

## Empowerment of Women Farmer Groups in Utilization of Idle Land

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### Abstract

Unused land in Indonesia can be found everywhere, especially on the big islands. Unutilized land is also found in rural areas. In fact, idle land should not be wasted land. If handled properly, it will be able to improve the community's economy. On the other hand, women in rural areas have a lot of free time because they are usually not tied to a permanent job. Utilizing idle land by empowering women who are members of the Women Farmer Group, is the strategy that will be applied in this research. The purpose of this study is to describe the use of unused land in the surrounding environment through community empowerment, namely a group of women. The Farmer Women's Group in Gadog Cianjur Village is the empowered community in this study. The research method used is descriptive with a qualitative approach. How women are empowered to cultivate idle land to produce benefits for people's lives, will be described step by step. The women's spare time (Women Farmers Group) is put to good use by cultivating idle land in their village. Unused land that initially did not produce anything, can eventually be used as a place to grow vegetables. The results of cultivating on unused land which were worked on by these women, had an impact on increasing the family's economy and better social relations.

## Introduction

Indonesia is an archipelagic country with the largest area and longest coastline in Southeast Asia. According to the Statistics Agency, the land area of the Republic of Indonesia reaches 1.9 million square kilometers. The population reached 141 people per square kilometer, recorded in 2020. (Central Statistics Agency, 2021). Indonesia is ranked 15th in the world as the largest country. Several problems also arise as a result of the extensive land ownership. One of them is related to the amount of idle land or unused land. Indonesia is an archipelagic country or consists of islands, unused land or unused land spread throughout the islands. Especially large islands, even unused land is larger than the land area that has been well managed. This is something that requires thought and action from the government together with its people to utilize this empty land.

When compared with small countries which have relatively small land areas, they really need additional land for the benefit of their people's livelihood. Efforts to add land to expand the area (reclamation) of the country were carried out by them. An effort that must be paid at a price that is not cheap and not simple. How valuable land or land area is to them. Learning from how valuable land is, we the Indonesian people should not leave empty land that is less or unproductive. A country with a very large land area, Indonesia still has a lot of empty land that is less or even unproductive. In this case, idle land or unproductive land is divided into two categories. Category 1 land, which is located far from residential areas with an area measuring hectares. Category 2, namely idle land located near residential areas with a land area of no more than 5000 square meters. The land discussed in this research is category 2.

Regarding idle land, Gunawan (2019) said that, on average, people have unproductive land. This is due to low fertility and also the community's ignorance about managing land. As a result, many people just let their land lie abandoned. (Dr. Saeful Gunawan, 2019).

In such circumstances, of course community creativity is needed in utilizing unused land. How to utilize idle land is something that must be resolved in this research. Who should manage unproductive land, especially land located in the community environment, is also something that will be explored in this research. What are the results of using empty or unproductive land, is the goal to be achieved in this research. Raising problems related to unproductive land, stated by Rizky (2022), that the large number of areas of idle land or less productive land owned by the community means that they have to think about productivity so that their land can produce increased economic value. This less productive land cultivation can be restored by the community itself. (Rizky et al., 2022). Sugiarto also said the same thing.

According to Sugiarto in Nirzalin and Maliati (2017), to improve the welfare of farmers' living standards, policies are needed to increase income through various aspects that support the improvement of the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. In addition, appropriate commodity price policies are needed for farmers with sustainable agricultural business development, and driven by a more conducive business climate outside of agriculture. From this, benefits can be obtained for farming households as providers of labor, land assets and very limited capital. (Nirzalin & Maliati, 2017). Increasing income to achieve prosperity in a family is of course the responsibility of the head of the household, namely the husband. However, it is not a mistake if wives also participate or help their husbands in improving the welfare of the family. Especially when it is related to the free time that housewives have which simply runs out or is not utilized. It is even sadder if the free time of the women in the village is used for things that are not useful. Therefore, empowering women in community activities is of course considered very good.

