

Factors Affecting Rural Youth Interest in Agriculture in Probolinggo District Indonesia

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Abstract: The proportion of farmer households to the total number of households has tended to decline over the past 10 years. This decline illustrates that the agricultural sector is less desirable as a source of livelihood, especially for the younger generation. The decline in the performance of farmers and the decrease in the productivity of agricultural land will further complicate food security, especially food availability. The purpose of this study was to analyze the influence of interest on rural youth participation in agricultural activities. The research method used is a survey research method with explanatory research type. The research location was carried out purposively in Triwungan Village, Kotaanyar District, Probolinggo Regency, East Java Province, Indonesia. The sample used was 50 rural youth. The analytical method used is Partial Least Square (PLS). The results showed that the R-square model value was 0.58. Factors that influence the interest of rural youth in farming are prestige, future security, and parental land area. While the privilege factor, parental encouragement, education level, education suitability, commodity value and income did not significantly influence the interest of rural youth to farm.

Keywords: Rural Youth, Interest, Agriculture, PLS

1. INTRODUCTION

The proportion of farmer households (RTP) to the total number of households has tended to decline during the last 10 years. The decline in agricultural households indicates that there is a proportionate decrease in the number of farmers and farm laborers. According to Kvartiuk *et al.* (2020); Swarts and Aliber (2013), stated that urbanization and aging rural populations contribute to skilled workers in agriculture worldwide. This decline illustrates the less interest in the agricultural sector as a place of livelihood. The decline in farmer households when followed by a decline in farmer performance and a decrease in agricultural land productivity will further complicate food security, especially food availability. In developing countries, youth are targeted in implementing a combination of agricultural values, technology, and entrepreneurship that will have a good impact on the strength of food security (Ripoll *et al.*, 2017; Larsen and Lilleør, 2014). The element of food availability is one of the pillars of food security in addition to food distribution and food consumption / absorption. The decline in food security will be a contributor to a weak point in national resilience. Based on the report of the People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty, interest in becoming a farmer among youth is decreasing.

There are several variables that influence parents to encourage their children to become farmers, among them is land ownership. Bezu and Holden (2014) stated that the majority of parents recognize that their farming is the main access for their children and believe that they need to inherit at least part of their land before they die. Other variables such as the commodity types (Sharma, 2007), crop sales pattern, net income (Kvartiuk *et al.*, 2020), and the ability of parents to teach farming techniques to their children. According to (Onemolease and Alakpa, 2009), rural youth who obtain materials from agricultural extension agents have a greater chance of adopting plant technology. Apart from these variables, a youth also has social factors (Kvartiuk *et al.*, 2020), level of education, economic (Kumar, 2010), psychology, and culture (Katie D. Ricketts, 2019; Inegbedion and Islam, 2020) that influenced his interest in becoming a farmer. Work environment factors also influence youth interest in becoming farmers. The condition of the industrial sector which does not absorb much labor will still encourage some youth to work in the agricultural sector.

Despite the decreasing interest of rural youth in agriculture, regeneration remains an important matter and needs to be prioritized in national, regional and local district policies, even in local villages. To design farmer regeneration at the national level, research on farmer regeneration among the millennial generation is important. The purpose of this study was to analyze the influence of interest on rural youth participation in agricultural activities.

2. METHOD

This research is a type of explanatory research. The research method used in general is the survey method. The research location was carried out purposively in Triwungan Village, Kotaanyar District, Probolinggo Regency, East Java Province. The consideration of choosing the research location was based on the location of the village which still had an agricultural nuance around the industrial area of the Paiton Steam Power Plant Industry Unit one to unit four. The number of samples was obtained based on the diversity in the research location. At least the number of respondents is at least 50 youth. Based on this data, the researchers generalized the millennial youth population in the study area. Most of the research data is primary data collected by interview using a questionnaire that has been prepared previously.

