

ANALYSIS OF THE INFLUENCE OF PEPPER PLANTATIONS ON ECONOMIC GROWTH BANGKA BELITUNG ISLANDS PROVINCE

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Abstract: With abundant natural resources, Bangka Belitung Province is one of many provinces in Indonesia with a developing economic sector. One of the influences is white pepper, where the aim of this research is to examine the development of pepper production on the economy of Bangka Belitung. With a qualitative descriptive method using note-taking techniques and library techniques to accumulate data. The object of this research is pepper. In particular, in the Bangka Belitung Islands, pepper is known by the nickname sahang by the local community. Bangka Belitung pepper has a level of spiciness that exceeds the standards of other regions and a distinctive smell, namely the strong smell of essential oils. Based on the data obtained. From the results of this research, the Bangka Belitung Islands experience unstable developments in the pepper plantation sector every year, where production experiences significant increases and decreases.

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Introduction

Bangka Belitung generally has plantation land which is dominated by dry land and the soil type is podzolic so it lacks nutrients, and results in low fertility levels and is less suitable for plantation land. However, white pepper is one of the spices that people usually use to add a spicy and savory taste to food. People use pepper as a herbal and anti-bacterial medicine. White pepper in Bangka Belitung is one of the largest and best producers of quality pepper in Indonesia. Pepper is a plantation product that is quite dominant in the people of Bangka Belitung, because of its high marketability and different taste.

Judging from the interest of the people of Bangka Belitung who are predominantly involved in the pepper plantation business, Indonesia as a primary producer on the world market is included in

the group of traditional producers (Indonesia, Malaysia, India and Brazil). The white pepper or sahang typical of the Bangka Belitung Islands region which was issued by the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia Number 000000004 on April 28th 2010 has been certified as a Geographical Indication (IG). Therefore, it is not uncommon for white pepper to be produced in Kep. Bangka Belitung is an area that has high appeal for several countries in the world. With a distinctive spice taste and high quality, it has attracted many people from around the world. Kep's specialty white pepper. Bangka Belitung has piperine (spiciness level) which is quite high, namely 5-7% and a strong aroma of essential oils. However, it is very unfortunate that the land that was previously used for pepper plantations has now changed its function to become an

unconventional tin mine (TI). Because of this, the area of pepper plantations continues to decrease from year to year.

Based on data from the Mining, Plantation and Livestock Service of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province, South Bangka Regency has a pepper plantation area of 23 hectares in Bangka Belitung, 7 hectares in Bangka Regency, 7 hectares in Belitung, 5 hectares in West Bangka Regency, 3 hectares in East Belitung. land, and Central Bangka covering an area of 2 hectares. The community's activities from growing pepper have shifted to tin mining, which has affected the lifestyle of the people of the Bangka Belitung Islands province. Now, it is not uncommon for some people in Kep. Bangka Belitung, which previously shifted direction to unconventional tin mining (TI), has shifted back to the plantation or agricultural sector. This factor is caused not only by the price of pepper being relatively stable and not causing damage to nature, but also because the supply of tin is starting to decrease day by day, followed by the price of tin which tends to continue to decline and is even unstable, becoming one of the considerations for the community to change their livelihoods from mining to mining. plantation or agriculture.

Literature Review

Ginting, (2020:1) stated that the Bangka Belitung Islands are an area whose main area is pepper production, where the pepper produced is Kep. Bangka Belitung is a white pepper known by the brand image name Muntok white pepper. However, in (2002-2008) the level of pepper production in Babylon experienced a drastic decline. Bangka Belitung's involvement in pepper production and planting area was recorded in (Department of Agriculture and Forestry of Bangka Belitung Islands Province) as reaching 64,572 Ha, however this decreased to 45,834 Ha (2004), and fell again to 40,720 Ha (2006).

Ginting, (2020:1), there are 3 main problems related to the decline in pepper production in Bangka Belitung, namely the selling price of pepper at the grower level, business opportunities other than pepper, and the implementation of maintenance technology by farmers. These three main problems have a significant influence on

pepper production. So at that time Bangka district will be designated as the location for research objects on the decline in pepper production (2004-2008).

Pepper is a plant that takes quite a long time to harvest, it takes around 3 years from the beginning of the planting process to the time of harvest, after the harvest period once then the pepper can be harvested once a year regularly, depending on the age of the pepper plant itself can only last around 6-7 years depending on the growth care. White pepper in Bangka Belitung is the best pepper with an aroma that can be smelled from afar because it contains high levels of essential oils, while black pepper from Lampung is a reference for quality pepper.

Method

The research method that will be used in this research is a qualitative research method. Qualitative research is used to describe and analyze phenomena, events, social activities, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, thoughts of people individually and in groups. Qualitative research methods are used to research the conditions of scientific objects, (as opposed to experiments) where the researcher is the key instrument, data collection techniques are carried out by triangulation (combination) data analysis is inductive or qualitative, and the researcher's qualitative results emphasize meaning rather than generalization. This research is to analyze the influence of pepper plantations on the economic growth of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province.

