

ABSTRACT

Good rice farmer competency really provides opportunities for farmers to improve their welfare and not all farmers have good potential even though they have been with farmer groups for a long time, as is the case with rice farmers in Dewantara District. The aim of this research is to identify farmer group membership in Dewantara District, North Aceh Regency. To analyze the competency of lowland rice farmers in Dewantara District, North Aceh Regency. To analyze the relationship between farmer competency and farmer group membership in Dewantara District, North Aceh Regency. This location was chosen deliberately (purposive sampling) and with full consideration because Dewantara District is one of the districts where there are many lowland rice farmers and large areas of rice fields. The data used in this research are primary and secondary data. The data collected in this research will be processed using qualitative and quantitative descriptive analysis methods. Based on the research results, it was found that the membership of farmer groups in Dewantara District, North Aceh Regency, out of 42 farmers, was included in the new members amounting to 17%, then the young members category also amounted to 17%, then the old members included 33% and the senior members category amounted to 23% and there are still 10% who are not included in the farmer group. The competency of lowland rice farmers in Dewantara District, North Aceh Regency is at a high level because the average competency index reaches 75.88% because farmers have a good understanding of procuring production facilities, production processes, marketing, productivity and cooperation. The relationship between farmer competency and farmer group membership in Dewantara District, North Aceh Regency has a positive influence but is not significant because the membership period is still low but farmers have very high competency. This condition occurs because the farmers, even though they have just become members, have great experience and desire to progress further by honing their knowledge in the field of rice farming.

Keywords: competence, farmer groups, rice farmers