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Socialization On Improving The Quality Of Coffee Beans For Residents Of Muara Betung Village, Ulu Musi Sub-District District Four Lawang

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Abstract. The socialization activity to improve the quality of coffee beans of Desa Muara Betung Kecamatan Ulu Musi Kabupaten Empat Lawang. Was carried out to improve the community's understanding and knowledge regarding the quality of coffee beans produced by Muara Betung Village residents and how to overcome obstacles that will arise during the coffee bean harvesting and drying process. In this activity, direct assistance was provided to the community starting from direct introduction to the equipment that will be used for post-harvest handling, the coffee picking process by selecting coffee beans and taking ripe coffee beans from the tree which is done by picking all the fruit at once and picking ripe fruit one by one. After that, the process of drying the residents' coffee beans is carried out to produce good quality by utilizing the yard or on the side of the road with a sack or tarpaulin base. The drying process by utilizing the heat of sunlight will be able to maintain the cleanliness of the coffee and can be monitored direction.

Keywords: *Socialization, Coffee Bean Quality, Coffee Bean Picking And Drying.*

INTRODUCTION

Currently, public demand for ground coffee consumption is increasing day by day, which has an impact on the increasingly high price of coffee beans. Coffee is one of the plantation commodities with high economic value compared to other commodities. According to research conducted by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), Indonesian coffee exports in 2024 will reach a very significant value, becoming a major contributor to the country's foreign exchange earnings. Furthermore, coffee also plays a crucial role as a source of income for more than one and a half million coffee farmers in Indonesia. South Sumatra Province is the province with the largest coffee area in Indonesia, with 267 thousand hectares in 2023, or 21.11 percent of the total coffee area in Indonesia. Coffee area in Indonesia by province in 2022 and 2023. The economic welfare of coffee farmers is highly dependent on harvest and post-harvest yields, which significantly determine the value of coffee (Zulfikar et al., 2024). The size of coffee plantations will result in improved flavor. Coffee is a tropical plant that can grow anywhere, except in very high altitudes with very cold temperatures or in barren areas that are unsuitable for plant life (Tezar, Ade Tiara, 2023). In-depth socialization and training focused on practical critical agriculture to improve product quality, strengthening human resources for coffee farmers to improve product quality, designed with the primary goal of addressing issues such as optimal post-harvest handling stages, optimal picking techniques, timely picking, and using correct methods, help minimize damage to coffee beans and improve their quality. Proper processing is key to achieving optimal coffee quality. To improve production efficiency and coffee product quality, it is recommended to provide access to more modern coffee processing technologies,

such as automatic grinding machines, more sophisticated roasting equipment, and more professional packaging equipment.

This will help village communities produce quality products (Nursetiawan et al., 2024). In facing market competition, empowering the local economy to become a creative and innovative economy is crucial in order to increase community income. The challenges in local economic development relate to community knowledge and understanding of the quality of the coffee produced. Muara Betung Village, Ulu Musi District, Empat Lawang Regency, is one of the coffee bean producing villages.

To date, the community has not received training in producing quality coffee beans and the coffee beans produced have not been able to compete optimally. The coffee beans produced by the community of Muara Betung Village, Ulu Musi District, Empat Lawang Regency. There are several things that are the main obstacles that must be faced by the community, namely the lack of community knowledge about post-harvest coffee bean processing, so that the quality of the coffee beans produced is still low, resulting in coffee beans being damaged. This socialization activity includes training in peeling methods and ensuring the coffee beans produced are of good quality.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study used a qualitative descriptive method. This approach describes the process and results obtained from the socialization activity to improve the quality of coffee beans for residents of Muara Betung Village, Ulu Musi District, Empat Lawang Regency. This approach is expected to provide an overview of the understanding and knowledge related to the material presented. The population in this study were the community and village officials of Muara Betung, Ulu Musi District, Empat Lawang Regency. This activity was carried out on June 27, 2025, with a total of 25 residents and 10 students of the 2025 Dehasen University Community Service Program (KKN-T). Data collection used in this study used interviews and activity documentation. The data obtained were analyzed descriptively qualitatively, namely by reducing data, compiling data in narrative form, and drawing conclusions based on patterns found in the field (Sugiyono, 2022).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The community service program began with an opening ceremony led by the village head of Muara Betung, Ulu Musi District, Empat Lawang Regency. In his remarks, he emphasized the importance of collaboration between the community and KKN-T students from Dehasen University, Bengkulu. The material presented focused on improving the quality of coffee beans produced by residents, with the aim of increasing public understanding of the coffee beans produced. In addition to the outreach, community mentoring was also provided, starting with a direct introduction to the equipment used for post-harvest handling of Muara Betung's coffee beans, through direct guidance. This outreach can provide added value that can increase the selling price of the product.

