improvements, proper packaging, and ongoing evaluation, the program has the potential to significantly enhance the farmers' productivity and profitability, ultimately contributing to the overall economic development of the region.

### **Conclusion**

Training on administrative management/bookkeeping and the importance of branded packaging for rice, along with the provision of administrative tools, has been successfully implemented and proceeded smoothly. The level of understanding and knowledge imparted by the PKM team has been well absorbed by the Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group. A recommendation for the implementation of this community service program is that the

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Munsalo Kopah Farmers Group should be able to apply group farming administration/bookkeeping, allowing them to manage finances as efficiently as possible to maximize profits. Additionally, support from local extension workers is needed to provide guidance and motivate farmers to increase production and income.

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