What is empowerment? Nur Suriani (2019) said that empowerment is an effort to increase the abilities and potential possessed by a community so that their identity can be actualized, as well as their dignity and dignity to the maximum in order to survive and develop themselves independently. This is intended so that people can escape from the trap or situation of poverty and backwardness (Nur, 2019). If this is the case, women's empowerment means efforts to increase the abilities and potential of women so that they can actualize themselves, their dignity and worth to the maximum. In line with what Nur said, Meldianto (2022) emphasized the benefits of women's empowerment in terms of the nature of the women themselves, saying that,

Development carried out in rural areas has not involved all elements of society. Empowerment of women is very important to do because of several factors, namely as follows: a). Women tend to prioritize family and the welfare of family members rather than themselves. When women's welfare increases, family welfare will also increase. b). Women have greater sensitivity to the surrounding environment, so by empowering women they also indirectly empower the surrounding environment. (Meldianto & Hanani, 2022).

What Meldianto and Hanani conveyed regarding the benefits of empowering women, Anwar in Yani (2021) also conveyed the same thing. He said that, if viewed from the perspective of the area of feminism, women actually have a very large role in efforts to improve family welfare. The feminist movement carried out by women, especially those who are housewives, is to form an institution/organization or group to accommodate their creativity in order to improve family welfare. Women try to find side jobs (apart from household work) (Yani, 2021).

## Methods

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method which aims to understand symptoms that do not require quantification processing. According to Narbuko and Ahmadi in Deepublish (2023), descriptive research is research that attempts to answer existing problems based on data. The process of data analysis in descriptive research is, presenting, analyzing and interpreting. Descriptive research attempts to collect complete information to answer research questions by paying attention to aspects obtained from research data, so that it can describe a condition, event or phenomenon specifically and sequentially. Meanwhile, qualitative research methods are explained below.

Qualitative research methods are a type of method for describing, exploring and understanding the meaning that a number of individuals or groups of people ascribe to social or humanitarian problems. The qualitative research process involves important efforts, such as asking questions and procedures, collecting specific data from participants, analyzing data inductively starting from specific themes to general themes, and interpreting the meaning of the data. The final report for this research has a flexible structure or framework. Anyone involved in this form of research must apply an inductive research perspective, focusing on individual meaning and translating the complexity of a problem. (Creswell 2021: 4-5). Referring to the definition and explanation above, the qualitative descriptive method is qualitative research in which the form of description uses facts or phenomena obtained from real and real data. The nature of qualitative descriptive research is *ex post facto*, therefore there is no control group for variables, and researchers do not set or manipulate variables.

The use of empty (unproductive) land in the surrounding environment (Gadog Village, Pacet District, Cianjur Regency) and the free time that women have who are not tied to permanent work, are two collaborative variables. If these two variables are left unchecked or there is no management action, they will be wasted, and even result in losses. However, if the two are combined with the right treatment, it will produce results that are very beneficial for people's lives. The use of these two variables through this research process will then describe the results on the standard of living of the family or community. This leads to the aim of this research, namely to describe the use of unused land in the surrounding environment through empowering women (Women's Farmers Group). It is hoped that the final results of this research can be implemented in communities in different places which of course have similar characteristics to Gadog Village, Pacet District, Cianjur Regency.

## Results and Discussion

### Get to know Gadog Village, Pacet District

Gadog Village is one of the villages in the Pacet District government area, Cianjur Regency, West Java. This village was established based on the Decree of the Governor of West Java, number: 146.1/SK/1334-PEMDES/82, dated: 28-08-1982. Gadog Village is an expansion village of the main village, namely Cipanas Village. When it was established as an independent village, its area was  $\pm$  234 Ha, with the following boundaries.

To the north: borders Sindanglaya Village, Cipanas District;

East: borders Cibodas Village, Pacet District;

South: borders Cipendawa Village, Pacet District; And

West: borders Cipanas Village, Pacet District.

The current population of Gadog Village is 5,144 men and 4,846 women. Gadog Village has 2,655 families. With the area and population listed above, it is divided into 37 Neighborhood

Units (RT) and 12 Resident Associations (RW). A number of neighborhood associations and community associations are located in 4 hamlet areas. The current village head is named Miftahudin.

A village or village, of course, its residents have a livelihood to meet their living needs. Likewise with Gadog Village. The majority of residents in this village earn their living as traders and entrepreneurs. The livelihoods of the minority residents of Gadog Village are listed as private employees, laborers, retirees, TNI/POLRI/PNS, and others.

