ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

FARMERS’ PROBLEMS IN THE ERA PANDEMIC COVID-19

Musviro 1*, Anggia Astuti 1, Primasari Mahardhika Rahmawati 1, Suhari 1

1 Diploma Degree of Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, University of Jember, Indonesia

*Correspondence:
Musviro
Diploma Degree of Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, University of Jember, Indonesia
Tegalboto Campus, Kalimantan Road 37, Krian Timur, Sumbersari SubDistrict, Jember Regency, East Java Province, Indonesia
Email: musviro.sis@gmail.com

Abstract

Background: During the Covid-19 pandemic there was a high risk of emergencies and disasters in agricultural areas. So that there are many problems for farmers in rural areas who generally have minimal information when compared to urban areas, especially in terms of accessing health information about Covid-19, this will certainly have an impact on different mindsets and perceptions in dealing with which pandemic. The Covid-19 pandemic is something new for the community. Efforts to deal with farmers' problems in the Covid-19 pandemic era by preventing the risk of emergencies and disasters in agricultural and livestock areas.

Objectives: This study aimed to dig deeper into the problems of farmers in the Covid-19 era.

Methods: The design of this study used an interpretive qualitative approach carried out through the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) method involving 10 farmer respondents. Data were collected using a thematic analysis approach based on Krueger, R and Casey, M.

Results: The results of the interviews resulted in five major themes, namely the theme of self-protection tools as a Covid-19 shield, Knowledge as a millennial farmer, supporting facilities for obtaining information, working environment conditions, marketing farm produce, change in work behavior.

Conclusion: The problems of farmers in the Covid-19 area tend to see problems in terms of health but also have an impact on agricultural output, work behavior so that it needs attention to overcome problems to deal with farmers' problems during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Covid-19, Farmers, Farmers’ Problems.
every day. Based on data from WHO (World Health Organization), Covid-19 cases in the world were counted in November 2020 as many as 57,918,616 cases with 1,377,910 deaths, 5 countries with the highest positive confirmed cases, namely USA, India, Brazil, France and Russia (WHO, 2020). The state of Indonesia itself has been exposed to this virus with 491,325 positive cases of Covid-19 with 15,762 deaths. Lumajang Regency also experienced an increase in positive confirmation patients from day to day. As of today, November 2020 has reported a number of 1,257 confirmed positive Covid-19 patients, 127 of whom have died (WHO, 2020).

Covid-19, since it was declared a pandemic, has dramatically and massively changed everything in the world order, including in Indonesia, until it finally affected all sectors, including agriculture and agriculture (Tanjungsari, 2020). Healthy and safe for farmers during the Covid-19 pandemic and the high risk of emergencies and disasters in agricultural and livestock areas need great solutions and attention. Various efforts have been made by the government in formulating a strategy for the spread of Covid-19, starting from Social Distancing, Lockdown, Rapid Diagnostic Testing, Compulsory Wearing PPE, Washing Hands, Using Hand sanitazer and others.

The community in the agricultural environment is generally a multicultural society. Multicultural society is a society composed of diversity and various cultures including different interests and habits (Setiawan, 2020). So that there are many problems for farmers in rural areas who generally have minimal information when compared to urban areas, especially in terms of accessing health information about Covid-19, this will certainly have an impact on different mindsets and perceptions in dealing with which pandemic. The Covid-19 pandemic is new to society. It is important to recognize the effects or impacts of Covid-19 on health and impact on the agricultural sector from an economic and other perspective, so there is a need for an implementation program to make problems for farmers effective and strategic (Ulya, 2020).

Based on the description, the author is interested in conducting research on Farmers' Problems in the Covid-19 Pandemic Era, it is very important to do this research which aims to dig deeper into the problems of farmers in the Covid-19 Era.

METHODS

Study Design

This research is a type of qualitative research with an interpretive phenomenology approach (Laila Febgriantie, Ani Rosita, 2017).

Setting

The research was conducted at the Burno Village Hall - Senduro on October until December 2020.

