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IS IT TRUE THAT PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES DETERMINE THE PRICE OF RICE IN SOUTHWEST ACEH REGENCY (CASE PERIOD 2010-2020)

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the effect of rice production, rice distribution, and government policies on rice prices in Southwest Aceh Regency. The method used in this study is quantitative using time series data for the period 2010-2020. The results of this study indicate that partially the variables of rice production and distribution have a negative and insignificant effect on rice prices in Southwest Aceh Regency, while government policies (rice prices) have a positive and significant effect on rice prices in Southwest Aceh Regency. Then the results simultaneously prove that the variables of rice production, rice distribution, and government policies have a positive and significant effect on rice prices in Southwest Aceh Regency. This study suggests that efforts should be made to modernize agriculture, improve infrastructure such as bridges, roads and irrigation to increase production and smooth distribution, and the role of government policies in maintaining stable rice prices in Southwest Aceh Regency.

Keywords: *Rice production, Rice distribution, Government policies, Rice prices.*

A. Introduction

Rice is the main and staple food commodity in Indonesia, including in Aceh Barat Daya Regency (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023; Food Security Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, 2023). Stable and affordable rice prices are essential to ensure food security and community welfare (Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, 2022; International Food Policy Research Institute, 2021). However, rice prices often fluctuate, which has a direct impact on the household economy, especially for low-income people. These price fluctuations are influenced by various factors, both in terms of production, distribution, and government policies (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023; World Bank, 2022). Rice production in Aceh Barat Daya is highly dependent on natural factors such as

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weather, climate, and availability of agricultural land (Indonesian Agricultural Research Forum, 2022; Iskandar & Kurniawan, 2021; Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency, 2021). According to the International Food Policy Research Institute (2021), unpredictable weather or crop failure can reduce rice production, thus affecting stock availability and triggering price increases. On the other hand, distribution factors also play an important role. Inefficient distribution processes, limited infrastructure, and transportation constraints can make rice difficult to access for consumers in certain areas, resulting in increased rice prices at the consumer level (Food Security Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, 2023).

The government has an important role in regulating rice prices through various policies, including subsidies, stock control, and price regulation. These policies aim to keep rice prices stable and affordable. For example, the government often intervenes in the market by providing rice through Bulog or setting the highest retail price (HET). However, the effectiveness of these policies in maintaining rice price stability in Southwest Aceh still needs to be reviewed (World Bank, 2022; Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, 2022).

This study offers a new contribution to understanding the influence of production, distribution, and government policy factors in determining rice prices in Aceh Barat Daya District in the period 2010-2020. Although many studies have examined these factors at the national level, this study focuses on the local context in Aceh Barat Daya District, which has unique social, economic, and geographical characteristics (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2022; Firdaus & Putra, 2020). This study provides deeper insight into the dynamics of rice prices influenced by production factors (especially weather and land availability), distribution (including limited infrastructure), and government policies implemented at the regional level, especially policies implemented by Bulog and the regulation of the Highest Retail Price (Food Security Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, 2023).

The focus of this study is to analyze rice prices that are responded to by rice production variables, the influence of rice distribution, and government policies in Southwest Aceh Regency in the period 2010-2020 which may not have been sufficiently analyzed in previous studies (Hendra & Saputra, 2021). Then another new thing is the emphasis on the effectiveness of government policies implemented in Southwest Aceh, especially those related to rice price control, stock management, and subsidies provided through Bulog.

This study examines the extent to which these policies have succeeded in maintaining stable rice prices (Firdaus & Syahputra, 2021). Through this study, it is hoped that a deeper understanding can be obtained regarding the influence of production, distribution, and government policies on rice prices in Southwest Aceh Regency, as well

as appropriate recommendations for creating stable rice prices in order to improve the welfare of the local community.

High rice production tends to lower rice prices due to abundant supply, so that prices in the market can be stable or decrease (Tomek & Kaiser, 2014). Conversely, if rice production decreases, rice prices tend to increase due to reduced supply. Other factors such as national reserve stocks, production costs, and government policies also affect rice prices (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023). Thus, the relationship between rice production and prices is very important for food stability (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2023).

