

## CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Research Background

Coffee is one of the world's commodities widely cultivated in various countries. According to Atlas Big, in 2021, Indonesia is the fourth-largest coffee-producing country in the world after Brazil, Vietnam, and Colombia (Appendix 1). As an agricultural country, Indonesia has the availability of land that supports the development of coffee as well as climate and geographical advantages that produce coffee with flavors and aromas favored by the world community. In this case, coffee has economic benefits and contributes to the country's foreign exchange.

Indonesia exports several thousands of tons of coffee to various countries worldwide every year (Appendix 2). Indonesia's total coffee exports in 2021 reached 384,510 tons, with The United States of America as the holder of the most coffee imports, which is almost 60 thousand tons. Nevertheless, according to Maulani and Wahyuningsih (2021), the quality of Indonesian coffee beans has a volatile price and is easily shaken by the market. Indonesian coffee products dominate by robusta, which is considered second-class coffee in the international market, so price fluctuations are inevitable. However, Indonesian coffee still has potential in the international market because it has coffee varieties that only exist in Indonesia, such as Toraja Coffee, Gayo Coffee, Luwak Coffee, etcetera.

The prospect of the coffee business in Indonesia today is considered quite promising. The trend of drinking coffee formed from lifestyle shifts is a factor in increasing coffee consumption in Indonesia. International Coffee Organization shows that Indonesian consume as many as five million sacks measuring 60 kg in 2021. It makes Indonesia one of the largest coffee-consuming countries in the world. The development of coffee needs and consumption patterns then encourages the opening of new jobs. However, the vast marketing potential of coffee products is a challenge

for coffee producers, namely the emergence of intense competition that cannot be avoided.

The characteristics of Indonesian coffee grown in various provinces have a distinctive aroma and taste. In general, coffee with robusta and arabica types can be grown in almost all regions in Indonesia. According to data from the National Department of Agriculture, Indonesia's total coffee production in 2021 reached 765,415 tons. West Sumatra contributed 16,337 tons of total production in the same year through export activities, with Solok Regency as the highest producer. (Appendix 3).

Geographically, Solok Regency is between  $00^{\circ} 32' 14''$  and  $01^{\circ} 46' 45''$  South Latitude and  $100^{\circ} 25' 00''$  and  $101^{\circ} 41' 41''$  East Longitude with an area of 3.308,03 km<sup>2</sup>. Solok Regency is located at an altitude of 329-1,458 m above sea level. This district has good prospects in coffee development, especially in terms of fulfilling plant growth requirements, land availability, production and labor facilities as well as product marketing. The soil and climate in Solok Regency meet the ideal growing requirements for coffee plants. With rainfall of 1,525.17 mm/year which strongly supports coffee production, this district also has the potential to produce specialty grade coffee, which is the highest quality coffee with a distinctive taste and necessarily must go through good processing as well (Arlus, Tjandra, and Yanti, 2017).

Damhuri (2019), at the Nusantara Coffee Expo event held by Bank Indonesia, explained that Solok Radjo coffee has a unique taste and is different from other coffees. Solok Radjo coffee gives the complexity of a fresh lemon flavor mixed with a hint of bitterness and herbal aroma, making the coffee's taste balance between sour and bitter. Meanwhile, the viscosity of Solok Radjo coffee is lower when compared to Rinjani coffee and Gayo coffee, which are famous for their thick body. Solok Radjo arabica coffee is suitable for espresso and other derivative products such as lattes or cappuccino. Q Graders have also recognized the taste character of Solok Radjo coffee, so this coffee got a Geographical Indication Certificate.

According to Paloma, Putri, and Yusmarni (2019), coffee farmers must also manage risks during the coffee production period apart from planting and maintaining plants. The risks coffee farmers face in Solok Regency, especially in Lembah Gumanti, include weather changes, pests and diseases, economic risks, and ineffective labor allocation. Pests and diseases that are a physical risk of growing coffee are controlled by removing and or giving fungicide to the infected part. Economic risks such as price fluctuations can be overcome by joining the Solok Radjo cooperative, which offers price stability. At the same time, the risk of the labor itself occurs due to the incompatibility of the field implementation with what has been explained by the extension workers.

Farmers and their families are the primary human resources in coffee farming, so the phenomenon of women working in the agricultural field is familiar. However, a division of work types prevails between men and women in agricultural activities. According to Samay, Susanti, and Romano (2020), this division of tasks is evident where men considered more potent, have menial jobs that require more energy, while women are considered more thorough and meticulous given the task of carrying out light work which will determine results.

The local culture influences the division of roles in a household unit. Kusuma (2021) revealed that until now, women are still focused and responsible for domestic activities due to the societal assumption that a woman's position in the household is only as an additional breadwinner and financial regulator so that she is not involved in leading a household whose function is to support her husband. On this basis, most women take care of all domestic activities alone naturally without the help of their husbands.

