

CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Indonesia is an agricultural country with the potential for abundant and diverse natural resources in the form of spices and food products such as tubers, corn, rice, etc. Most of Indonesia's population earns a living as farmers by farming and raising livestock to produce enough food for Indonesia's survival. However, until now, Indonesia which is classified as an agricultural country, has not fully met the food needs of its people, food imports by Indonesia are still high, and this is a problem that has burdened the community because people have to get food at high prices (Pratiwi et al., 2020).

Based on the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 18 of 2012, food security is a condition of food fulfillment for the state to individuals, which is reflected in the availability of sufficient food, both in quantity and quality, safe, diverse, nutritious, equitable, and affordable and does not conflict with religion, beliefs, and community culture, to be able to live healthy, active, and productive lives sustainably. Food security is one of the most important global issues today. This issue has become one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In SDG goal number two, the target to be achieved is to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, and encourage sustainable agriculture by 2030. About food security, based on Global Food Security Index (2022), Indonesia ranks 63rd out of 113 countries in the best food security ranking, but it still lags behind some of its Southeast Asian neighbors, such as Malaysia and Vietnam.

To realize this goal, the Indonesian government places the fulfillment of food for every household as a top priority and strategic target to strengthen food security at both the regional and national levels. The government realizes that food security does not simply depend on adequate food availability at the national or regional levels, but must ensure that the food needs of each individual or household are also well met. This aims to create stability and sustainability of food security as a whole, so that there are no gaps that result in inequality or gaps in food access in the community. Thus, this effort is expected to ensure the welfare and health of the community more broadly and sustainably.

Food security for households is influenced by many factors, such as land ownership supported by a suitable climate and human resources. Agricultural policies also determine that production or market actors provide sufficient food. The condition of a country that has guaranteed resilience does not always reflect household food security. Household food security is instead an indicator of the formation of regional food security, either in the region or regionally (Agustina et al., 2015). One of the government's programs to increase food security is the Sustainable Food Yard (P2L) program.

The Food Security Agency introduced the Sustainable Food Yard Program (P2L) to increase the availability, accessibility, and utilization of food to realize household food security and increase household income through the provision of market-oriented food. This activity is carried out through the utilization of yard land, idle land, and unproductive vacant land, as a food producer in meeting household food and nutrition, and market-oriented to increase household income (Food Security Agency, 2021). This program uses a food diversification approach for the diversity of food sources that can be produced from the land being utilized. By planting various types of food crops, such as vegetables, fruits, and herbal plants, this program not only meets household nutritional needs but also reduces dependence on one type of food commodity (Food Security Agency, 2021).

The dominant commodities in this program are horticultural crops that have a relatively short planting cycle and are easy to market, such as chilies, tomatoes, eggplants, and various types of fruits. These crops are expected to be able to provide optimal results in a short time, which are not only useful for meeting family consumption needs, but can also reduce the economic burden of households by increasing income and food security (West Sumatra Provincial Food Service, 2022).

Food security is not only about the availability of food but also about the right and ability of everyone, both men and women, to organize and control food production, distribution, and consumption systems. In other words, people must have control over how food is produced, distributed, and consumed for food security to be achieved fairly and equitably. However, when the right to adequate food is not fulfilled, the most affected groups are women and children (Poerwanto et al., 2016).

Megantara & Prasodjo (2021) stated that gender issues are often associated with household food security issues. It is known that women have an important role in achieving food security in households. Women are more involved in agricultural activities and food preparation in households than men. Women are the determining factor in family food security, starting from the production stage on the farm, managing and marketing agricultural products, to ensuring food is available at the dinner table. In addition, Priminingtyas and Yuliati (2016) stated that women are also responsible for fulfilling the nutritional needs of the family, so their role is crucial in maintaining and improving food security at the household level.

According to FAO (2015), in various developing countries, the role of women in food production is very large. Data shows that they are responsible for 60 to 80 percent of the total food produced. However, despite their significant contribution, women's social status is not commensurate with their hard work in the agricultural sector. They are often not valued equally and face injustice in terms of control over important resources. For example, many women do not have the right to manage the agricultural land they work on or have difficulty accessing government assistance, such as agricultural subsidies. As a result, despite being the backbone of food security, women remain in a vulnerable position and are less cared for.

Women have a huge and important contribution to realizing sustainable and quality family food security. With this strategic role, the government directs the P2L program to focus on women as recipients of the program. However, the problem of food security in the family is a shared responsibility between both parents, namely mothers and fathers, so it cannot be burdened on just one party. This is because both women and men have important roles in ensuring the availability, access, and utilization of adequate food for all family members (Kustanto, 2017).

B. Problem Statements

West Sumatra Province is one of the regions that is currently improving its food security. This is because West Sumatra experiences an increase in population every year (Appendix 1), which causes a large amount of food needs. Based on National Food Agency (2023) West Sumatra Province also scored the best on the

Food Security Index (Appendix 2). This indicates that West Sumatra has a good capacity to maintain food security. However, although West Sumatra Province has a good Food Security Index, it does not rule out the possibility that there are still some problems in the districts/cities in West Sumatra, one of which is Padang City.