According to Rashid, S., & Minot, N. (2010), rice production directly affects the price of rice in the market through the mechanism of supply and demand. When rice production increases, for example due to a good harvest or increased land and agricultural technology, the supply of rice in the market also increases. With more supply, rice prices tend to fall, which can reduce food costs for consumers. Conversely, if there is a decrease in production due to crop failure, extreme weather changes, or pest attacks, the supply of rice will decrease. This tends to cause rice prices to rise, because the availability of rice is less, while demand remains the same or increases (Gilbert & Morgan, 2010). However, there are also several studies that have found that there is no effect of production on rice prices, including: The Central Statistics Agency (2023) in East Java and South Sulawesi found that despite an increase in domestic rice production, rice prices in the market did not experience a significant decrease. Then Rahman and Alam (2022) in Dhaka and Chittagong, Bangladesh, found that despite an increase in rice production, prices at the consumer level remained high. This is due to limited distribution infrastructure and the large role of middlemen, who increase prices at the trader level without considering production conditions. Furthermore, Aquino and Torres (2023) in Mindanao and Visayas showed that increasing local production did not have a significant effect on rice prices. This is due to uncertain weather conditions and inadequate infrastructure, which cause rice distribution costs to remain high and offset the effects of increased production.

After seeing various studies on the effect of production on rice prices, we now also look at the distribution side of rice prices. Distribution plays an important role in determining rice prices in the market, especially because rice is a staple food that must be available evenly (Jones & Bromley, 2022). When the rice distribution chain runs smoothly including transportation, storage, and access to the market, rice prices tend to be stable. Effective distribution allows rice supplies to reach consumers faster and at lower costs. However, if there is a disruption in distribution, for example due to infrastructure damage, increased transportation costs, or export/import restriction policies, rice prices can increase (Li, & Huang, 2023). In addition, uneven distribution in

some areas can cause price instability, where areas that are difficult to reach usually experience higher rice prices than areas that are easily accessible. Thus, efficient and even distribution of rice is essential to keep prices stable and affordable (Tadesse & Algieri, 2021).

Effective and smooth rice distribution greatly affects the price of rice in the market. When the distribution chain from transportation, storage, to distribution to the market runs smoothly, the price of rice can be maintained stable. Low distribution costs help suppress the price of rice, so that it can be reached by the community at a more affordable price (Central Statistics Agency, 2023). Conversely, if distribution is disrupted, for example due to increased transportation costs, infrastructure damage, or certain restriction policies, the price of rice can soar. This disruption results in limited supply in the market, which then increases prices. In addition, distribution inequality also contributes to price differences between regions. Remote or difficult-to-reach areas tend to have higher rice prices than areas that are more easily accessible. This shows the importance of an even and efficient distribution system to maintain rice price stability throughout the region (Food and Agriculture Organization., 2023).

However, there are also several studies that found that there was no effect of distribution on rice prices. The studies include: The Central Statistics Agency (2023) in several areas in West Java and South Sumatra found that even though distribution had been increased, rice prices still did not experience a significant decline. Then also a study by the World Bank (2023) in Isan Province, Thailand, showed that rice distribution in rural areas had no significant impact on prices due to high distribution costs and weather uncertainty. Even with even distribution, prices remain volatile due to the influence of export prices and logistics costs. Furthermore, a study by Kim and Bromley (2023) in the Luzon and Visayas regions of the Philippines showed that despite distribution policies to maintain rice availability, rice prices remained high in certain areas. This study concluded that infrastructure constraints and untimely distribution caused prices to remain high, and other factors such as market intermediaries or middlemen played a bigger role in determining prices in local markets.

Next, after looking at the most recent theory or study on how distribution affects rice prices, we will continue with the influence of government policies through Bulog/Dolog on rice price stability. The government's policy in controlling rice prices is based on the economic theory of market intervention, which aims to correct market failures and maintain the price stability of important commodities (Barrett & Bellemare, 2023). This theory underlies policies such as setting a minimum purchase price (floor price) and a maximum price (ceiling price). In practice, the government sets a minimum purchase price (HPP) to protect farmers from being harmed by low prices during the main

harvest. Maximum prices can be applied to market operations to protect consumers when prices are too high (Dorosh & Rashid, 2022).

Research conducted by Santoso & Setiawan, (2022) shows that government policies play an important role in controlling rice prices and maintaining food stability in developing countries, including Indonesia. Then the latest study conducted by Barrett & Bellemare (2023), proved that government policies have a significant impact on rice price stabilization, both to maintain affordable prices for consumers and farmer welfare. However, there are also studies that find that government policies do not have a significant impact on rice prices in the market. This usually occurs due to several factors, including inefficiency in policy implementation, distribution constraints, and lack of flexibility in adjusting policies to market conditions (Kim & Lee, 2023; Jones & Bromley, 2022)

B. Method

This research was conducted in Southwest Aceh Regency from 2021 to 2022. This study uses a quantitative method with secondary data sourced from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the Logistics Affairs Agency (BULOG) of Southwest Aceh Regency and the Agriculture Service of Southwest Aceh Regency.