The various needs of millennial rural youth were identified with open questions. Meanwhile, questions related to interest and participation used a likert scale with a score. Interest, participation, social and economic variables data are ordinal scale data. Partial Least Square (PLS) is used to explain the influence of the social and economic variables of millennial rural youth on interest and participation in agricultural activities.

a. Outer Model

Outer Model describes the relationship between latent variables and their manifest variables (indicators). In the outer model, there are two types of models, namely the formative indicator model and the reflexive indicator model. The reflexive model occurs when the manifest variable is influenced by latent variables, while the formative model assumes that the manifest variable affects the latent variable with the direction of causality flowing from the manifest variable to the latent variable. The following is the PLS equation in this study:

1) Exogenous Latent Variables X1 (prestige as a farmer)

$$X_{1.1} = \lambda_{X1.1}\xi_1 + \delta_{1.1} \text{ (the same honor as other jobs in terms of profession)}$$

$$X_{1.2} = \lambda_{X1.2}\xi_1 + \delta_{1.2} \text{ (the same honor as other jobs in the selection of a prospective life partner)}$$

2) Exogenous Latent Variables X2 (privilege as a farmer)

$$X_{2.1} = \lambda_{X2.1}\xi_2 + \delta_{2.1} \text{ (government service)}$$

$$X_{2.2} = \lambda_{X2.2}\xi_2 + \delta_{2.2} \text{ (privilege as other jobs in terms of profession)}$$

3) Exogenous Latent Variables X3 (parental encouragement)

$$X_{3.1} = \lambda_{X3.1}\xi_3 + \delta_{3.1} \text{ (parental encouragement)}$$

4) Exogenous Latent Variables X4 (future guarantee)

$$X_{4.1} = \lambda_{X4.1}\xi_4 + \delta_{4.1} \text{ (life guarantee)}$$

$$X_{4.2} = \lambda_{X4.2}\xi_4 + \delta_{4.2} \text{ (future guarantee)}$$

5) Exogenous Latent Variables X5 (level of education)

$$X_{5.1} = \lambda_{X5.1}\xi_5 + \delta_{5.1} \text{ (level of education)}$$

6) Exogenous Latent Variables X6 (suitability of education)

$$X_{6.1} = \lambda_{X6.1}\xi_6 + \delta_{6.1} \text{ (suitability of education)}$$

$$X_{6.2} = \lambda_{X6.2}\xi_6 + \delta_{6.2} \text{ (suitability of skill)}$$

7) Exogenous Latent Variables X7 (parental land area)

$$X_{7.1} = \lambda_{X7.1}\xi_7 + \delta_{7.1} \text{ (parental land area)}$$

8) Exogenous Latent Variables X8 (commodity value)

$$X_{8,1} = \lambda_{X8,1}\xi_8 + \delta_{8,1} \text{ (commodity types)}$$

$$X_{8,2} = \lambda_{X8,2}\xi_8 + \delta_{8,2} \text{ (economic value)}$$

9) Exogenous Latent Variables X9 (income)

$$X_{9,1} = \lambda_{X9,1}\xi_9 + \delta_{9,1} \text{ (sufficiency)}$$

$$X_{9,2} = \lambda_{X9,2}\xi_9 + \delta_{9,2} \text{ (proper job)}$$

The symbol in the outer model equation above has meaning; variables X and Y are manifest variables for exogenous latent variable (ξ) and endogenous latent variable (η). In addition, there is λ which is the outer loading value which shows the simple regression coefficient between the indicator / manifest variable and the latent variable. Not only that, in the outer model equation there is also a measurement error (noise) shown by the variables δ for exogenous and ε for endogenous.

b. Inner Model

The structural model or inner model describes the relationship model between latent variables which is formed based on the substance of the theory. The general equation for the PLS structural model in this study is as follows:

$$\eta = \gamma_1\xi_1 + \gamma_2\xi_2 + \gamma_3\xi_3 + \gamma_4\xi_4 + \gamma_5\xi_5 + \gamma_6\xi_6 + \gamma_7\xi_7 + \zeta_1$$

where,

γ_1 = interest of tillage

γ_2 = interest of planting

γ_3 = interest of pest and disease control

γ_4 = interest of weeds control

γ_5 = interest of harvesting

γ_6 = interest of processing of agricultural products

γ_7 = interest of modern equipment

The inner model equation is written with the symbols γ , β , and ζ . The variable γ is the path coefficient / relationship between endogenous latent variables and exogenous latent variables. The variable β differs from the variable γ , where this variable is the path coefficient between endogenous latent variables and other endogenous latent variables. Besides that, there is a residual variable which is denoted by ζ .

c. Evaluation of PLS Model

1) Composite Reliability (ρ_c)

The Composite Reliability (ρ_c) value is used to measure the consistency of the indicator block. It is recommended that the Composite Reliability (ρ_c) value is greater than 0.6. Composite Reliability (ρ_c) can be calculated with the following formula.

$$\rho_c = \frac{(\sum k\lambda_{jk})^2}{(\sum k\lambda_{jk})^2 + \sum k\text{var}(\zeta_{jk})}$$

2) Convergent Validity

Convergent validity is seen based on the correlation between the item / indicator scores with the construct score. An individual reflective measure is said to be high if it correlates more than 0.7 with the construct to be measured.