Padang City is the region in West Sumatra Province that has the most malnutrition patients of all regions in West Sumatra (Appendix 3), indicating that there are major challenges in meeting the nutritional needs of the community. Based on Agustina, et al (2015) household food security can also be seen from indicators of nutritional adequacy. Nutrients that are currently used as indicators of food security are macronutrient adequacy levels, namely energy and protein. So that the high rate of malnutrition in Padang City gets the attention of the government to reduce the rate of malnutrition, one of which is by increasing food security in Padang City. Padang City also has the availability of agricultural land, which is getting smaller every year. This can be seen from the reduction of paddy fields every year (Appendix 4), where currently, paddy fields in Padang City amount to 5,189.62 Ha. This condition will have an impact on reducing the amount of rice production and will affect food security in Padang City. Therefore, the Padang City government is implementing the Sustainable Food Yard (P2L) program.

The Sustainable Food Yard Program (P2L) is aimed primarily at women's farmer groups, especially in Padang City. The implementation of this program is carried out in group yards and their respective home yards, by empowering women to cultivate vegetables through nursery facilities, demonstration plot development, planting, and post-harvest handling by providing education and financial assistance to improve food security. Based on Kustanto (2017), empowerment carried out in the P2L program activities only involves women in its implementation. The substance contained is based on the assumption that the determination of women as the main target is influenced by gender bias. The pretext of empowerment carried out in the P2L program is nothing more than an effort to place domestic burdens on women. So that the implementation of the program, especially in the yards of each house, does not run well, routine maintenance is not carried out, so many of the plants planted die.

The assignment of domestic responsibilities to women is reflected in activity strategies that encourage them to make maximum use of their yards. Because they are considered to have a better understanding of the family's food needs, women are given a role in determining the types of crops to be planted to meet these needs. As a result, in addition to carrying out domestic tasks such as taking care of their husbands and children, women are also burdened with additional responsibilities to manage the yard as a source of family food.

Women are often considered to be primarily responsible for household chores due to gender roles that have been established in society. As a result of this view, women tend to face heavier and longer domestic workloads (Neang et al., 2025). This view is further strengthened by the government's gender-biased policies in developing the P2L program, so that patriarchal culture continues to grow. This makes people believe that all household chores are women's responsibility. This belief is so ingrained that it makes women feel guilty if they cannot carry out these domestic tasks. On the other hand, household responsibilities are rarely considered men's duties, and some traditions even prohibit men from being involved in domestic activities.

In the implementation of the P2L program, women are faced with a complex division of roles including reproductive, productive, and social activities in their daily lives. The combination of these three roles causes women to have to allocate more time, so that women often have difficulty in balancing these responsibilities. As a result, the implementation of the P2L program is often constrained by the limited time they can devote to optimally caring for plants, which leads to crop failure or plants dying due to lack of routine maintenance. This is also supported by research from Ningrum et al. (2018), which found gender inequality in households participating in the KRPL program, including the persistence of stereotypes and double workloads on women. This is demonstrated by the unequal division of labor, which is placed on only one party (women). In addition to facing complex role-sharing assistance, women recipients of the Sustainable Food Yard Program (P2L) also face challenges in utilizing their yards. Although this program aims to encourage the use of private yards to support family food security, in reality many recipients of assistance no longer plant or have even stopped implementing it. This

is thought to be related to the double burden they have to bear, both in domestic and productive roles, thus affecting their desire to implement the program. Therefore, it is important to know how they perceive the P2L program, especially regarding whether this program is truly in accordance with their conditions and roles as women in the family. So, the formulation of the research problem is as follows:

1. How are women's roles in the Sustainable Food Yard Program (P2L) at the household level in Padang City?
2. How are gender roles in the households that received the Sustainable Food Yard (P2L) Program in Padang City?
3. How do women's perceptions of the Sustainable Food Yard Program (P2L) at the household level in Padang City?

C. Research Objectives

Based on the formulation of the problem that has been explained earlier, the objectives of this research are:

1. Analyze women's roles in the Sustainable Food Yard Program (P2L) at the household level in Padang City.
2. Analyze gender roles in the household that received Sustainable Food Yard Program (P2L) in Padang City.
3. Analyze women's perceptions of the Sustainable Food Yard Program (P2L) at the household level in Padang City.

D. Research Benefit

The benefits expected from this research are:

1. For students, This research can enrich their knowledge about gender issues and social dynamics in rural communities and gain a deeper understanding of the concept of gender in the context of agriculture.
2. For women farmers group, provide insight into the importance of women's role in agriculture and food security.

3. For the government, This research can serve as a basis for the government in formulating policies and programs that are more responsive to the needs of women and gender equality in agriculture and is useful for evaluating the effectiveness of the P2L program in empowering women and improving food security.