Research Subject

The number of participants in this study were 10 farmers who met the inclusion criteria, namely working as a farmer for at least 5 years. After the participants signed the form to become participants, the researcher and participants agreed to conduct an FGD (Forum Group Discussion).

Data Collection

Data were collected through the FGD method. Participants are given the opportunity to express their ideas freely according to their personal experiences and views. The main question posed to participants was "What are the problems of farmers during the Covid-19 pandemic?". All participant interview questions were transcribed verbally and phrases obtained from the collected data, examined repeatedly to ensure consistency, then coded and developed a theme.

Data Analysis

This study used inductive content analysis in analyzing thematic data, based on the approach of Krueger, R and Casey, M. The data analysis process is by making open coding and
categorizing after all the material is written and read more than once to understand its aspects and content.

Trustworthiness
Categories are grouped based on similarity, there are six main themes that are produced, to maintain the validity and reliability of the results of research, data analysis is carried out independently by researchers and themes are discussed until there are saturated results. In determining the final theme, the researcher conducted a peer review analysis. Henceforth, in writing the participant results abbreviated with the letter "P".

Ethical Consideration
This research has received approval from the ethical committee of the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Jember with No.1053 / UN25.8 / KEPK / DL / 2020.

RESULTS
Characteristics of Participants

Participants in this study were farmers who worked during COVID 19 and had 5 years of experience working as farmers.

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents at the Burno Village Hall - Senduro on October-December 2020 (n = 10).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Frequency (people)</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 30 years</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior High School</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior High School</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma/ Bachelor</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Primary Data of Questionnaires, 2020.

Table 1 showed that out of 10 respondents, the majority had male gender as many as 8 people (80.0%), while 2 people (20.0%) were female. Almost half of the respondents are in the productive age of 35-50 years, as many as 6 people (60.0%). The education level of farmers is mostly elementary school, namely 4 people (40.0%).

Personal Protective Equipment as A Shield for Covid-19

Use of PPE as a means of personal protection to prevent Covid 19 transmission for farmers. Even though farmers know the many effects caused by Covid-19, it is still a significant problem for farmers. In accordance with the participant's statement regarding the description, it can be seen below:

"This is not the case, even if I work in the garden wearing a mask it feels stuffy ma'am, especially when we are working hot, the heat is immediately exposed to the feeling of being breathless" (p1)

"Masks in the village are usually used when we go out. Just a house ma'am, if you go far away and if there are foreigners who enter the village, definitely use it, kerono kulo even if the original villagers are mriki ma'am... "(p2)

"Actually, the kulo is absorbing as dangerous, ma'am, but still trying to enjoy Kerono's Damel comfort, mboten is accustomed to... " (p3)

The above statement illustrates that many farmers still feel the problem of using PPE. Although PPE is useful for preventing virus transmission and PPE can also minimize risks, both risks that threaten the safety of workers during use.

Knowledge as millennial farmers

Generation of millennial or digital farmers by utilizing information technology can easily access various technologies and innovations to increase productivity, added value and competitiveness of agricultural products. With a lot of benefits but still a significant problem,
especially for farmers. Based on the participant's statement in accordance with the description it can be seen below:

"If in the village, young people are usually working hard, ma’am, usually working in the kerono factory, the results of the mboten, are not sure if you have a week of money with money" (p4)

"lazy, hot kulo work without pisan . Liyane Seng's work is cool ... ‘(p7)

"Nggeh is actually good, ma’am, but usually the prestige of school is not good...”(p8)

The statement above illustrates the problems of millennial farmers still happening. Although millennial farmers have many innovations to take advantage of information technology, they can easily access them to increase productivity, added value and competitiveness of agricultural products. But he still has many problems.