This village is in the Puncak area with cool temperatures that tend to be cold. Tourism is very developed in the peak area because of its coolness. Of course tourism in this peak area can help the community's economy. Apart from that, this temperature is of course very supportive for the growth of vegetables. Therefore, in the Puncak area, including Gadog Village, vegetable farming is more developed than rice growing. As a supporter of the community's economy, growing vegetables is the livelihood of farmers in this area.

The name Gadog Village itself has its own story based on an interview (25 May 2023) with one of the residents, Mr. Hasli Purnama. According to his statement, the origin of the name "Gadog" comes from the name of a tree that grows large in that place. Based on the agreement of the residents at that time, the area was called Kampung Gadog. Currently, the tree is no longer there/is dead.

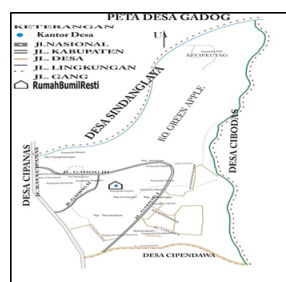


Figure 1. Map of Gadog Village, Kec. Pacet District. Cianjur

Source: Obtained from [blogspot.com](http://blogspot.com)

### Women Farmers Group (KWT)

The word "group" can be attached to various objects or information, which then becomes a phrase. For example, we know the phrases "farmers' group", "outstanding student group", or "hawker group" and other groups. All of these groups are activities that empower the community for certain purposes. Likewise with the formation of the Women's Farming Group (KWT) in community life. Does the Women Farmers Group, Margayaningsih (2020) say that,

We usually find farmer groups dominated by men. As the demands of the times, needs and developments become increasingly complex, the innovation of the Women Farmers Group has grown as a forum for women to innovate more in the agricultural sector. The growth of the Women Farmers group is a self-help group from, by and for the benefit of the community. This Women Farmers Group's work area does not extend beyond the administrative boundaries of the village where the women live. To improve, develop and empower natural resources and human resources in that place, and to optimize local agricultural potential, it is necessary to develop the role of Women Farmer Groups. (Margayaningsih, 2020).

This explanation implies that the Women's Farming Group does bring many benefits to people's lives. Apart from being beneficial for the surrounding community, the benefits themselves are felt by the KWT members. In line with what was stated by Margayaningsih, Afifah (2021) also conveyed the same thing. He said that,

The agricultural program implemented in Indonesia will be better, more innovative and ready to compete with other developing countries in realizing an independent country with the help of various parties. One of them is the involvement of women in the management of agriculture. Women have quite an influential role in managing the agricultural sector. The existence of female farmers who are members of the Women's Farming Group (KWT) will have an impact on agricultural products that will have higher economic value. (Afifah & ., 2020).

Therefore, the community must be aware of the benefits of forming a Women's Farmer's Group in their area. As is the case in Gadog Village, Pacet District, Cianjur Regency, the community recognizes the importance of forming a Women's Farmer's Group. This means that the people of Gadog Pacet Village, especially women farmers, are aware of the importance of seizing opportunities and empowering their potential to improve or increase their family's standard of living. In Gadog Village, the Women's Farmers Group was formed in 2019. They carry out activities in accordance with the provisions of the function of the existence of a community whose members are women in the village.

The Women's Farmers Group in Gadog Village was founded by Mr. Hasli Purnama. He is a resident of Gadog Village who has lived there for decades. As a community leader and elder in the village, Mr. Hasli Purnama is called to improve the welfare of his residents by utilizing unused land and empowering the women there. The foresight in question, namely the availability of sleeping areas in residential areas and for some women who are not tied to permanent work, is the starting point for useful action. Starting with his concern, the Gadog Village Women's Farmers Group was finally formed. The name of the KWT is: "Jembar Srikandi Farming Women's Group". "Jembar" itself is the name of the village where the group of women live. Meanwhile, "Srikandi" is the name of a female character in the world of wayang who has excellent abilities and charisma. Srikandi is a figure who is an example and worthy of imitation by women for her strength in her struggle. Therefore, the Women's Farmers Group in Gadog Village attached the name of this figure to their community.