3) Discriminant Validity

The discriminant validity of indicators can be seen in the cross-loading between the indicators and their constructs. If the correlation of the constructs with the indicator is greater than the size of the other constructs, it means that the latent constructs predict the size of their block better than other block sizes.

4) Evaluation of Structural Model (Inner Model)

Quality of Structural Model evaluated by measuring index test, R^2 .

5) Hypothesis Test

The statistical hypothesis for the outer model is as follows:

$$H_0: \lambda_i = 0 \text{ (indicator to } - i \text{ insignificant)}$$

$$H_0: \lambda_i \neq 0 \text{ (indicator to } - i \text{ significant)}$$

The statistical hypothesis for the inner model is as follows:

$$H_0: \gamma_i = 0 \text{ (indicator to } - i \text{ insignificant)}$$

$$H_0: \gamma_i \neq 0 \text{ (indicator to } - i \text{ significant)}$$

The test statistic used is the t test, with the following formula.

$$t = \frac{\lambda_{jk}}{SE(\lambda_{jk})} \qquad t = \frac{\beta_i}{SE(\beta_i)}$$

With t is the t-count and SE (β_g) is the standard error obtained from bootstrapping, when the size of the empirical t value is > 1.96, it is assumed that the path coefficient is significantly different at the 5% significance level ($\alpha = 0, 05$ 2-way test).

3. FINDINGS / DISCUSSIONS

a. Outer Model

Evaluation of the outer model is done through 3 criteria, namely convergent validity, discriminant validity and composite reliability.

1) Composite Reliability

Tabel1. Uji Realibilitas pada Outer Model

Variabel	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability	Keterangan
X1	0.586	0.828	Reliabel
X2	0.473	0.792	Reliabel
X3	1.000	1.000	Reliabel
X4	0.657	0.853	Reliabel
X5	1.000	1.000	Reliabel
X6	-0.064	0.753	Reliabel
X7	1.000	1.000	Reliabel
X8	-0.974	0.503	Reliabel
X9	0.477	0.793	Reliabel
Y	0.842	0.881	Reliabel

Sumber: Output of Wrap PLS 6.0, diolah 2020

Based on Table 1, the Composite Reliability value on all blocks has met the Composite Reliability assumption, which is greater than 0.7 for each latent and has high consistency.

2) Convergent Validity

The outer loadings output has met the convergent validity assumption. The result of data analysis shows that all indicators has met the criteria of convergent validity with p-value of <0,001 (<0,05) for all indicators.

3) Discriminant Validity

Based on the cross loading table above, it can be seen that for each indicator of each latent variable, it has the largest loading factor value compared to other loading factor variables if served with other variables. This means that each latent variable already has good discriminant validity where the discriminant validity requirements in this study have been fulfilled.

b. Inner Model

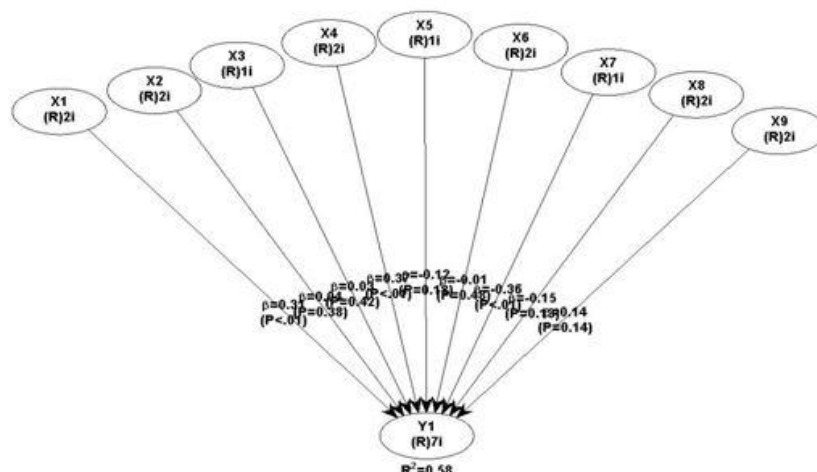


Fig1. Structural Model PLS

Source: Output of Wrap PLS 6.0, 2020

Based on analysis, it can be concluded that the R-square value of 9 factors, namely X1 (prestige), X2 (privilege), X3 (parental encouragement), X4 (future guarantee), X5 (education level), X6 (educational suitability), X7 (parental land area), X8 (commodity value), X9 (income) to the Y variable (interest in becoming a farmer) is 0.58. With this R-square value, it is known that 58% of the interest variable of rural youth to become farmers can be explained well by the variables of prestige, privilege, parental encouragement, future guarantee, education level, educational suitability, parental land area, commodity value and income. while the other 42% are influenced by other variables outside the model.

