



Government Supervision Overcomes Fertilizer Scarcity at The Bone Regency Horticulture and Plantation Food Crops Service

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Abstract. This research aims to answer the problem formulation that has been put forward to determine government supervision in overcoming the scarcity of subsidized fertilizer at the Bone Regency Horticulture and Plantation Food Crops Service. The method I use in this research is qualitative descriptive research. The instruments used in this research are Observation, Documentation, and Direct Interviews, which can provide information related to problems in the field. Informants in this research included the Secretary of the Bone Regency Horticulture and Plantation Food Crops Service, Subsidized Fertilizer Supervisory Members at the Bone Regency Horticulture and Plantation Food Crops Service, and official fertilizer retailers in Libureng District. The data obtained from the research results were studied using data reduction techniques, data presentation, and conclusions. The research results show that government supervision in overcoming the scarcity of subsidized Fertilizers in the Bone Regency uses supervision indicators, namely 1). Government supervision in monitoring the lack of subsidized fertilizer is carried out by observing each retailer in each area and the warehouse where the fertilizer is stored once a month. Still, if there is a report regarding the scarcity of subsidized fertilizer, the monitoring is carried out twice or thrice monthly. 2). taking action: actions that can be taken by the government supervising subsidized fertilizers at the Bone Regency Horticulture and Plantation Food Crops Service through meetings to overcome fertilizer shortages, namely hoping that farmers will buy non-subsidized fertilizers and not always depend on subsidized fertilizers for the success of their crops.

Keywords: Supervision, Government, subsidized fertilizer.

1. Introduction

Supervises and oversees to ensure that all activities are carried out, determine performance measures, and take actions that can support the achievement of results following what has been selected. Supervision or control over the actions of government officials is necessary so that the implementation of assigned tasks can achieve objectives and avoid irregularities. Thus, it is repressive, namely preventing deviations from occurring.

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Therefore, this deviation occurred not only because of weak supervision. However, variations can occur due to intentional factors because there was an opportunity and intention to commit the deviation [1].

Supervision is a systematic effort to observe and monitor whether the various functions and activities that occur in an organization are by what has been previously planned or not Siagian [2].

One of the government's policies in the agricultural sector is fertilizer subsidies. The government plays an important role in issuing and implementing various policy resolutions in the fertilizer sector to create conditions conducive to the supply of fertilizers in Indonesia so that farmers can easily obtain Fertilizers according to their needs [3].

The food issue is closely related to the existence of a nation and has the potential to become the subject of international pressure. Agricultural sector subsidies are a policy implemented in many countries. In Indonesia, subsidies in the farm sector have become an instrument of government distributive policy in developing the agricultural industry [4]. The subsidy policy is implemented to increase farmers' production capacity and is a form of government commitment to realizing food self-sufficiency. This is following the opinion of Dudi S. Hendrawan [5]. Fertilizer subsidies aim to increase food production and farmer income. In the national budget posture, subsidies in the agricultural sector are realized in non-energy subsidies consisting of food subsidies, fertilizer subsidies, seed subsidies, PSO subsidies, program credit interest subsidies, and tax subsidies borne by the government [3].

Bone Regency is one of the South Sulawesi areas with potential in the agricultural sector. Even though the availability of subsidized fertilizer in Bone Regency is abundant, many people still feel the scarcity of subsidized fertilizer. In 2023, it is claimed that 183,000 tons of subsidized fertilizer will be distributed to 27 sub-districts in Bone Regency [6].

Currently, problems still need to be found related to the scarcity of subsidized fertilizers on the market, the existence of two prices for subsidized and non-subsidized fertilizers, long distribution chains, and dualism in fertilizer prices causing fertilizer shortages and a mix of subsidized and non-subsidized. Additionally, counterfeiting of subsidized Fertilizers also occurs, supervision is weak, and falsification of fertilizer quotas also often occurs [7].