Results and Discussion

Pepper is a major commodity that has a very important position in Indonesian history. Indonesia has been an important supplier for the world pepper trade, since the end of the 16th century. Indonesia is the third country in the world with the largest pepper plantations. Even today, pepper is still the largest foreign exchange contributor. Sourced from the Central Statistics Agency, the export value of pepper in the 2018-2022 era reached USD 775 million. Where in that period the average trading volume reached 45 thousand tons.

Pepper production in 2022, carried out by People's Plantations (PR) and Large Private Plantations (PBS), will produce 89.28

thousand tons of pepper. The majority of pepper production in Indonesia comes from the Bangka Belitung and Lampung Islands with respective contributions of 37.48% and 17.61% (average of the last five years), while other provinces only have less than 10% involvement. In 2023, pepper production in Indonesia is predicted to produce 83.70 thousand tons of pepper. This production is estimated to continue to increase until it reaches 84.44 thousand tons in 2026. Over the next few years (2022-2026) average production is estimated at 0.55% per year.

Based on data obtained in 2022, in Central Bangka district the area of pepper plantations reached 3,554.48 ha with a production capacity of 2,896.87 tons, and the average pepper harvest was 1.8 tons per hectare. Talking about the Bangka Belitung Islands province, apart from being popular for its beautiful tourist attractions, one of which is the beach, it is not uncommon for many people to say that Kep. Bangka Belitung is a tin commodity. In fact, Bangka Belitung's natural wealth is not only in tin mines, but the area known as Serumpun Sebalai is also famous for its spice, namely white pepper.

This white pepper typical of Bangka Belitung is famous for its quality throughout the world, because of its unique characteristics that do not exist in other areas, such as Lampung, Bengkulu, Kalimantan and Sulawesi. It is not surprising that pepper is one of the leading commodities that has become rapidly popular on the market. The pepper produced by the Bangka Belitung Islands province is a superior agricultural product of high quality and has been a crop for generations among the people of Bangka Belitung.

Yulia & Bahtera, (2020:2) Pepper has become a symbol and genetic resource of the Bangka Belitung Islands which is famous for its MWP (Muntok White Pepper). The white pepper or sahang typical of the Bangka Belitung Islands region which has been issued by the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia Number 000000004 dated January 21 2010 has been certified as a Geographical Indication (IG). The characteristic quality and taste of white pepper differentiates it

from other regions. Therefore, it can attract great attention in several countries around the world. Babylonian white pepper contains 5-7% piperine (spiciness level) which is quite high and has a distinctive aroma because of its pungent essential oil.

Pepper is one of the spices that people often use, for example to add a spicy taste, as a food flavoring and to eliminate the fishy smell of food. Bangka Belitung is one of the highest pepper producing provinces, followed by Lampung, West Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, Papua, West Nusa Tenggara, North Maluku and Yogyakarta. Even though pepper is of high quality and is the largest producer in Indonesia, in Bangka Belitung the presence of pepper has decreased from year to year, both in area and production. In 2018-2022, based on data from the Bangka Belitung Provincial Agriculture Service, in 2019 there was an increase, but in 2020-2022 there was a quite sharp decline in pepper product output, both in surface area and output.

The pepper planting area in 2018 reached 51,404 hectares and increased the pepper planting area to 52,688 hectares in 2019. However, the pepper planting area decreased to 52,192 hectares in 2020. This decline did not stop in 2020 but will continue in 2021. 49,465 hectares and will decrease again in 2022 to 44,548 hectares. If we look at the output, it is comparable to the pepper planting area, where in 2018 the pepper harvest reached 32,810 tons and increased to 33,458 tons in 2019. Meanwhile, pepper output tended to decline in 2019. 2020 was 29.44 tons and will continue. In 2021, pepper production will only be 27,167 tons, while in 2022 pepper production will only be 26,408.82 tons. The decline in land and pepper production was caused by the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak and the price of pepper on the global market.

The decline in pepper plantation area and production in the Bangka Belitung Islands is due to pepper farmers preferring to work as tin miners and palm oil plantations, this is also accompanied by a decline in the price of white pepper. Based on developments in the last few years, pepper prices have increased and also decreased. In 2018 to 2019 the price of pepper was around IDR 50,000- IDR 60,000. And it will continue to decline in 2020. The

price of pepper will start to increase rapidly in 2021-2023 now. Currently, the price of pepper is in accordance with Bappetti regarding information on the price of white pepper commodities, especially Bangka, at IDR 83,000.

The Bangka Belitung area is filled with pepper plantations. Where the pepper that grows in the Bangka Belitung Islands has a very important role or has a very big influence on the economy of the people of Bangka Belitung. However, it is very unfortunate, pepper plantations, which were previously occupied by many people, are now decreasing day by day because many people have switched jobs to become tin miners or switched to palm oil plantations. This is because the price of pepper is often unstable. If this continues, pepper production in the Bangka Belitung area will continue to decline every year and the pepper commodity population will decrease or even become scarce.