Table2. Hypothesis Testing Using P Value

Hipotesis	Path Coefficient	P Value	Explanation
X1 -> Y	0.307	0.009	Significant
X2 -> Y	0.042	0.380	Insignificant
X3 -> Y	0.026	0.425	Insignificant
X4 -> Y	0.372	0.002	Significant
X5 -> Y	-0.124	0.178	Insignificant
X6 -> Y	-0.008	0.477	Insignificant
X7 -> Y	-0.356	0.003	Significant
X8 -> Y	-0.152	0.129	Insignificant
X9 -> Y	0.143	0.143	Insignificant

where $\alpha = 5\%$

Source: Output of Wrap PLS 6.0, diolah 2020

Table 2 shows that the factors influence the interest of rural youth in farming are prestige (X1), future guarantee (X2) and parental land area (X3). While the variables of privilege variable (X2), parental encouragement (X3), education level (X5), suitability of education (X6), commodity value (X8) and income (X9) did not have a significant effect on the interest of rural youth youth to farm (Y). Each has a significance value of 0.380 or 38% (X2), 0.425 or 42.5% (X3), 0.178 or 42.5% (X5), 0.477 or 42.5% (X6), 0.129 or 42.5% (X8) and 0.143 or 42.5% (X9). Thus the hypothesis is rejected, so that the latent variables do not have a significant effect on the variable interest of rural youth to farm. High way of thinking or perception by rural youth that having proffession in the agricultural sector is a guarantee for their tenure. So that high or low levels of education do not affect the field of work that will be pursued later. For rural youth, farming is also able to fulfill their needs regardless of the level and suitability of education.

The prestige variable measured through the indicators X1.1 (the same honor as other jobs in terms of profession) and X1.2 (the same honor as other jobs in the selection of a prospective life partner) has a significant effect on the interest of rural youth for farming with a significance value of 0.009 or 0.9%.

The coefficient value shows a positive value of 0.307. This value shows that the prestige variable (X1) has a positive and significant effect on the variable of rural youth interest in farming (Y). This means that the more prestigious the farmer's job is, the more rural youth are interested in farming. These results are consistent with research conducted by Khatir and Rezaei-Moghaddam (2014) that rural youth who have access to the same facilities in all professions will have access to extension activities, access to agricultural knowledge, and household comfort. thus, the greater the capacity and capability of youth in agriculture and sustainable rural development. (Webster and Ganpat, 2014) confirmed that youth (78.3%) expressed a desire to pursue a career in food production within the next five years. provide them with training and information on how to access resources, provide social services, and modernize the methods and techniques used for information dissemination to meet the needs of young people.

The variable of future guarantee which is measured as an indicator of X4.1 (life guarantee) and X4.2 (future guarantee) has a significant effect on the interest of rural youth to farm with a significance value of 0.002 or 0.2%. The coefficient value shows a positive value of 0.372 which shows that the influence of the future guarantee variable (X4) on the variable of rural youth interest in farming (Y) is positive. That means, in this study, the future guarantee variable (X4) with its indicators has a positive effect on the latent variable of rural youth interest to become farmers (Y) with its indicators. If being a farmer has a great guarantee for the future, the farmers are increasingly interested in farming. This is due to the quite high level of youth desire in the Triwungan Village, Probolinggo Regency to fulfill physiological needs (clothing, food, and dwelling). Also in fulfilling the need for security (McCullagh, Yang and Cohen, 2020), social needs, appreciation needs and self-actualization needs (Che, Strang and Vajjhala, 2020). By cultivating high-value crops rural youth get a better life guarantee and will revive the interest of rural youth in farming (Sharma, 2007). This could be due to the limited options available to the rural poor. These findings are in line with Metelerkamp, Drimie and Biggs (2019) who emphasized that young people who choose to enter the agricultural sector in a position of structural conflict which is embarrassing and contrary to their inner feelings, can be called "forced labor". Especially when agriculture is the dominant activity in the economy in the region (Kumar, 2010; Kidido, Bugri and Kasanga, 2017). The structural transformation of population and employment in East Java Province is still in the primary sector or the agricultural sector (Ibrahim and Mazwan, 2020).