Furthermore, accuracy is also an obstacle faced in implementing subsidy policies. In distributing subsidized Fertilizers, compliance with accuracy is a relatively complex problem. In redeeming subsidized fertilizer, farmer/farmer groups are often guided by the fertilizer requirements proposal document, better known as the Definitive Group Needs Plan (RDKK), which is submitted to the regional government and does not follow the availability of subsidized fertilizer by the Central Government [8]. This has the potential to give rise to a series of problems, for example, the perception of scarcity, considering that the actual allocation of subsidized Fertilizers is often below the proposals put forward by farmers' groups. Another challenge that is seen as adding to the urgency of carrying out a subsidy review is the occurrence of irregularities due to the not-yet-optimal supervision of the implementation of programs [9].

In connection with this problem, the role of regional government supervision in distributing fertilizers must run well, meaning that with good and structured control, the

possibility of misuse and shortage of fertilizers will be smaller. It is known that the Bone Regency Regional Government and the Bone Regency Horticulture and Plantation Food Crops Service, as official government institutions that supervise the distribution of subsidized fertilizer to farmers, are considered unsatisfactory to the people of Bone Regency. What is happening is not by the vision of the problem of fertilizer scarcity; therefore, the author is interested in conducting research with the title “Government Supervision in Overcoming Fertilizer Scarcity at the Bone Regency Horticulture and Plantation Food Crops Service.”

2. Literature review

2.1. Supervision

Siswanto defines “supervision as an activity structured to determine implementation standards with the aim of planning, designing a feedback information system (feedback), matching real activities to predetermined measures and measuring deviations, as well as taking appropriate corrective action necessary to ensure that the workforce has carried out work efficiently and effectively to realize the company’s goals.” [10]

Meanwhile, according to Manullang, supervision is a process for determining what work has been carried out, providing assessments, and checking if necessary to carry out the work as planned [11]. Supervision is a process to ensure the implementation of all activities, determine performance measures, and take actions that can support the achievement of results according to those selected from deviation. So, it is repressive, preventing variations from occurring [12].

Supervision is a systematic effort to observe and monitor whether the various functions of activities that occur in an organization are what has been previously planned or not [13].

According to Saiful, it provides an understanding that supervision or control of the actions of government officials is necessary so that the implementation of the tasks that have been set can achieve the goals that have been developed and avoid deviations [14].

According to Sukarna, the objectives of supervision include:

- a. To find out whether the work is going smoothly or not.
- b. To correct employee mistakes and prevent the same mistakes from repeating or new ones appearing.
- c. To determine the use of the budget selected in the planning is right on target and by what has been planned.
- d. To determine whether the implementation costs are by the program as specified in the planning.
- e. To find out the work results by comparing them with what has been set out in the plan (standard).
- f. To understand the implementation of work following predetermined processes or policies. [15].

Meanwhile, according to Bohari explains that the main objectives of supervision are:

1. To find out what went wrong, correct it in the future, and guide all activities to implement a plan to get maximum results.

2. Observe what should happen and compare it with what should happen to report deviations or obstacles to the leadership so they can follow up [16].

Meanwhile, according to [17], supervision can be measured from the following indicators:

1. Standard Settings

The first stage in supervision is establishing implementation standards. Standard means a unit of measurement that can be used as a “benchmark” for assessing results. Goals, quotas, and implementation targets can be used as standards.

2. Determine implementation measurements

Standard-setting activities are only useful if they are accompanied by various ways to measure the implementation of real actions. Therefore, the second supervision stage determines the appropriate size for implementing activities.

3. Monitoring the Implementation of Activities

Once the measurement frequency and monitoring system are determined, implementation measurement is carried out as an iterative and continuous process.

4. Comparison of Implementations

With Standard and Deviation Analysis, an essential stage in the monitoring process is comparing actual implementation with planned implementation or established standards.

5. Take action

This action is necessary, and if the analysis results indicate the need for corrective action, then this action must be taken. Disciplinary action can take many forms. Standards can be changed, implementation improved, or both done simultaneously.