After the name KWT was formed, the next Management for the Srikandi Farmer Women's Group in Jembar, Gadog Village, was formed, namely as follows.

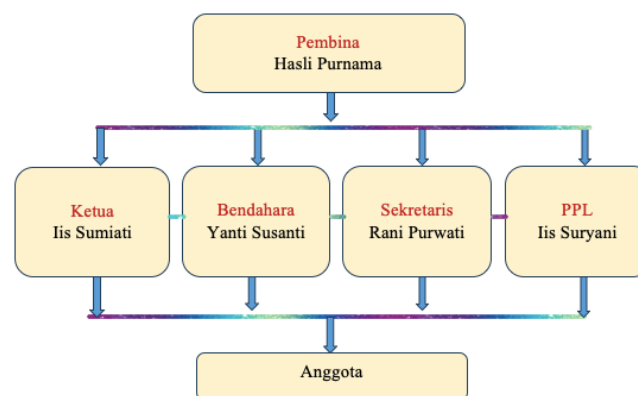


Figure 2. Management Organigram of the Srikandi Jembar Women's Farming Group Gadog Village, Pacet District, Cianjur Regency

Source: Management Document of KWT Srikandi Jembar Gadog Village

Apart from management, the Women's Farmers Group has an activity plan for managing unused land which will be used as agricultural land.

According to Nuryono (2019), the main activities of the Women Farmers Group (KWT) are: (1) Utilize yard space. Utilization of yard land or empty land or idle land, namely by carrying

out vegetable, fruit and toga (family medicinal plants) cultivation activities. The land is managed as an agricultural business to support daily food needs aimed at meeting family needs; 2) Processing of agricultural products. Agricultural products, whether grown in one's own yard or on empty land or idle land, are generally used for the grower's daily needs. Apart from that, it can be sold to the market in the form of raw materials, it can also be processed into semi-finished or finished materials so that it can increase its selling value.

Referring to what Nuryono said, the activity of the Srikandi Jembar Women's Farmers Group, Gadog Village, Pacet District, is planting vegetables. The variety of vegetables chosen are vegetables whose seeds are easy to obtain at affordable prices. Apart from that, the types of vegetables that the local community are used to consuming are selected. What is no less important is that the variety of vegetables chosen is easy to care for so the risk of the plant dying is very low.

The vegetable plants chosen as cultivated plants are of course not plants that live in water. Vegetables whose planting area is on moorland (land) are the type used. Tomatoes, curly chilies, caisins, Siamese squash, lily onions, are examples of types of vegetables that are very suitable for growing in land areas. This adapts to the planting land that will be used, namely unused land in the area where residents live. The planting land used is idle land or empty land that is not utilized and is located in the environment around where the Women Farmers Group lives. Of course, the use of land for agricultural land, with the permission of the land or land owner. The vacant land or vacant land chosen is land that is close to where the women cultivating the land live. Why is that, because reaching places to plant crops does not take up a lot of time and energy for these women.

### **Utilization of Sleeping Land**

What is meant by sleeping land? According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), the meaning of idle land is open land that is not used economically by the owner. The land is left alone or not managed/utilized. Usually, only grass grows on the sleeping land. Idle land is an unplanted area that has agricultural potential but is left without any effort to utilize it by the people who own the land. Considering that Indonesia is a very large country, the unused land owned by this country is also quite extensive. However, if the vacant land is located far from residential areas, it cannot be utilized by the community through empowerment. The size of the land is also a consideration for the community if they want to process the unused land into an agricultural or plant cultivation area. Only land that is not too large is chosen as agricultural land through community empowerment, especially women's empowerment.

Unused land that can be utilized through empowerment is land located around residential areas. Moreover, the perpetrators of empowerment are a group of women. It is well known that women have responsibility for household work in their respective homes. So, their remaining time can only be used at work places that are not far from their homes. Therefore, so that the women's time is not wasted traveling, the agricultural area used for farming must be close to the residence or house of the Women's Farming Group members.

Rumagit (2018) said that utilizing idle land accompanied by improving cropping patterns with commodity diversification can enrich farmers' income sources or improve their standard of living so that they can later earn more income. The large amount of land that is not managed even though the land could be productive is of course a special concern to encourage people to cultivate their land so that it can improve community welfare (Rumagit, 2018).