To analyze how production, distribution and policy influence rice prices in Southwest Aceh using multiple linear regression analysis, the formula is as follows:

$Y= \alpha + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + e$..... (1)

Then the model equation (1) is transformed into the model in equation (2) as follows:

$HB = \alpha + \beta_1PB + \beta_2DB + \beta_3KP + e$..... (2)

Where HB is the price of rice (dependent variable), a is a constant, BP is rice production (independent variable), DB is rice distribution (independent variable), KP is government policy (independent variable), β1 β2 β3 are regression coefficients, and e is the error term. Then in answering the problems in this study, several analyses will be carried out, especially correlation analysis to analyze the strength of the influence of production, distribution and policy on rice prices in West Aceh with partial tests and simultaneous tests. In connection with this multiple linear analysis, classical assumption tests are also carried out, including normality, multicollinearity, heteroscedasticity, and auto correlation tests.

C. Findng and Discussion

1. Data Analysis Results

The results of the t-test to prove that there is a partial influence of the variables of rice production, rice distribution and government policy on rice prices in Southwest Aceh Regency can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1
Results of t-Test Calculation

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	9956.813	1605.533		6.202	.000		
	Production	-.808	.648	-.268	-1.246	.253	.837	1.194
	Distribution	-1.322	.664	-.408	-1.992	.087	.923	1.083
	government policy	9.875	2.964	.729	3.332	.013	.810	1.234

Source: SPSS Output (2022)

Based on Table 1, it can be explained that rice production based on the table can be seen that for the rice production variable, the t-count value of -1.246 is smaller than the t-table value of 2.365 with a probability value of (0.253> 0.05) and the conclusion is that H0 is accepted and H1 is rejected. So individually, rice production does not have a significant effect on the price of rice in Southwest Aceh Regency. Then, the distribution of rice based on the table can be seen that for the rice distribution variable with a t-count of -1.992 is smaller than the t-table value of 2.365 with a probability value of (0.087> 0.05) then individually the price of rice does not have a significant effect on the price of rice in Southwest Aceh Regency so that H0 is accepted and H1 is rejected. Furthermore, the government policy based on the table can be explained that for the government policy variable, the t-count value of 3,332 is greater than the t-table of 2.365 with a probability value (0.013 <0.05), so individually the government policy variable has a real influence on the price of rice in Southwest Aceh Regency so that H0 is rejected and H1 is accepted.

Then continued with the F Test to simultaneously analyze the influence of rice production, rice distribution, and government policy on rice prices. The results of the regression analysis can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2
Results of F-Test Calculation

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	26516464.760	3	8838821.587	6.268	.021[b]
	Residual	9871746.149	7	1410249.450		
	Total	36388210.909	10			

Source: SPSS Output (2022)

Table 2 shows that the F count value of 6,268 is greater than the F table value of 4.07 with a probability value of (0.021 <0.05). So H0 is rejected and H1 is accepted. This means that together there is a significant influence between rice production, rice distribution and government policy on rice prices in Southwest Aceh Regency.

After simultaneous analysis was conducted, then continued with the analysis of the determinant coefficient (R2) which had a value of 0.729 percent. This can be explained that 72.9 percent of the rice price value in Southwest Aceh Regency is influenced by rice production, rice distribution, and government policies, and the remaining 27.1 percent is influenced by variables outside of this study.

The last one is the classical assumption test with no bias, consistency and efficiency. The classical assumption tests in question include: normality test, heteroscedasticity test and multicollinearity test. The test results prove that the normality test, heteroscedasticity test and multicollinearity test are fulfilled.