2.2. Subsidized Fertilizer

Nazir states subsidies are financial programs and other government resources to finance organizational or individual activities [18]. According to Suparmoko [19], subsidies (money transfers) are one of the government programs issued and added as a negative income tax to subsidy recipients. This negative tax will increase the level of real income if consumers use or buy goods that the government has subsidized at lower selling prices.

According to Minister of Trade Regulation Number 15/MDAG/PER/4/2013, subsidized fertilizers are goods under supervision whose procurement and distribution receive subsidies from the government for the needs of farmer groups in the agricultural sector, including urea fertilizer, SP36, ZA, and other types of subsidized fertilizers. Determined by the minister who carries out government affairs in the government sector [20].

Subsidized fertilizer is a Fertilizer whose procurement and distribution receive subsidies from the government for farmers' needs, which is carried out based on a government program. The fertilizer subsidy policy is motivated by the important role of fertilizer in increasing production and productivity in the agricultural sector by implementing balanced fertilization technology according to location-specific recommended doses.

Subsidized fertilizer is a Fertilizer whose procurement and distribution receive subsidies from the government for farmers’ needs, which is carried out based on Government programs in the agricultural sector. The types of subsidized Fertilizers are inorganic Fertilizers (urea, Superphos, ZA, NPK) and organic fertilizer. Subsidized fertilizer is designated as an item under supervision as intended in Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 77 of 2005 [21]. The scope of leadership includes procurement and distribution, including type, quality quantity, area of responsibility, highest retail price (HET), and procurement and distribution time. The fertilizer subsidy policy for target farmers includes food crop and horticultural farmers, smallholder farmers, livestock breeders/forage growers, and fish/shrimp cultivators [22].

The allocation of subsidized Fertilizers refers to the provisions regulated in the Minister of Agriculture Regulation concerning the Allocation and HET of subsidized Fertilizers in the current year. Procurement and distribution of subsidized fertilizers are carried out by the provisions of the Minister of Trade number 15/M DAG/Per/4/2013 concerning the supervision of the procurement and distribution of subsidized fertilizers for the agricultural sector [23].

Monitoring fertilizer subsidies is related to subsidized fertilizer prices in agricultural circles [24]. The determination of the cost of subsidized fertilizer is following the Regulation of the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia Number 04 of 2023 concerning the Procurement and Distribution of Subsidized Fertilizer for the Agricultural Sector concerning the Allocation and Highest Retail Price of Subsidized Fertilizer for the Agricultural Sector. Agricultural sector for the 2023 fiscal year[25].

To ensure that the distribution of subsidized fertilizer is under its intended purpose and prevent irregularities in the distribution of subsidized fertilizer at the field level, the subsidized fertilizer distribution system is carried out in a closed manner using a Group Definitive Needs Plan [26].

Table 1. Highest Retail Price of Subsidized Fertilizer in 2023

Fertilizer Brand	Retail Price (IDR/kg)
Urea Fertilizer	2.250
SP-36 Fertilizer	2.400
ZA Fertilizer	1.700
NPK Fertilizer	2.300
Special Formula NPK Fertilizer	3.300
Organic Fertilizer	800
Liquid Organic Fertilizer	20.000

Source: Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia 2023

3. Research Methods

The research method used is qualitative with a descriptive approach. Qualitative research methods were used to examine government supervision in overcoming fertilizer

scarcity at the Bone Regency Food Crops and Horticulture Department by describing the condition of the research object based on the facts and words found. The types of data used in this research are opinion and documentation. Opinion data was obtained from interviews with the 1. Secretary of the Bone Regency Food Crops, Horticulture and Plantation Service, 2. Bone Regency Subsidized Fertilizer Supervision Member, 3. Subsidized Fertilizer Retailer Officer (in the Libureng sub-district area), 4. and the Farming Community.

Meanwhile, documentation data was obtained from studies at the Bone Regency Food Crops and Horticulture Department. The data sources used are primary data and secondary data. Preliminary data was collected directly by researchers through interviews, observations, or documentation studies.