### **Empowerment of Women in Agriculture**

Empowering society is not limited to men who are used as objects of empowerment. Many of us think that agricultural activities are hard work so only men are right to do them. It turns out that's not the case. Women can do work in the agricultural sector. For example, some jobs are considered to be very burdensome for women or tend to be risky and not good for women, so it is permissible to help or ask for help from male workers.

Prawirasworo (2013) said that, conceptually the word empowerment comes from the word power (power or empowerment). Therefore, the main idea of empowerment is related to the concept of power. Power is often associated with our or someone's ability to get others to do what we want, regardless of their own desires and interests. Traditional social science emphasizes that power is related to influence and control. This understanding assumes that power is something that does not change or in other words, cannot be changed. With an understanding of power like this, empowerment as a process of change then has a very meaningful concept and understanding. (Prawirasworo et al., 2013).

In line with what Prawirasworo stated, Margayaningsih (2018) said that the empowerment process does not occur immediately or just like that, but with the participation and participation of a group of people so that it can be effective. In order for empowerment to take place and be successful, it is not only necessary to participate and master science and technology, but we must develop people well so that they are able to adapt their thoughts and actions to developments that occur and have a sense of responsibility and contribute to maintaining the results. from that empowerment or the efforts that have been implemented. (Margayaningsih, 2018).

What about empowering women or women in the agricultural sector? Suradisastra said that increasing the role and involvement of women in certain productive activities is an effort to increase the efficiency of using local resources and improve the economic status and security of their lives. The involvement of women in agricultural productive activities allows them to increase the strength of their role as family members in terms of the strength of the input value that women contribute to the decision-making process. This is because women who participate in productive activities actually make a measurable contribution in the form of increased income for their families. Apart from that, they can also control production assets.

According to Novian in Mafidah (2015), women's empowerment is an effort to enable women to gain access and control over all resources, economic, political, social and cultural. This is so that women can organize themselves and increase their self-confidence to be able to play an active role and participate in solving problems. In this way, women are able to build their abilities and self-concept. Women's empowerment is a learning process as well as a goal (Mafidah, 2015).

Why does this research highlight the empowerment of girls/women? This started from the discovery that several women in Gadog Pacet Village had more time after they had finished their household work. If this extra time is not used properly, it could be wasted and it is even possible that something bad will happen. Therefore, utilizing time with structured management will minimize useless results.

The women who are empowered are also not all the women residents of Gadog Village. However, the women referred to are women who are not tied to permanent work. This means that they still have time left after completing household chores. The remaining time that women have, if it is not utilized through positive activities, will simply be wasted. Therefore, why is women's empowerment emerging in this research, because women in villages, on average, are not tied to permanent work, and they will have time to spare.

### **Management of Idle Land by KWT in Gadog Village**

Gadog Village, Pacet District, Cianjur Regency has several areas of idle land. Through the idea of one of the village residents (Mr. Hasli Purnama), namely using the vacant land to plant vegetables. He submitted this proposal to the Gadog Village government led by the Village Head, Mr. Miftahudin. Village officials responded positively to the village officials' proposal. Discussions between the villagers regarding the use of vacant land with the management of the Women's Farmers Group were approved. As a result of the agreement, village officials will make a bridge to meet the owner of the idle land as an effort to help plan the utilization of the idle land by the Women's Farmers Group (KWT), which is an element of the village community organization. Several owners of idle land in Gadog Village were contacted and invited to discuss plans to use the land. There are several vacant plots of land that fall within the Gadog Pacet Village government area. Considerations were also discussed for the smooth running of activities. Things that do not burden women as perpetrators of activities are highly prioritized. For example, it relates to the distance between the agricultural area and where the women live. The closest distance is more of an option.

