

ABSTRACT

This research is motivated by the role of agricultural instructors in the application of balanced fertilizer in Pasar Gunung Tua Village, Padang Bolak District, North Padang Lawas Regency. Decreased soil fertility can be indicated by the condition of the soil during the dry season becoming very hard, cracked and dry. This happens because excessive cultivation of rice fields causes loss of nutrients in the soil and the use of fertilizer is inadequate, therefore it is necessary to apply balanced fertilization. Of the 583 lowland rice farmers, only 70% applied it. This research aims to determine the role of agricultural instructors in applying balanced fertilizer to lowland rice farmers in Pasar Gunung Tua Village, Padang Bolak District, North Padang Lawas Regency. The sampling method was carried out using simple random sampling from a population of 408 rice field farmers. The number of samples taken is 20% so the number of respondents taken is 82 respondents. The type of data used in this research uses primary data and secondary data. The data analysis method used in this research is a qualitative descriptive method which is measured using a Likert scale. The results of the research show that overall the role of agricultural instructors in the application of balanced fertilizer in Pasar Gunung Tua Village, Padang Boiak District, North Padang Lawas Regency with an average role category, sequentially the greatest role of instructors is as a communicator with an index value of 84.36%, as an educator with an index value of 76.52%, as a supervisor with an index value of 75%, as an organizer with an index value of 53.55%, as a facilitator with an index value of index 47.76%.

Keywords: Agricultural extension, balanced fertilizer, lowland rice