The biggest challenge currently in coffee development is the declining quality of products that are not yet competitive in the market. Furthermore, coffee producers have not been able to meet customer needs or customer linkages with a coffee business orientation that is desirable to the wider community (Rengganis et al., 2025). The coffee picking process involves selecting and removing ripe coffee cherries from the tree. This is carried out by residents of Muara Betung Village, Ulu Musi District, Empat Lawang Regency, using two methods: picking all the cherries simultaneously and picking ripe cherries individually (red cherries). This is done to produce better quality coffee beans, but requires a longer time. Observations indicate that yield losses are largely due to cherries falling onto the plate, accounting for 73% of total yield losses. The performance of pickers by age shows that pickers aged 41-60 years are on average higher

than those aged 20-40 years. Meanwhile, the performance of pickers by gender shows that female pickers perform similarly to male pickers. Coffee processing is divided into two methods: wet processing and dry processing (Ega Ash Yokawati & Wachjar, 2019).

The drying process is crucial for coffee bean quality. Proper drying is achieved by direct sunlight in the yard or on the roadside, using sacks or tarpaulins. The drying process, utilizing the heat of sunlight, maintains the cleanliness of the coffee and can be monitored directly. To ensure the drying process is more effective, drying tests conducted using sunlight for one week are needed to produce drier and cleaner coffee beans. Drying is the process of reducing or removing moisture from the dried product. This process is crucial in processing agricultural products until they are ready for production. Products with high water content are susceptible to microorganisms or bacteria, causing them to rot quickly. More broadly, drying is a process that occurs simultaneously between heat transfer from the drying air to the water vapor mass of the dried material. The drying process is divided into two methods: natural (sun-drying) and artificial. The advantage of natural drying is that quality is maintained, but the drying time is longer than using drying equipment. While artificial drying is typically faster, some types of materials are very sensitive to temperatures that cannot be set too high, as this can damage the quality of the product (Hakim et al., 2022).

This assistance is expected to help the residents of Muara Betung Village overcome obstacles that may arise during the coffee bean harvesting process. This outreach program is expected to provide tangible benefits that can be implemented in the field. The implementation of coffee bean picking and processing practices is a key factor in determining the quality and value of coffee. Therefore, emphasizing the application of these practices, utilizing cutting-edge technology and knowledge, is expected to increase the competitiveness of the Indonesian coffee industry in the global market and provide greater benefits to domestic coffee farmers.



Figure 1. Activity Documentation

CONCLUSION

Community service activities were carried out in Muara Betung Village, Ulu Musi District, Empat Lawang Regency regarding the socialization of improving the quality of coffee beans produced by residents with the aim of increasing public understanding of the coffee beans produced. In addition to socialization, community assistance was also carried out starting from direct introduction to the equipment that will be used for post-harvest handling and the process of picking coffee and drying coffee beans by Muara Betung villagers by providing direct guidance. The coffee picking process involves selecting and taking ripe coffee cherries from the tree which is done by picking all the fruits at once and picking ripe fruits one by one. The drying process is a process that plays an important role in the quality of coffee beans, good drying directly under sunlight in the yard or on the roadside with a sack or tarpaulin base. The drying process by utilizing the heat of sunlight, will be able to maintain the cleanliness of the coffee and can be directly monitored. This activity is expected to provide knowledge and understanding to Muara Betung Village residents to overcome obstacles that will arise during the coffee bean harvesting process.

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