Supporting Facilities for Obtaining Information

Supporting facilities for the provision of information in accordance with the needs of farmers and the provision of adequate access facilities will encourage farmers to access complete information regarding the need for processing agricultural products but there are still many supporting facilities that have not been accommodated, many farmers have difficulty finding information. The participant's statement in accordance with the description can be seen below:

"If the difficult in the village signal is, ma’am, especially if it has entered the garden, only part of the card can be expensive mom” (p5)

"mboten all farmers have sophisticated cellphones ma’am. Many cellphones are fast, petanines say zinc is not updating the technology problem ... "(p9)

"the average petanine ora duwe is not a cellphone, because the average level of education is low, dadi ga iso carane golek information nang youtube google is still complete... “(p10)

The statement above illustrates that there are still many problems with supporting facilities. Even though it can be helped by many farmers to increase productivity, there are still many who lack the facilities and infrastructure to obtain information.

Conditions of the Working Environment the Conditions of The Work

Environment have an impact on improving the performance of farmers and agricultural products. The work environment is safe and can increase productivity but there are still many obstacles that need to be addressed. Based on the statements of participants in accordance with the description can be seen below:

"coolies, FE mboten Saget keep the yen wondering gedhang, soale abot lan Dalane teapot kebon ng board contemplating passable adoh linings” (p5)

"although cuacane danger lan period covid iki bu, coolies, FE ngge tetep kerjo teng kebon. If you don’t want to do it, you don’t want to be a bojo boy... “(p9)

“ I did it, asline nggewe dikenek corona, but because of the chaos, sometimes I have to wear a mask, it’s stuffy, I don’t get it, ma’am, Pokoke resigns Mawon Tenggusti Allah SWT. “(p10)

The above statement illustrates that there are still many problems in the working environment because agricultural land has very extreme problems in terms of location and weather.

Marketing of garden products

Marketing is a yardstick to see and assess the success of a business. Due to the pandemic, many problems have affected the marketing of garden products. In accordance with the participant’s statement regarding the description, it can be seen below:

"when the corona period was usually gedang sak kilone 8000 maleh saiki 2500, maleh farmers suffered losses " (p2)
"ngge yok po mnengene engine bu, economine podo mudun kabel seng usually middlem en jupuk Sak ton maleh half dadi, I can't help but be grateful I did Sak Onone. "(p5)

"Saiki because of Coronan't send it adoh, I did ma'am, Dadi Saiki ngandalno local tok. Dadi regane yo ga iso takakno”(p5)

The above statement illustrates the decline in marketing of agricultural products due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The impacts include a decrease in purchasing power due to a decrease in income for the productive sector.

**Change in Work Behavior**

Efforts to increase the level of quality of human resources (Human Resources) by going through the educational process to produce quality crops. But in the process, there are still many problems that need to be addressed. According to a statement the participants with regard to the description can be seen below:

"biasane sak durunge corona iso kerjo ng kebon Nganti afternon saiki mek sak bedukan ae bu, soale soroh ngedolelan's” (p5)

"I biyen directly ae gwe Klambi usual bu, saikigara because corona maleh seng gaw masks ma'am ... "(p10)

"since corona maleh thought mane had to plant oposengeisopayu didisoonok additional income "(p6)

The statement above describes the problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic causing many changes in work behavior which leaves farmers with reduced working time and reduced agricultural yields.

**DISCUSSION**

**Personal Protection Tools as A Shield for Covid-19**

Efforts to prevent the spread of covid-19 are carried out with various strategies starting from social distancing, regional lockdowns, rapid diagnostic testing, and others. In addition to these methods, protecting yourself from Covid-19 transmission is by using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Some types of PPE that are required or recommended to prevent transmission of COVID-19 are masks, face shields, and gloves. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) aims to prevent exposure to the virus in the body or transmitting the virus to other people (Theopilus, 2020). Although all PPE is useful for preventing exposure to viruses, PPE can reduce the risk from workers during use. Several phenomena are related to the risks of using PPE such as un-ergonomic design, excessive use of causing pain in some parts of the body, dangerous storage and disposal, and others. The lack of studies and understanding of good PPE causes potential workers to be unaware of the risks that arise in wearing PPE (Theopilus, 2020).

Many workers are vulnerable to occupational safety risks and protection against Covid-19, ranging from informal, non-formal workers, including dominant physical work in the field, low education, middle to lower economy and not under regulations, one of which is farmers (IBRA, 2009 in (Theopilus, 2020).

