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**Factors Shaping the Operation of Machinery Hire Services:
Case Studies on the Implementation of the Institution for Rental
Service of Agricultural Machinery (IRSAM) Programme in
the Special Region of Yogyakarta, the Republic of Indonesia**

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree of

Master
of
AgriCommerce

at Massey University, Palmerston North,
New Zealand



KODRAD WINARNO

2017

ABSTRACT

As part of the government initiative to improve the production of agricultural commodities, particularly the five major staples – rice, maize, soybeans, sugar and beef, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of the Republic of Indonesia launched the implementation of the Institution for Rental Service of Agricultural Machinery (IRSAM) programme in 1998. The programme aims to encourage the use of farm machinery at the farm level to improve agricultural production, and to promote farmers to develop a rural business unit by providing agricultural machinery services to other farmers.

The IRSAM programme has been rolled out for more than 18 years. From this programme, many farmers have received machinery and started to provide services to other farmers. Nevertheless, the implementation of the IRSAM programme has been applied to different areas of the Republic of Indonesia, and showed various levels of success. Some IRSAMs have successfully developed the units into profitable businesses. However, the majority of the IRSAMs are still underdeveloped. This research is interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the factors that are shaping the operation of IRSAMs, especially in the Special Region of Yogyakarta and how they are working on those factors. By understanding the various factors, there would be a possibility for this research to provide recommendations on how the MoA will be able to improve the implementation of the IRSAM programme.

A multiple case studies approach was used to explore factors and circumstances, which influence the operation of the IRSAM. Two cases were selected in the Special Region of Yogyakarta. One IRSAM was chosen in each of Gunungkidul Regency and Bantul Regency, respectively. This research applied purposive and snowballed sampling to select participants. Sixteen groups of participants were interviewed. This research analysed the data using qualitative data analysis method.

The results revealed four significant factors influenced the operation of both IRSAMs. These were: 1) managers with good administrative and finance skills, 2) the availability of capable machinery operators, 3) the demand for machinery services from farmers (farmer group members and non-members), and 4) the availability of institutional support

from the public and private sectors that enable the IRSAM to flourish, such as access to financial aid, the availability of spare parts, access to agricultural extension services, training for IRSAM employees, and rural infrastructure (rural road networks and irrigation networks).

Although most of these factors have been identified in other literature, significantly, this research highlighted one factor that has previously not been identified. This factor was the availability of alternative private providers/other IRSAMs around the selected IRSAMs. Additionally, it was revealed that the formal organisation structure of the IRSAM seemed only to exist in the Republic of Indonesia. The formal structure has made the roles of manager and operators a significantly important factor in affecting the operation and success of the IRSAM.

This research illustrates the complexity of the dynamic factors that affect the operation of small-scale machinery service providers. The local circumstances and different characteristics of situations are going to mean that the specific factors and settings that are shaping the performance of the machinery hiring group will vary. This research shows how the delivery process of the IRSAM programme using a blanket policy does allow the IRSAMs to perform well across different situations. This study highlights the value that could be had for the IRSAMs to perform better if the government better targets types of machinery to match specific needs of farmers in different areas. Besides, the research suggests that the government could develop a database management system of public and private machinery hire services to obtain information on the actual supply and demand of machinery services.

Keywords: farm machinery hire services, small-scale farmers, agricultural mechanisation, IRSAM, custom hiring, the Special Region of Yogyakarta,

Title: Factors Shaping the Operation of Machinery Hire Services, Case Studies on the Implementation of the Institution for Rental Service of Agricultural Machinery (IRSAM) Programme in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, the Republic of Indonesia

Author: Kodrad Winarno

Degree: Master of AgriCommerce

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First, I would like to express Alhamdulillah, all praises just to Allah, for the endless blessing and guidance so that I was able to finish this research.

I also show my greatest appreciation to my supervisor, Associate Professor Peter Tozer for his guidance, advice, and support he has provided in the thesis. I would also thank my co-supervisor, Dr Janet Reid, for the patience, guidance, encouragement, and constructive suggestions she has given in the thesis. I have been very lucky to have both supervisors who cared so much and provided constant support for my work.

Special gratitude goes to my wife and son for their continued support and encouragement during the study. Many thanks go to my colleagues and friends for their support. Many thanks to my fellow students and staff from the Institute of Agriculture and Environment.

I am very thankful that the New Zealand Government has awarded me the NZ AID Scholarship, which has made it possible for me to obtain my Masters Degree at Massey University, Palmerston North. I would like to thank the ISSO team, especially, Sylvia Hooker, Jamie Hooper, and Dave Broderick, who have been supporting my study and other things related to it.

Many thanks go to the members of the Tirto Sari Farmer Group (TSFG) in Wonosari District, Gunungkidul Regency, and the Argorejo Farmer Group Association (AFGA) in Sedayu District, Bantul Regency, the Special Region of Yogyakarta, the Republic of Indonesia for participating in this research.

ABBREVIATIONS

2WT	Two Wheeled Tractors
4WT	Four Wheeled Tractors
AFGA	The Argorejo Farmer Group Association
AMMOTRAC	The Agricultural Mechanics and Operators' Training Centre
AMSEC	The Agricultural Mechanisation Service Enterprise Centres of Ghana
BAPPEDA	Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Daerah Kabupaten Bantul / Regional Development Planning Agency of Bantul
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CSAM	Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanisation
DPPKA	Dinas Pendapatan Pengelolaan Keuangan dan Aset Provinsi Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta / Provincial Agency for Revenues, Financial and Asset Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GA	General Assembly
GAPOKTAN	Gabungan Kelompok Tani / Farmer Group Association
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GOI	The Government of the Republic of Indonesia
GRDP	The Gross Regional Domestic Product
IAARD	The Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
JICA	The Japan International Cooperation Agency
MOA	The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia
MUHEC	The Massey University Human Ethic Committee
NAERLS	National Agricultural Extension Research Liaison Services of Nigeria
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPFS	National Programme for Food Security of Nigeria
OECD	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PNG	Papua New Guinea
POKTAN	Kelompok Tani / Farmer Group
PTOS	Power Tiller Operated Seeder in Bangladesh
QDA	Qualitative Data Analysis
SMEDC	The Small and Medium Enterprise Development Centre
TSFG	The Tirto Sari Farmer Group
UPJA /	Usaha Pelayanan Jasa Alat Mesin Pertanian / The Institution for
IRSAM	Rental Service of Agricultural Machinery

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