Discussion

1. Analysis of the Impact of Rice Production on Rice Prices

Based on the results of this study, rice production has a negative and insignificant effect on rice prices in Aceh Barat Daya Regency, where the significant value is (0.253> 0.05) then H0 is accepted H1 is rejected, meaning that there is no significant effect between rice production and rice prices in Aceh Barat Daya Regency because rice prices are set by Bulog. Rice production affects rice prices in Aceh Barat Daya Regency so that if production decreases, rice prices will increase, although not significantly. Because according to the theory, if production increases, supply increases so that prices will decrease and vice versa if production decreases, supply decreases so that rice prices increase. This is in accordance with the results of a study conducted by the Central Statistics Agency (2023) in East Java and South Sulawesi, which found that despite an increase in domestic rice production, rice prices in the market did not experience a significant decrease. Then Rahman and Alam (2022) in Dhaka and Chittagong, Bangladesh, found that despite an increase in rice production, prices at the consumer level remained high. This is due to limited distribution infrastructure and the large role of middlemen, who increase prices at the trader level without taking into account production conditions. Furthermore, Aquino and Torres (2023) in Mindanao and Visayas showed that increasing local production did not have a significant effect on rice prices. This is due to uncertain weather conditions and inadequate infrastructure, which cause rice distribution costs to remain high and offset the effects of increased production.

2. Analysis of the Effect of Rice Distribution on Rice Prices

The results of the study prove that rice distribution partially has a negative but insignificant effect on rice prices in Southwest Aceh Regency, where the significant value is greater than the significant degree, namely (0.087> 0.05), so H1 is rejected and H0 is accepted. This means that individually, rice distribution does not have a significant effect on rice prices in Southwest Aceh Regency because many traders from outside the region buy grain and the price set by Bulog. Rice distribution affects rice prices in Southwest

Aceh Regency so that if distribution is not smooth, rice prices will increase. These findings are the same as the study by the Central Statistics Agency (2023) in several areas in West Java and South Sumatra, which found that even though distribution had been increased, rice prices still did not experience a significant decrease. Then also the World Bank study (2023) in Isan Province, Thailand, showed that rice distribution in the interior did not have a significant impact on prices due to high distribution costs and weather uncertainty. Even with even distribution, prices remain volatile due to the influence of export prices and logistics costs. Furthermore, a study by Kim and Bromley (2023) in the Luzon and Visayas regions of the Philippines showed that despite distribution policies to maintain rice availability, rice prices remained high in certain areas. The study concluded that infrastructure constraints and untimely distribution kept prices high, and other factors such as market intermediaries or middlemen played a greater role in determining prices in local markets.

3. Analysis of the Influence of Government Policy on Rice Prices

Government policy partially has a positive and significant effect on rice prices in Aceh Barat Daya district, where the significant value is smaller than the significant degree, namely (0.013 <0.05), so individually the government policy variable on rice prices has a real effect on rice prices in Aceh Barat Daya district so that H0 is rejected H1 is accepted. Related to the price of rice as a basic human need, when there are restrictions that have an impact on price increases in the market in the government's buffer stock scheme, they try to reduce price volatility. Therefore, if prices rise and the government has stored rice in the buffer stock, they can release excess supply to the market to keep prices low. Then when the harvest season prices decrease, the government's policy is to buy grain so that the price of grain moves up towards a higher equilibrium price. These results are in accordance with studies conducted in Indonesia by Saptana (2017) and Suparmin (2015) which prove that government policy has an effect on rice prices. Then also a research study conducted by Santoso & Setiawan, (2022) showed that government policies play an important role in controlling rice prices and maintaining food stability in developing countries, including Indonesia. The latest study conducted by Barrett & Bellemare (2023), proves that government policies have a significant impact on rice price stabilization, both to maintain affordable prices for consumers and farmer welfare.

D. Conclusion

Based on the results of the research conducted in Aceh Barat Daya Regency, it can be concluded that rice production and rice distribution partially have a negative and insignificant effect on rice prices in Aceh Barat Daya Regency. Then government policies partially have a positive and significant effect on rice prices in Aceh Barat Daya Regency.

Furthermore, simultaneously or simultaneously, the variables of rice production, rice distribution, government policies have a significant effect on rice prices in Aceh Barat Daya Regency.

Based on the results of the data analysis, there are several suggestions for related parties, especially the Aceh Barat Daya Regency Government, which are expected to strive for agricultural modernization, improve infrastructure, namely building bridges, roads and irrigation to increase farmer production so that the availability of local rice increases without having to import rice from other regions. (2) It is hoped that farmers can maintain the innovation provided by extension workers in carrying out farming because it can make it easier for farmers to cultivate land to get more optimal results. (3) It is hoped that further researchers can develop this research, especially in developing research variables and using primary data.

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