Pepper is a spice plant that plays a very important role in the Indonesian economy, this is because pepper is used as a source of foreign exchange for the country. The Bangka Belitung Islands are an area that contributes foreign exchange. There is no need to doubt the quality of the pepper produced in Bangka Belitung, the level of spiciness of the pepper exceeds the standard, this is what makes Bangka Belitung pepper superior.

Pepper is one of the most important spices among other spices, this is seen from the aspect of its very unique importance. The prospects for the pepper commodity in Indonesia can be seen from the potential of the domestic market with the increasing development of the food industry, health and cosmetics industry, as well as other industries that use pepper as a raw material. If pepper production in Bangka Belitung Province decreases, the amount of foreign exchange will also decrease. Of course, this really affects the economy of the people of Bangka Belitung. Pepper plantations are one of the main livelihoods of the community. If the pepper population continues to decline and even becomes scarce, the community will find it difficult to find a livelihood, this could result in the community having difficulty meeting their daily needs. Because of this, pepper plays a very important role

and even has a big impact on local communities.

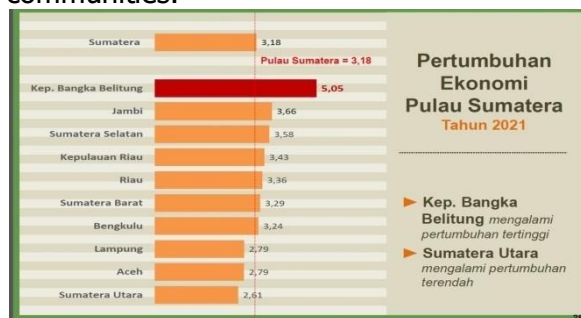


Figure 1. Economic growth of Sumatra Island

Dwi Retno Wilujeng Wahyu Utami (Head of BPS Babel) said that "Economic growth on the island of Sumatra in 2021 will grow by 3.18 percent. "The Bangka Belitung Islands experienced the highest growth in all of Sumatra Island and North Sumatra experienced the lowest growth".

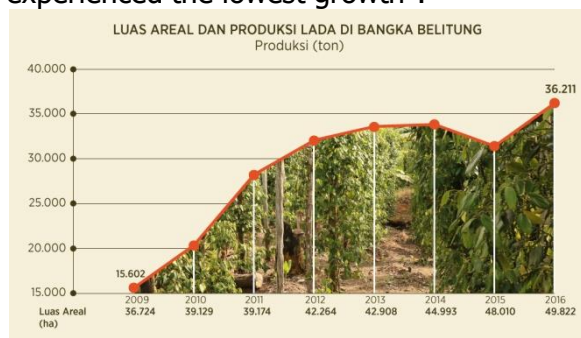


Figure 2. Plantation area and pepper production in Bangka Belitung

The picture shows the development of area and pepper production in Bangka Belitung in the period 2009 to 2016. In 2016 Bangka Belitung was recorded as the largest national pepper producer with production of 31,408 tonnes and productivity of 1.26 tonnes per hectare. However, behind the development of pepper production there are several obstacles experienced by the local community. Even though pepper plants have a fairly high selling value, the expansion of pepper plantations in Bangka Belitung is experiencing a slowdown. The obstacle is the very high investment costs in pepper, such as using dead poles to propagate pepper plants, around 2,000 stems per hectare, reaching IDR 50 million. These poles only last around 2-3 years, therefore the poles used must be replaced frequently.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the discussion, it can be concluded that most of the land in the Bangka Belitung Islands, especially Central Bangka Regency, is suitable for cultivating pepper plants with a plantation area of 3,554.48 ha and a production capacity of 2,896.87 tonnes, and the average pepper harvest produced is as much as 1.8 tons per hectare. And judging from the results of observations of farmers' income and the feasibility of businesses that are still profitable to continue developing pepper plantations. From the calculation of marketing margins, farmer's share and profitability index parameters, it has been indicated that the marketing performance of white pepper commodities is relatively efficient.

The Bangka Belitung Islands Province, especially Central Bangka Regency, needs to immediately carry out plans to build a pepper processing factory by bringing in investors, considering that in this area there is a fairly large availability of raw materials to improve the regional economy. This needs to be done to anticipate the decline in pepper prices in the international market which is integrated into the domestic market to increase the role of extension workers and activate farmer groups in the community to increase the quantity and quality of pepper produced to increase the bargaining position of farmers in the pepper marketing business in Bangka Belitung.

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Conflict of Interest

The author has published this article because in the author's opinion, with abundant natural resources, Bangka Belitung Province is one of the many provinces in Indonesia whose economic sector is developing. One influence is white pepper, where the aim of this research is to examine the development of pepper production on the economy of Bangka Belitung.

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