

## Plantation Without Burning: The Application of Business Concept and Common to the Oil Palm Plantation in West Kalimantan

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### ABSTRACT

It is difficult to argue that the Province of West Kalimantan (WK) is one of the areas that exist in producing smoke in the event of drought. Combustion is not only done on the farm, but also in residential areas. Environmental clean-up activities done by the people in the dry season, is always followed by combustion activities, ranging from household waste burn to grass or bush burn. Thus simultaneously, make smoke become a problem not only for the people of West Kalimantan, but also for people in neighboring countries. But then, the plantation and forestry sectors considered as the main culprit of the onset of the smoke and be prolonged paradox.

Not only WK who became industrial smoke in the Southeast Asian region. There are still as many as 13 provinces were equally strong existence with WK in producing smoke. There are NAD, North Sumatra, West Sumatra, Riau, Riau Islands, Bangka Belitung, Jambi, South Sumatra, Bengkulu, Lampung, South Kalimantan, East Kalimantan and Central Kalimantan.

Existence of smoke, was not only due to the absence of local regulations on the prohibition of burning, but also on not touching the interests of farmers in developing palm oil that owned by the people. When the government issued prohibit burn policy, the industrial states will obey that regulation, but not for the people. When the local regulation is not accommodating the interests of farmers, the burning activity is become a smart choice to reduce the production costs and this phenomenon will be occurs along time and never be ending.

In the local level, it turns out there are people who do not apply the fire in their plantation activities. There is a custom concept successfully applied on an ongoing basis into the plantation business by a local group in West Kalimantan. Apparently, it could be put as the good practices of local communities, can be developed to initiate Indonesia without smoke in the next drought.

*Keywords: (1) The paradox haze, (2) land burn ban regulations, (3) accommodation of interests of farmers, and (4) initiation of countermeasures fog models*

### INTRODUCTION

When palm oil (sawit) was first introduced to the people of West Kalimantan and at beginning from Ngabang and Parindu about 1980s by PTPN XIII, many responses from the public appeared at that time. The issue then developed in the community is sawit will not give the welfare to society because of how much money the result from the garden, will be spent for replanting programs that require large expenses. On the other hand, in order to clear land for new gardens or for replanting, society is not allowed to burn and it will need so many cost. With these two issues, then the public becomes confused. This confusion lasted up to more than 15 years.

However, now it seems not the case anymore. After farmer get many lesson from the experience of replanting or cultivation of

agricultural and plantation techniques similar to the model that has been applied by PTPN XIII in fostering local community. Implementation of this urban is not a problem for companies that already have capital and working facilities. However, a problem for small farmers with limited capital and labor without providing adequate facilities. Therefore, it takes more intensive training to farmers in order to burn the habit was not done on land. Besides PTPN XIII, he is Rufinus Sumah Arif, who founded the Obenk's Pangodi Institution in Dusun Perontas, Sanggau which tries to give a lesson to the people how to do business without need to burn on his plantation land. This paper tries to tell about Mr. Arif's experience in managing land without fuel on the area of 14 Ha of rubber plantations, and on oil palm plantations covering 40 Ha and on an enclave of 5 hectares of indigenous forest as its concession area.

### Blending Sawit, Rubber and Tembawang Without Burning

Society has been observing and researching, then apply the models that they have seen from the nucleus (in this context role by PTPN XIII). Over 15 years of partnering with PTPN XIII, Mr. Arif sees and observe the model's estate that developed by state companies. From his observation, Pak Arief do alone everything that he knows. We say, the knowledge of Mr. Arif get from watching was called as a transfer of spirit and transfer of work system; from subsistence pattern farming, hunting and farming to meet their own needs to the pattern of modern estates (business and commodities), practiced a model transfer of Osborne and Gaebler (1992) in managing public institutions. Mr. Arif tried to manage the rubber and oil palm plantations not on one area, but he plant the sawit and rubber in the different or separate area. With this model, he remain friendly to nature. 'The fire should only be used for cooking in the kitchen and not to burn the land', so says Mr. Arif who believe that working on land that is free from burning activity.