Based on the context of the use of workers in general in Indonesia, the personal protective equipment used as a Covid-19 shield, namely masks, face shields and gloves, this product was chosen because it is the main protection product from Covid-19 transmission. accessible and encouraged the government of Indonesia (Theophilus et al., 2020). the Ministry of Health (MoH, 2020), issued a protocol in the workplace, it can support business continuity in the era of the pandemic in accordance with some practical hints as follows: 1) Make sure the body be in good health at work; 2) Maintain hand hygiene and wash hands thoroughly bun and running water or using a hand sanitizer; 3) Avoid touching the face area, for example: eyes, nose and mouth; 4) Maintain a distance or Physical Distancing minimum zwith a distance of 1 meter with fellow workers while working; 5) Differentiating daily wear from work wear; 6) Use a mask outside, especially when working;
and 7) Shower and change clothes before contact with family members at home.

**Knowledge as A Millennial Farmer**

Indonesia is heading towards the development of the 4.0 industrial revolution, so this must be captured by the wider community, including in the agricultural sector, MSME players, and social activities (Jumadi, 2020). In general, the result of the 4.0 industrial revolution can result in changes in the way a person thinks, how to relate to other people, as well as various activities in various fields, in the industrial sector which has an impact on conditions in various fields. Not only technology but also social, economic and political fields (Jumadi, 2020).

According to (Simarmata, 2019), the main problems faced by Indonesia such as farmers getting old / aging, youth interest in farming are getting lower and the quality of human resources for farmers who generally have low levels of education.

Indonesian agriculture still mostly relies on conventional technology or natural resources based on agricultural economy. Processed products or agro-industries still have limited exports, because agricultural products are still dependent on raw materials so that added value and benefits are mostly enjoyed by importers or developed countries.

Millennial or digital farmer generations by utilizing information technology can easily access various technologies and innovations to increase productivity, added value and competitiveness of agricultural products, by utilizing national, regional and international markets (Simarmata, 2019).

Small farmers will not immediately be able to transform into modern farmers, as is the case with millennials, and vice versa. It needs to be developed with a different strategy. Small farmers are very important as producers of food (rice, secondary crops, and horticulture) because of the massive number, which is more than 88 percent of the total Indonesian farmers today. Whereas the existence of millennial farmers is very important because they are the future and the main actor in advancing Indonesian agricultural development today and in the future (Lakitan, 2019).

**Supporting Facilities for Obtaining Information**

Internet use has developed not only in information-based applications but also for use in Transaction. This shows that the use of the internet is a medium that has a selling value for products, especially in the capacity of vegetable crops. Farmers are a part of the profession that has a function in creating products. Farmers are part of the users who should be able to adopt media-based technological developments (Kusumadinata, 2016).

Research of Kusumadinata (2016) showed that the use of the internet among farmers is very minimal due to several internal constraints from farmers and farmer groups as well as from the agricultural system in the area which is based on agriculture itself, farmer marketing models are still manual word of mouth. mouth coupled with the ability of farmers who are minimal in information on the use of technology, especially in agriculture. Age has a very real and negative relationship with frequency, and a negative and significant relationship with the duration of internet use. This really shows the higher the age of the respondent. Thus, the frequency and duration of respondents accessing the internet is getting smaller (Elian et al., 2014).

The ease of accessing communication media in general will be directly proportional to the level of access, that is, the easier it is for farmers to access communication media, the higher the level of their access to the media. Sources of printed information take various forms, such as books, newspapers, magazines, brochures, leaflets and posters. Meanwhile, electronic media to access agricultural information are cell phones, TV, radio. Providing information in accordance with farmers’ needs and providing adequate access facilities will encourage farmers to access this information (Andriaty et al., 2011).
The use of application-based information and communication technology is a technology that is very helpful in agriculture in developing innovation. Some things that can be received from farmer information are market information, cultivation technology, processing technology, forecasts of climate and weather and general agricultural information (Kusumadinata, 2016).

