Young Women Farmers in Indonesia: at the intersection of class, generation, and gender

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FOCUS

• Young women’s pathways into farming
• Engagement as a farmers
• Generation and class in matters of access to resources
• Recognition as farmers
Indonesia: (5 villages)
- 3 villages in Java Island
- 2 villages in Flores Island

Main data sources:
- Household surveys
- In-depth interviews
- Life history
- Observation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>1983</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Total (millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 55</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>16.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BPS 2013

- Smallholder farming populations are ageing
- **However**, the proportion of farm heads under 25 years of age has always been very small
- The percentage of farm heads aged 25-34 are significant change
WHO ARE THE YOUNG FARMERS IN THE VILLAGE?

Young: between 17-45 years old as ‘continuers’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Average age</th>
<th>Marital status (%)</th>
<th>Migration (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Not married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>89,8</td>
<td>10,2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of education level of young farmers

- No schooling: Male 30%, Female 24.5%
- Primary School: Male 38.8%, Female 33.3%
- Junior High School: Male 33.3%, Female 24.5%
- Senior High School: Male 33.3%, Female 3.3%
- College and above: Male 2.0%, Female 2.0%
YOUNG WOMEN FARMERS: ‘Intersection of gender and generation—young women farmers disadvantaged twice’

- (very) limited access to land
  - In West Manggarai
  - Generally only man can inherit, Women: Can inherit if
    ✓ Allowed by their father and brothers
    But, it can be (and sometimes is) taken back by their brother/uncle in the future
    ✓ (Cross) cousin marriage preferred to continue the clan
    ✓ Asked by their parents to stay in the village (West Manggarai women should stay in husband’s village – “kawin keluar”)

- Unequal division of labor

- Household responsibilities ("productive" versus "reproductive" roles)
HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES ("PRODUCTIVE" VERSUS "REPRODUCTIVE" ROLES)
YOUNG WOMEN FARMERS: ‘Intersection of gender and generation—young women farmers disadvantaged twice’

- Farming information issue
- The masculine bias of formal government institutions and peasant organisations is deeply entrenched
- Class status can overcome constraints on gender and generation
Securing the land: LEGAL PROOF OF LAND
Access to land for young women (would-be) farmers,

The need of young women (would-be) farmers for recognition and support as farmers in their own right, in both formal and informal institutions, and in society,

Increase the visibility of women farmers in agricultural statistic, so that the government program and policy can effectively address their problem
Thank you!
Terima kasih!