Working model practiced by Mr. Arif is a working that has been done by PTPN XIII, the agent whose act as a mentor. When looking at the fire, with all workers of Mr. Arif totaling 14 people are trying to extinguish. Mr. Arif has successfully transferred this passion to the 14 workers, soon of the workers loudly told the author that 'The fire in the plantation is our enemy and when we saw it, we become restless at work and immediately act and ensure that the fire was extinguished'. Thus, not only Mr. Arif who became water boom (*Bomba*), but also 14 workers whose work with him.

Mr. Arif retaining most of its land area as the left tembawang (inclave) sustainable. This inclave region in such a way to give a place for forest biodiversity and make the region as a "free entertainment" not only to animals and plants, but also for the people who work in the garden. Mr. Arif claimed to accommodate this concept of PTPN XIII, while PTPN XIII said, adopting and learning from the local community. I wonder which side is right, but both indicate that a concept of good governance or so-called good governance is not born only from one side, and when each good practice or good



practice (Cheema and Rondinelli, 2007). Combined and refinement of good practice will result the best practices that can be applied and modified in such a way to fit all areas of public life (Chhotray and Stoker, 2009).

When a problem appears, it must be solved. From this logic, it will appear the way as a solution which later became a model in settlement of a case for eliminating the problem or the same or almost the same in the future so as not to interfere with the performance of institutions (Robinson, 2001). When the problem will be solved, it will be a party that felt bad. But it will be a bitter pill medicine (panacea) which can cause immune future. With this panacea, the same case will be denied when the previous case because it has given rise to a new problem or exacerbate the situation so that the parties will attempt to resolve the case. While the good practice developed continuously, it will result replication to be applied in the other place and put as the new model. The new model was developed from the good practice that already exist and are useful to improve the quality of work or productivity. We call that practice as the best practice (Osborne, 2010). Both logic of this thinking can be illustrated in the Figure 1.

So, practice as conducted by PTPNX III and Mr. Arif is a good practice that departs from the negative side (fuel habit problems of land) which later change to a way that good practice, which in this context is the management of the garden without fuel. Apparently, the result is a win-win solution (see The World Bank, 2010 for further discussion), that the result is a quality garden without burning. Mr. Arif is also excellent

### **Managing Garden Without Burning**

Mr. Arif has held many certificates of land. But, not all certificates that he holds are owned by himself. Most certificates that he owned bring to bank as a collateral to the Bank for obtaining working capital financing. Mr. Arif, as the fact, has an area of 59 ha. However, de jure, he only has an area of 8 hectares. Not all the land which he holds is on behalf of himself, but also there is the name of his wife and two children. The rest is land on behalf of others. These lands were acquired by means of many people bought that has yet to be certified conversion of his property. Land purchased is the garden that are not well maintained by the original owner. Figure 2 shows the condition of the land before it was transformed into a normal garden, while Figure 3 shows the old palm garden after rejuvenated with no fuel.

In an area of 59 hectares, Mr. Arif separates sawit and rubber and also let the tembawang forest still exist. On an area of 14 Ha rubber and 40 Ha sawit and 5 Ha tembawang, Mr. Arif that he had also graduated from S3 (elementary, middle and high school) combines creative hearts and minds with the actions from the perspective of the villager". With this creation, Mr. Arif can get income amount Rp50 million per month, equivalent to the salary of my colleagues, Dosisha University lecturer who holds a Doctorate in Kyoto, Japan. Many people have come to Mr. Arif Plantation Complex. Likes Director General of Agriculture, Head of LPP Yogyakarta, even researchers from abroad such as Japan, Australia and Europe. Not to

forget, students of Faculty. Agriculture UNTAN also, learn practical knowledge in cottage of Obenk's Pangodi Institution.

With the synergy of commodities and tembawang, Mr. Arif has been escape from the economic crisis. When oil prices plummeted in 2008 and 2012 ago, Mr. Arif still "exist" because he still has the rubber plantation area of 14 ha which can be a money machine for himself and 14 of its workforce, not less than Rp20 million per month. Afternoon with her loved ones, can enjoy coffee and tea, warm, grilled fish, boiled potatoes on the "gazebo tembawang". From this gazebo, Mt. Arif and his worker can see the bird playing and singing along the time.