In contrast, secondary data was obtained not now but through literature studies such as regulations, related books, previous research, and the internet. Data collection techniques in this research were carried out through observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis techniques are done by data reduction, data presentation, and concluding/verification. Researchers also tested the validity of the data using source triangulation and technical triangulation techniques.

4. Results And Discussion

In this research, the researcher discusses government supervision in overcoming fertilizer scarcity at the Bone Regency Food Crops, Horticulture and Plantation Service. Referring to Supervision Indicators, supervision is a process to ensure that all activities are carried out by what has been planned.

In the research process, it was stated that government supervision in overcoming fertilizer scarcity in the Bone Regency was still not optimal even though there were several causes of fertilizer scarcity. The two Monitoring Indicators that are the focus of researchers in this research start from the Supervision Monitoring stage to Taking action.

4.1. Supervision Monitoring

Supervision is carried out directly and indirectly. Direct control is carried out periodically or at any time using charge at the procurement, use, and distribution levels. Indirect monitoring is carried out based on reports from producers, distributors, or those received from farmers or people who use fertilizer.

Supervision is monitoring the implementation of activities properly. One form of improvement is seeking independent monitoring and control by communities using subsidized fertilizer directly by farmers and farmer groups. For this reason, the funded fertilizer distribution system must be implemented in a closed manner, planned/proposed by farmers and farmer groups, and distributed to farmers and farmer groups who submit it through a control tool in the form of RDKK. The transaction monitoring system that is built must be able to minimize irregularities. The results of the Technical Team meeting in the form of a study are then submitted to the Central Fertilizer and Pesticide Supervision Commission to be discussed at the plenary session.



Fig. 1. Subsidized fertilizer distribution system

Source: Bone Regency Food Crops, Horticulture and Plantation Service, 2023

He has the authority to provide clarification regarding indications of deviations from the provisions of the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia regulation Number 15/M-DAG/PER/4/2013, which regulates supervision of the procurement and distribution of subsidized fertilizer, includes 6 (six) precise types, namely: exact type, quantity, price, place, time, and quality.

PT Pupuk Indonesia (Persero) producers, distributors, and retailers in carrying out the task of monitoring and supervising the distribution of subsidized fertilizer from line I to line IV in its working area and reporting the results of supervision to the Regent/Mayor with a copy to the producer in charge of the site by statutory provisions. - applicable legislation and technical guidelines for supervision of subsidized fertilizer from the minister who handles government affairs in the agricultural sector. Concluded that government supervision in overcoming the scarcity of subsidized fertilizer regarding supervision monitoring carried out by subsidized fertilizer monitoring officers is structured/scheduled, namely carrying out monitoring of subsidized fertilizer at each kiosk in an area and the warehouse where the fertilizer is stored, namely the range once a month, but with reports regarding the scarcity of subsidized fertilizer, fertilizer monitoring is usually carried out between two and three times a month.

4.2. Taking Action

This action is necessary; if the analysis results indicate the need for corrective action, then this action must be taken. Disciplinary action can take many forms. Standards can be changed, implementation improved, or both done simultaneously. The government can take action every year through meetings regarding public complaints regarding the scarcity of fertilizers. The government department advises distributors to prepare or

bring in Fertilizers before farmers need them. Farmers can only care for their crops by buying non-subsidized fertilizer, so plants become damaged because fertilizer is not applied on time. The government also hopes that people/farmers will not depend on subsidized fertilizer.

The scarcity of subsidized fertilizers increases yearly; therefore, retailers offer non-subsidized fertilizers to farmers at relatively high prices. Therefore, retailers in every kiosk and farmers hope this will be followed up soon. Concluded that the Bone Regency government's action regarding supervision in overcoming the scarcity of subsidized Fertilizers is always advising distributors to bring in subsidized Fertilizers before farmers need them immediately; therefore, fertilizer shortages in the Bone district always occur. Retailers in an area at each kiosk also advise farmers who use fertilizer to buy non-subsidized fertilizer at a relatively high price for the safety of their plants.

