

## **ABSTRACT**

Empowering rice farmers is a form of effort to improve farmers' welfare with more productive agricultural products, such as empowering rice farmers in Nisam District. The aim of this research is to analyze the level of empowerment of lowland rice farmers in Nisam District, North Aceh Regency. The selection of this location was carried out deliberately (purposive sampling) and with full consideration because Nisam District is one of the districts with the highest number of farmers in North Aceh Regency. The type of data used in this research is qualitative data, and the data collected in this research will be processed using qualitative descriptive analysis methods. Based on the research results, it was found that the level of empowerment of lowland rice farmers in Nisam District, North Aceh Regency is in the High category, even though the majority of farmers have secondary level education, farmers continue to hone their abilities through counseling and training obtained from the existence of working groups (pokja) and Department of Agriculture. Farmers' empowerment based on indicators can be seen from 5 categories, namely procurement of production facilities, production processes, marketing, increasing productivity and cooperation. In this indicator, the highest level of empowerment was found in the marketing indicator and the lowest in the productivity indicator. Even though productivity is the lowest of the five other indicators, it is still in the high category.

**Keywords:** Empowerment, Rice Farmers, Production