The variable of parental land area measured as an indicator of X7.1 (parental land area) has a significant influence on the interest of rural youth to farm with a significance value of 0.003 or 42.5%. The coefficient value shows value of -0.356 which shows that the influence of the parental land area variable (X7) on the variable of rural youth interest in farming (Y) is negative. Based on these results, the variable of parental land area (X7) with its indicators has a negative effect on the latent variable of rural youth interest in farming (Y) with its indicators. The narrower the land owned by their parents, the more interested and motivated village youth are to farm. The narrow land owned by the respondent was due to the inheritance system by dividing the land among their children. So the determining factor for youth interest in farming is parents who leave land to their children through the distribution of inherited land. These results are in line with Kidido and Bugri (2020) adam argues that this narrow land tenure is a manifestation of the challenges underlying rural youth access to land under the customary system. This is also because land ownership by farmers in Indonesia is less than 1 hectare, the most important thing for them is that the land can be used for farming. According to Andersson Djurfeldt *et al.* (2019), for youth living with landless parents, they are effectively prohibited from engaging in the intensification process other than as labor. Bezu and Holden (2014) added that in developing countries, owning agricultural land is the most important factor determining whether rural residents can depend on the agricultural sector. (Kidido, Bugri and Kasanga, 2017) emphasized that youth's access to agricultural land is very important in exploiting their potential to increase agricultural production. Limited land permits and leases will reduce the ability of rural youth to make long-term investments and participate in commercial crop cultivation. Other findings are consistent with the research conducted by Bezu and Holden (2014) that the choice of youth from households with small land to agriculture is greater than that of youth who are raised from households with large tracts of land. Because parents who own large areas of land are able to provide access to higher education for their children so that their children get better paying jobs.

The youth of Triwungan village in Probolinggo Regency have the motivation that agriculture is a job that has a guarantee for a good future, and sees agriculture as prestige with modern innovation and technology. If respondents have used technology and smartphones, it makes it easy for them to find various information including agriculture, so that making it easier for youth to earn more income. Technology and information not only make youth familiar with conventional farming but also organic farming and modern farming. Since youth have a tendency to acquire greater knowledge, they are eager to discover new ideas or discoveries (Cheteni, 2016). An extensive and intensive training program should be emphasized for rural youth regarding integrated agricultural systems, integrated pest and disease management and technology for soil and water conservation as well as nursery management, production, nursery management, leadership and group dynamics. Betcherman and Khan (2018); Katie D. Ricketts (2019); Leonard, Okoro and Imo (2020) added that the stability of investment and entrepreneurship in agriculture will motivate rural youth to work in agriculture. This will also improve the welfare of rural youth (Arslan *et al.*, 2020). Government policies also need to be more holistic and systematic in supporting the development of agribusiness entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial opportunities for agricultural graduates (Inegbedion and Islam, 2020).

In addition, family environmental factors have an impact on the interest of rural youth to farm. The motivation and values shared by family members are essential to their success. This support can take many forms, such as financial, moral, and motivational support. Many parents talk about the values, work ethic, and discipline instilled in them from an early age (Katie D. Ricketts, 2019). Auta, Abdullahi and Nasiru (2010) revealed that the role of interpersonal communication between rural youth (especially friends) is very important in facilitating the flow of agricultural information. This is because farmers learn faster from fellow farmers. According to Yeboah *et al.* (2020), family and broader social relationships are key for youth to access the resources needed in the form of land, capital and inputs to start their businesses.

4. CONCLUSION

The factors that influence the interest of rural youth in farming are prestige factors, that are having the same honor as other jobs in terms of profession and honor which are the same as other jobs in the selection of a prospective spouse. The second factor that influence the interest of rural youth in farming is the future guarantee, that are life insurance and future guarantee. The third factor that affects is the parental land area. An interesting finding is that narrower the land area, the greater the interest of rural youth in farming. This is in line with the condition of the local culture, the hereditary inheritance of the land which is getting smaller and smaller. While the privilege factor, parental encouragement, education level, education suitability, commodity value and income do not significantly influence the interest of rural youth to farm.

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Citation: *Jabal Tarik Ibrahim, et.al. " Factors Affecting Rural Youth Interest in Agriculture in Probolinggo District Indonesia" International Journal of Humanities Social Sciences and Education (IJHSSE), vol 8, no. 1, 2021, pp. 59-66. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20431/2349-0381.0801008>.*

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