Conditions of The Work Environment Working

Conditions are a series of conditions or conditions in a work environment from an organization that is a place of work, these conditions are formed from indicators that include: supervision, culture, facilities, workload and the physical environment. A pleasant working environment and adequate facilities will improve the performance of workers (Arifianto et al., 2018).

The research found evidence of the physical environment of agriculture is very supportive, this can be seen from the geographical conditions of the area which are still easy to reach, none of which have up and down contours. (Theopilus et al., 2020).

According to Aisha et al. (2013) suggest that good working conditions improve performance. Facilities that are not good or not standardized result in decreased performance, and excessive workload will affect performance (Arifianto et al., 2018).

The workload of farmers is more directed at the ability of farmers to carry out all activities that must be carried out carefully. This is supported by the problems faced by farmers, namely there is no work guidance relief for farmers with working hours of 14 hours / day and the risk of occupational diseases that threaten health for farmers and the risk of work accidents when lifting heavy loads, overloading conditions can cause workloads and mental disorders for farmers (Wurarah et al., 2020).

The Theme of Marketing of Garden

Products of the agricultural sector plays a very important role in overcoming crises caused by economic shocks or other factors. This is as stated by Yulia et al. (2015), relating to the role of the agricultural sector. The state of our country is currently facing the Covid-19 pandemic era. The impacts include a decrease in purchasing power due to income for the productive sector, this also affects the economic power of farmers (Salendu, 2020).

The government has launched various programs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, including social distancing, physical distancing Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB). This policy was carried out to avoid the transmission of Covid-19. The impact is that farmers cannot be collected so that empowerment cannot be carried out.

Marketing is a parameter to assess the success or failure of a business. Because the end result of the sales production process in the hope of getting a profit. The marketing process requires another party called a marketing agency.

The Theme of Changing Work Behavior

Agricultural development is still considered slow due to many things, one of which is the low quality of agricultural human resources. Human resources or labor are the driving factors of the agricultural sector. The education level of most farmers is still low, so their mastery of knowledge and technology is also weak. The characteristics of each person are different, this will determine their performance and productivity (Arifianto et al., 2018).

Efforts to improve the quality of agricultural human resources can only be realized through an educational process that has the core of empowerment, namely agricultural extension. Agricultural extension is expected to increase farmers' knowledge and skills, change farmer behavior, and independence of farmers so that they are able to manage their farming activities productively, effectively and efficiently (Arifianto et al., 2018).

CONCLUSION

The problems of farmers in the Covid-19 area are not only in terms of health, but it also
Musviro, et al. (2022)

has an impact on agricultural products, work behavior so that it needs attention to overcome problems to deal with farmers' problems during the Covid-19 pandemic.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
Thank you to those who have helped in completing this manuscript.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTEREST
Related to conflict of interest that arise when conducting article.

FUNDING
The funds used in this research came from the Research Section of the University of Jember through a competitive research program in 2020.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION
Musviro: Preparing research proposals, leading research, conducting research permits, cross-sectoral approach, collecting research data, presenting results reports, and compiling articles.

Anggia Astuti: Collecting data, assisting in the preparation of proposals, conducting data processing, assisting in compiling research reports, helping to prepare published articles.

Primasari Mahardhika Rahmawati: Collecting data, processing data, assisting in compiling research reports, helping to prepare published articles.

Suhari: Conducting preliminary studies, conducting research permits, cross-sectoral approach, assisting in the preparation of proposals, data collection, helping to prepare published articles.

ORCID
Musviro: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3705-7196

Anggia Astuti: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0224-4909

Primasari Mahardhika Rahmawati: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1887-318X

Suhari: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5993-0710

REFERENCES


---

**Cite this article as:** Musviro, Astuti, A., Rahmawati, P. M., Suhari. (2022). Farmers’ problems in the era pandemic Covid-19. *Nurse and Health: Jurnal Keperawatan*, 11 (1), 1-9. [https://doi.org/10.36720/nhjk.v11i1.228](https://doi.org/10.36720/nhjk.v11i1.228)