The residents' consultations resulted in a decision that the vacant land that would be managed belonged to a member of the KWT Srikandi Jembar, Gadog Village. The land that will be managed as a vegetable growing area has an area of 420 square meters. As stated above, the distance between the vacant land that will be used as vegetable farming land is relatively close to where the Women Farmers Group lives. Techniques for managing unused land are also carried out by other communities. We can see this in the activity report by the Ministry of Agriculture through the Agricultural Extension and Human Resources Development Agency (2020). It is said that people can apply family farming technology to utilize empty land and can grow crops at home or in their living environment. Another technique that can be used is vertical farming such as hydroponic plants and urban farming by utilizing alleys and even building roofs that are used for agricultural land. The key is the availability of adequate water and light for the benefit of plant life.

The next step is to discuss soil processing before entering the planting period. All KWT administrators and members were present to discuss this matter. The discussions resulted in the following decision; (1) Seek assistance (capital, vegetable seeds, vegetable pesticides) from local residents apart from village funds; (2) Looking for workers to process idle land into agricultural land; (3) Determine the type of vegetables to be planted; (4) Prepare a KWT work schedule at the planting location; (5) Discussing the routines that must be carried out by all members of KWT Srikandi Jembar.



*Figure 3. Pesticide contributors to vegetables*

After the five things that must be fulfilled first have been obtained, then processing of the idle land is carried out. Specifically, land processing (hoeing) is carried out by male workers with daily payment. Loosening the soil, making kerf mounds for planting vegetable seeds, is work done by male workers.

KWT members carry out work according to the agreement (outside of the time to complete homework). Their working hours are not time-bound or guided by a fixed time like office workers. Each member has free time to manage their agricultural project, it may vary. This was discussed in the initial discussion of this activity. If KWT members can start their work at the farming site at 09.00 or 10.00, that is permitted. As long as there is certainty that free time will be used to do work in the jointly owned garden. It is not permitted to force KWT members to leave their homework because they have to complete activities on agricultural land.

The vegetable planting period begins after the beds as planting areas are available. The types of vegetables grown are tomatoes, cayenne peppers, chayote, chaisim, curly chilies and lily onions. It is also permissible to plant additional vegetable plants in between planting areas. For example, plant one or two basil or ginger trees, because these plants are also needed in everyday life as vegetables or kitchen spices. The Women Farmers Group started working as vegetable cultivators. In the initial stage of work, namely planting all types of vegetables that have been determined, all KWT members were present and were involved in working together to complete the planting of these vegetables. They carried out the task until it was completed.

After the planting period is over, they also have to complete the next work task, namely caring for the plants. The subsequent care of vegetable plants is the responsibility of all members and administrators of KWT Srikandi Jembar (26 people). The job distribution system has been arranged in such a way. Every day, there is always someone in charge at the agricultural location. Those on duty that day do what the plants need (pulling weeds, applying fertilizer, spraying plant pests).



*Figure 4. KWT is cleaning the vegetable garden*



*Figure 5. KWT is weeding*



*Figure 6. Fertilizing daffodils*

Caring duties are continuously carried out in turns according to the agreement until harvest time arrives. Of course, each vegetable plant has a different harvest or harvest time. Lily onion plants take 2.5 to harvest time. This harvest time is needed for daffodils by planting seeds or seedlings. Meanwhile, for cayenne pepper, the first harvest takes around 2.5 to 3 months. Cayenne pepper trees can survive multiple harvest periods or be productive until they are 24 months old. Chayote, different from other vegetable plants. Once planted, this vegetable can be harvested many times with the plant lasting up to years.

In contrast to Siamese pumpkin, daffodils and chaisim are types of vegetables that only have one harvest per planting period. Of course, these two plants are also different from chilies, tomatoes and Siamese squash. These three types of vegetables can be harvested multiple times by planting them just once. Chilies, tomatoes and chayote can be harvested many times if the trees are maintained properly.



*Figure 7. KWT harvesting Siam dock*

### **Benefits of Idle Land Management by KWT**

The use of idle land or empty land that has been left unattended has received attention from several parties. We can prove this with several studies related to the use of idle land. Research conducted by Muttaqin (2018) is one of the studies related to the use of idle land. Researchers say that the use of empty land is one of the urban farming efforts in Jatiningor. With the limited land available in Jatiningor, the people there can carry out urban farming as an effort to get used to building family food security starting from the home and the environment around where they live. This agricultural activity is primarily aimed at meeting daily food needs for individual household consumption. (Muttaqin et al., 2019).