A woman in daily life generally has three roles: productive, reproductive, and social. The productive role of women coffee farmers who are members of the Solok Radjo cooperative can then be assumed to be involved in planting to harvesting coffee and sharing roles in making risk management decisions with their husbands. As a mother and wife, the reproductive role of women farmers who remain responsible for domestic activities is parenting, washing, cooking, etcetera. While as

part of the community members, a woman farmer interacts with each other to maintain social order.

Having three roles at once requires a woman farmer to take advantage of the time 24 hours a day with the appropriate portions. The amount of time devoted to activities in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors refers to the allocation of working time. The working time depends on the type of work performed. Some types of activities require an enormous and continuous outpouring of time. However, on the contrary, there are also types of activities that require a limited outpouring of working time. The working time of a woman farmer in productive activities depends a lot on socioeconomic factors and her family's circumstances.

## **B. Problem Statements**

Wara, Silviyanti, and Syarif (2022) provide an overview of the roles and duties of female coffee farmers in general. Women coffee farmers have the primary task as mothers and wives who manage the family household so that it runs well. The responsibilities of a wife and housewife manifest in reproductive activities such as cooking, washing clothes, cleaning the house, etcetera. Another task of a housewife is managing family finances. Women farmers in the domestic space also play a significant role in the needs and health of their families as well as the education of their children.

The presence of women in the agricultural sector is a prevalent phenomenon in society, particularly within rural communities. The scope of involvement of women farmers in agricultural tasks is linked to the time they allocate to such activities. Socio-economic factors and familial circumstances significantly influence the temporal commitment of women to farming. Notably, women's engagement in agriculture serves as a means for family heads to generate income without necessitating a departure from their homemaker roles. Consequently, the time allocation for women in farming extends beyond domestic responsibilities and includes dedicated time for productive agricultural endeavors. (Laksono, Eddy, and Mardiningsih, 2022)

Women as coffee farmers are economic contributors as they actively participate in cultivation, management and harvesting activities. Their involvement in agricultural practices directly influences the quality of the coffee harvest. Therefore, they need the proper knowledge of each process. Women farmers are also an integral part of their social community, participating in communal activities and traditional events and interacting with fellow farmers.

The role of women in daily activities always goes hand in hand with the role of their husbands. In the agricultural sector, women who work in the productive space are usually motivated to help their husbands earn a living. Then there is a division of roles so that the implementation of productive activities on the field can be carried out according to their respective proportions. However, due to the culture that has existed in society for generations, men are not too burdened with domestic tasks.

Solok Radjo Cooperative is an agricultural business established in 2014 and engaged in coffee production and post-harvest. The activities of the Solok Radjo cooperative are providing inputs in the form of coffee seeds and delivering compost from Plantation Office, having a role in cultivation and extension activity, also managing and marketing coffee yields of its members. Solok Radjo Cooperative has a Product Processing Unit that accommodates coffee products directly from farmers as cooperative members to break the marketing chain and maintain price stability so that farmers do not experience wastage of coffee yields.

Coffee farming under the auspices of the Solok Radjo cooperative involves women's labor almost in every coffee farming activity, mainly in planting, weed clearing, and harvesting. They also could have shared the responsible for managing coffee farming risks with their husband. This shows that women farmers in Solok Radjo are directly involved in productive activities. Even though registered as Solok Radjo cooperative members, the coffee women farmers were only involved in the extension agenda to represent their husbands who could not attend. Women farmers in coffee fields are also paid IDR 20,000 to IDR 25,000 lower than male farm workers. This case clearly shows the marginalization of women in Solok Radjo coffee farming.

The complexity of women's lives in the Solok Radjo coffee farming household reveals a story of resilience, adaptability, and strength as they carry out three roles at once. Juggling multiple roles as farmers, mothers, and active community members, women farmers exemplify the essence of time management. Time allocation becomes a crucial skill, allowing them to thrive in each role and contribute significantly to the sustainability of coffee farming. Recognizing and valuing the multifaceted roles of women in coffee farming is essential not only for gender equality but also for the overall prosperity of coffee production in Solok Radjo. Based on the problem statement, the research problem formulation is as follows:

1. How is the role of women farmers in Solok Radjo coffee farming?
2. How is the time allocation of women farmers in Solok Radjo coffee farming?

### **C. Research Objectives**

Based on the problem statements, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To identify the role of women farmers in Solok Radjo coffee farming.
2. To analyze the time allocation of women farmers in Solok Radjo coffee farming.

### **D. Research Benefit**

Based on the research objectives to achieve, this research expects to have the following benefits:

1. For Solok Radjo, this research can be an input and consideration of a fair facilities distribution.
2. For related agencies, this research can be a consideration for preparing programs in a gender-sensitive manner.
3. For academics, this research can be a source of reading and inspiration for future authors. This research can also contribute to academic thoughts, especially regarding the role of women farmers in decision-making.
4. For the author, this research is a means of implementing the knowledge learned during college.