#### **Mr. Arif: Rejecting Paradox Expensive Replanting of Oil Palm.**

Mr. Arif has an area of 17 HA of oil to replace the old with the cost of land clearing (LC) only Rp2 million per hectare (includes the cost of purchase pesticides, round up and pay the salary of his worker). With this financing, Mr. Arif simultaneously confronts the paradox of burning and replanting expensive to be without fuel and low cost. Knowledge of cheap replanting without fuel as he said he obtained or learned from PTPN XIII who has done it in the unit Ngabang and Parindu. Success for Mr. Arif and Success also for PTPN XIII!

Mr. Arif not work alone. He then reunited with Mr. Eko, an officer Extension Horticulture (PPL) of Dinas Perkebunan Kabupaten Sanggau. Mr. Eko who have the experience, because more than 30 years has devoted all of his knowledge and experience to the community in West Kalimantan. According to Mr. Eko, nice to see a community garden, it's been like to have it and so does the community look happy because got money from the garden, he had come to feel that happiness.

From the description of Mr. Eko, stem rot of oil palm only interfere when the stem is small because it has not collapsed difficult pest to eradicate. After the collapse of old palm trees and rotten, he will become humus, while the pest can be neutralized easily. Thus, there will be no effect on the development of future oil and even the rotten trunk can serve as humus to the soil. Mr. Eko extraordinary, selfless work for the profession that has been chosen! Mr. Arif original "village people" is a great man because it has been useful for his friend as a farmer and to inspire all around!

While other farmers, the land still burning when going to open their oil palm plantations as following figure. But the end result between Mr. Arif with other farmers who burn the land when opening the garden is the same. Figure 4 shows the two different processes, but the result is the same, namely oil palm plantation that grow normally highly dependent on the quality of subsequent care.

## CLOSING STATEMENT

From the picture and the previous discussion, in this final section, the author would like to reiterate that it takes a more vigorous dissemination to farmers for not clearing land by burning involving all stakeholders, from practitioners to academics. Socialization is certainly not enough when not followed by a communication connector when socializing. Therefore, the socialization questions should be followed by the program of assistance to farmers who do not burn the land, such as the help of fertilizer, pesticide and help of others so that the burn ban program is effectively done.

The effectiveness of this ban is due to the interests of farmers in the program including financial support, technical assistance training, seeds, legumes and help of others, while financing is sought from a variety of sources, ranging from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) from a variety of companies that has been concerned with no smoke to Fund Disaster Prevention of BNPB (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan bencana/National Disaster Management Agency) and BPBD (Badan Penanggulangan bencana Daerah/Regional Disaster Management Agency) and help the world, the countries that are members of the Kyoto protocol's (See Lundqvist and Biel, 2007) which also allows for the sought for plantation development on land that is classified as critical land free fuel.

With funding various parties, the authors believe that the development of plantations in West Kalimantan will be free of fuel as already commenced by Mr. Arif in this concession area. With these efforts, the ban on burning in plantations is no longer prohibited because each side has been equally concerned. With this model, WK will no longer be expected to smoke even though oil export has grown and grown to become No. 4 in Indonesia, namely an area of 967,290 Ha, and stand in line with Riau Province (2,126,038 Ha), North Sumatra (1,240,934 Ha) and Central Kalimantan (1,026,820 Ha).

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Figure 1. Research Models Good Practice Policy Childbirths sustainably





Figure 2  
Old Palm Not maintained by First Owner (2a) and  
then was bought by Mr. Arif to manage and transformed  
be anormal garden without fuel (2b)  
Photo by Hardilina and Erdi, 2014



Figure 3  
Replanting Without Burning by Mr. Arif that he adopted from  
concepts of Indigenous people and PTPN XIII  
Photo by Hardilina and Sri Haryaningsih, 2014



Figure 4a  
The garden planted, LC process with burning by the people  
Photo by Hardilina and Sri haryaningsih, 2014.



Revitalization of PTPN XIII Plantation, planted without burning      Replanting Model without Burning by Mr. Arif in Pongodi Institution

Figure 4b  
The garden of PTPN dan Mr. Arif, LC process without burning





Oil Palm planted without Burning by PT. Gudang Garam  
in West Kalimantan  
Photo bybyHardilinaand Sri haryaningsih, 2014.