Based on the results of interviews with the Bone Regency Horticulture and Plantation Food Crops Service, the government can take action through meetings regarding complaints from the community/farmers who use subsidized fertilizer regarding the scarcity of fertilizer every year. The government advises distributors to prepare or bring fertilizer before farmers need it. The only way that farmers can use fertilizer is to buy non-subsidized fertilizer at the kiosk so that the plants become good at the right time and do not fail to harvest or suffer from plant rot disease; the government department also hopes. Communities/farmers can learn from fertilizer scarcity and only sometimes depend on subsidized fertilizer. What the government hopes for the Food Crops and Plantation Service of Hotikutura, Bone Regency, is to increase accuracy in determining the allocation of subsidized fertilizer needs. To increase accuracy in determining the distribution of subsidized fertilizer needs, synchronization is needed between proposed regional fertilizer needs and government budget capabilities.

Regional governments must carry out intensive guidance on preparing the RDKK as a basis for preparing proposals for subsidized fertilizer needs. Through intensive coaching, the preparation can be carried out precisely and with accurate and fast data so that derivative products from the RDKK are subsidized fertilizer needs at the regional, village, and sub-district levels. District, regency/city, provincial, and central levels are also appropriate.

5. Conclusion and Suggestion

5.1. Conclusion

Based on the results of research conducted regarding government supervision in overcoming the scarcity of subsidized fertilizer at the Bone Regency Horticulture and Plantation Food Crops Service, the author can draw the following conclusions:

1. Monitoring and supervision of the implementation of the procurement and distribution of subsidized fertilizer at the distributor and distributor level in Line IV cannot be carried out optimally, so irregularities often occur. Forms of monitoring and supervision dominated by reporting rather than investigations open up opportunities for irregularities. These irregularities will continue unless repairs are made to the system supervision and monitoring of subsidized fertilizers.

2. Take action, an action that can be taken by the Government of the Bone Regency Food Crops and Horticulture Department by encouraging farmers who use subsidized fertilizers to buy non-subsidized fertilizers at kiosks at prices different from the costs of subsidized fertilizers for plants. Security. One form of improvement is seeking independent monitoring and supervision by communities using subsidized fertilizer directly by farmers and farmer groups.

5.2. Suggestion

First, the government should increase supervision of the distribution of subsidized fertilizer in a more incentive manner by going directly to the field to assist in the fertilizer distribution process, especially in terms of timely distribution, quantity, and suitability of prices according to the highest retail price (HET).

Second, functioning the RDKK as a tool in planning and monitoring the distribution of subsidized fertilizer. For the distribution of subsidized fertilizer to be on target according to the plan/allocation, a relationship between Minister of Trade Regulation No. 21/M-DAG/PER/6/2008, which regulates distribution from Line I to IV, and Minister of Agriculture Regulation No. 42/Permentan/OT.140/09 /2008, which handles distribution from Line IV farmers or farmer groups in closed distribution buildings. The planning process for the allocation of fertilizer needs based on the RDKK needs to be followed by distribution based on the RDKK, which should also be stated explicitly in Minister of Trade Regulation 21/MDAG/PER/6/2008 so that it can be easily understood and implemented and includes interested parties. To increase the accuracy of farming land tenure data and the effectiveness of preparing the RDKK, it is necessary to increase the capacity of farmers/farmer groups through assistance/supervision by extension workers.

Third, it is necessary to form a joint commitment between the government and farmers, expressed in developing a Regional Guard and Security Team (PT4D). These supervision activities must specifically include which members carry out technical supervision in the field and what form the supervision takes place. Must be carried out, as well as a comprehensive training program for distributors, retailers, and farmer groups.

Fourth, establish clear criminal sanctions for violators of the provisions for the distribution of subsidized fertilizer. Sanctions for violators of the provisions need to be stricter and provide a deterrent effect. It is possible to use assistance from law enforcement officers to process violations as criminal acts following statutory regulations (Permendag 21/M-DAG/PER/6/2008). However, when it comes to processing as a criminal act, there is no clarity regarding which laws and regulations can be used as a reference.

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