There is a correspondence between the research conducted by Muttaqin et al. compared with this study. One of the focuses of the equation lies in the use of empty or idle land. The difference

in focus is that this research empowers women who are not tied to permanent work. Empowered women work on agricultural projects together.

Empowerment in this research elevates the gender class, namely women. What we want to highlight in this research is the involvement of women in managing unused land by collaborating with their free time. Collaboration between the use of sleeping land and free time owned by women's groups is expected to synergize to produce economic improvements for their families. Meanwhile, Muttaqin's research empowers farming communities in general. However, the results obtained or the impact of this empowerment have one thing in common, namely supporting food security. More specifically, the main result of empowerment is to meet the daily vegetable consumption needs of the local community.

Apart from meeting daily vegetable needs, KWT Srikandi Jembar's activity of using unused land as vegetable planting land also provides other benefits. It turns out that the harvest can exceed the daily vegetable needs of all KWT members. Therefore, the excess harvest is sold to the market or to vegetable collectors. The proceeds from selling vegetables are saved as supplies for Eid or holidays.

"Every Eid, all members can enjoy the results of their efforts in the form of packages for holiday needs," said Hasli Purnama, as supervisor of KWT Srikandi Jembar. The distribution of business results before this holiday is actually not the main objective of KWT Srikandi Jembar's activities. Cultivating unused land and facilitating local women's free time were the initial activities. This means that the remaining profit from the business is the good effect of utilizing idle land in collaboration with the distribution of remaining time owned by the Women Farmers Group in Gadog Village.

Another thing found from the results of this research is that social relations or relationships between members of the community have become closer. Gadog Village, as a transitional place between rural and urban communities due to the influence of local tourism, of course has an impact on increasingly strained social ties. Through KWT's utilization of unused land, social relations have improved. After every harvest, they have a meal together as an expression of gratitude for the good fortune they have received. Religious elements and social values emerge from the implementation of activities for utilizing unused land and empowering Women Farmer Groups.



*Figure 8. KWT eating together after harvesting vegetables*

## **Conclusion**

Unused land in Gadog Village, Pacet District, Cianjur Regency, is being managed as vegetable growing land through the empowerment of the Women's Farmer Group (KWT). Of the several unused land in Gadog Village, the selected unused land used as agricultural land is an area of

420 square meters. This is based on considerations through discussions between KWT members, KWT supervisors, people who own empty or idle land, and local village officials. Management of vegetable land through empowerment of the Srikandi Jembar Women's Farmer Group (KWT). The number of administrators and members of KWT Srikandi Jembar in Gadog Village is 26 people. Activities from planting seeds, caring for them, to harvesting, are carried out by the Gadog Village Women's Farmers Group. Their work schedule is adjusted to the time they each finish their homework. Some of the work or processing of planting land is assisted by male workers because this has an unfavorable effect if done by women.

The results of the management of idle land by KWT Srikandi Jembar Gadog Village are: 1) idle land is used as vegetable growing land; 2) the remaining time that women in Gadog Village (Women's Farmers Group) have is channeled into cultivating vegetables; 3) the need for vegetables for daily consumption by the Gadog Village Women's Farmers Group is met; 4) some of the vegetable harvest is sold and used as savings to be distributed on holidays; and 5) community communication ties are getting closer. This research can be implemented in other areas that have vacant land and in these areas there are several women who are not tied to permanent work. These two things are not the only things that support the implementation of unused land utilization activities by the Women Farmers Group. Support from the village government and surrounding community, especially the husbands of the women who are members of the KWT, is also needed.

The support of community leaders also plays a very important role in the implementation of the program for utilizing unused land through empowering women. Community awareness of the importance of working together to improve family welfare is also needed as capital to carry out community activities. The village government's policies and financial support for community activities will make it easier to implement all community programs. The problem related to this research that has not been explored or touched is the modern marketing of agricultural products or products. Product packaging and marketing methods may increase revenue or product prices. The follow-up to the harvest has not yet reached the stage of processing it into food. The vegetable harvest has also not been followed up in the form of processing into food. With modern product packaging and marketing and processing into food, the profits of KWT managers and members will increase .

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