

GREEN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF RIDWAN KAMIL AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF URBAN FARMING IN BANDUNG CITY

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A B S T R A C T

Since the election of Ridwan Kamil as the mayor of Bandung City during period 2013-2018, he has launched a number of development programs, one of which program is Bandung Resik or The Bandung Clean. Bandung Resik Program proves that Ridwan Kamil's leadership is oriented towards the environmentally friendly development. The implementation of Bandung Resik program, Ridwan Kamil empowers people to carry out several activities, namely a million biopori program, the cleanest village contest (aditantra), eco-office, urban farming, bio digester, Bandung garbage free, and rationalize the number of rivers which cross the city of Bandung. Even the environmental conservation actions has been supported and appreciated by the public, but in fact, this program was not simultaneously and systematically implemented in all areas of Bandung City. This study used qualitative method to explain how the leadership of Ridwan Kamil (as a mayor of Bandung City) created some environmentally oriented development policies. This study uses primary and secondary data which obtained through interviews, observation, and literature studies, which support the process of analysis and conclusions of this research. The results from this study showed that the community development activities based on the environmental conservation was not optimally implemented. Not all communities participated in this program, the environmental conservation activities, especially the urban farming program has only implemented in some areas, the facilities and infrastructure are limited, as well as poor understanding of the implementation strategy of these activities. Green Political Leadership of Ridwan Kamil has bring the renewal in regional development, but his leadership is not able to create social awareness about the importance of sustainable of environmental conservation.

KEYWORDS : green political leadership, environmental conservation, society empowerment, social awareness

INTRODUCTION

Green politic leadership is one of political thought which discuss how the politicak leader formulate the regulation and development innovation in order to preserve the environment. Green politic also discusses how government has made decisions related to the implementation of economic development and its impact on ecological or environmental aspects, such as the climate change, exploitation of natural resources, agrarian conflict, food crisis and others. Green politic leadership requires the government leaders to implement environment-oriented development programs and policies.

Ridwan Kamil, since has been elected as mayor of Bandung City for 2013-2018, has shown a preference for eco-development. Many programs have been iniated by him such as vertical garden, biodigester, and urban farming. Urban farming is one of the leading programs of Ridwan Kamil, as a solution to fulfill the food needs for family, in their daily life, especially the vegetables. According to Widyawaty (2013: 29), Urban farming practices is an effort to optimize urban land utilization without causing negative impact on the environment, so it can get benefit, such as it can restore and improve environmental health, expanding economic opportunities, social empowerment, energy efficiency and Increase the availability and quality of food. Urban farming can indirectly inspire the creativity of urban communities in farming more practically. Limited land owned does not necessarily bury the intention of farming, but urban farming can be an activity for the community based on the cultivation of various biological resources to meet the needs of the community at the household level, unfortunately this concept may not necessarily be adopted by the entire society (Mulyani, et al, 2016: 246).

Diana Mincyte and Karin Dobernig (2016) in his research on community experience in urban farming, concluded that urban farming can build new socialities, social values, reconnect with the nature, and increased social capital and cultural in the context of a global economy that offers employment opportunities Urban farming program implemented in a number of urban villages in Bandung. The Government of Bandung City under the coordination of the Department of Food and Agriculture was giving some seeds to the community to be planted in their home yards, such as red pepper and vegetables. The government also invites each sub-district (kelurahan) to provide vacant land In order to be used as vegetable or fruit garden. Some sub-district (kelurahan) in Bandung City have succeeded in picking and selling their crops. The purpose of this program implementation so that people can do gardening activities in the city, use the empty land, increase the water catchment, Increase oxygen production from plants, And as an alternative

effort that can reduce the level of stress that hit the urban community. Through gardening activities, people are happy to enjoy the harvest from their own garden. Through this program, Ridwan Kamil hopes that cultivation activities can become a culture of community of Bandung City. The purpose of this paper is to explain the implementation of the Urban Farming program, Problems or obstacles encountered during implementing the program, as well as providing knowledge about the implementation of green politic in Bandung City.

This research was conducted in 2017, with a qualitative approach. The object of this study is the Urban Farming program that initiated by the Mayor of Bandung City, Ridwan Kamil. Technique of collecting data is done by observation, interview, literature review and mass media news. The data obtained is processed, analyzed, and interpreted to present a complete description of the urban farming program implementation and its obstacles.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The urban growth has increased the population, reduced agricultural land. Many agricultural lands are transformed into commercial and residential land. The decrease in agricultural land has undoubtedly affected the crisis of food, so that it will import the food from other country. Issues of food security and food self-sufficiency become an interesting issue, when the farmland is no longer available to produce food. Therefore, it takes an effort, so that the urban society are able to fulfill their needs of food independently.

Urban farming program is an activity that undertaken in the framework of strengthening food security, by utilizing the empty land which is converted into green productive farmland. Mayor Ridwan Kamil argued, “Urban Farming is expected to provide a new paradigm to the people of Bandung to independently fulfill his own food needs”. Urban farming program implementation in Bandung City is done in several steps. The program will implement it into three steps. In the first year, the people were given training and experimental farming. The second year, the agenda was improving program. Ahead, the government plan will make the Urban farming program can be

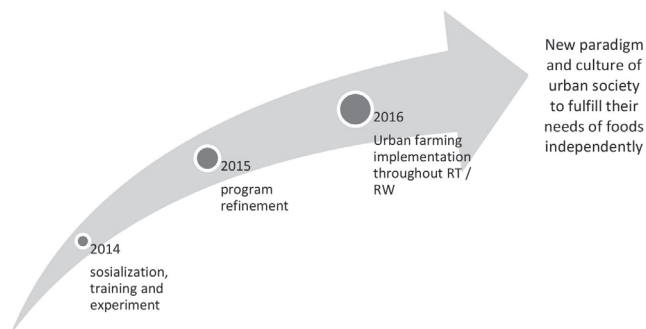


Figure 1. The Steps of Urban Farming Program

implemented in all RT / RW in Bandung, in each sub district (kelurahan). The steps are illustrated in the following timeline.

In 2014, The government of Bandung city has socialized the urban farming program to head of district (camat) and head of sub district (lurah). The socialization describes the background of program implementation, the reduction of agricultural land due to land conversion to settlements, offices, and trade centers, reduced agricultural land affects the food availability crisis, reduced the green fields, and decreased air quality due to pollution that has an impact on the quality of public health. The next activity, Bandung government provided training to society in each sub district location. The training involved a maximum of 50 person. The trainer of Urban Farming program was from Department of Agriculture and Food Security of Bandung City, assisted by a facilitator at each sub district and a volunteer who is a resident of each area. In the first year, every family in every RW (Rukun Warga or neighborhood), experimented to plant a variety of productive and commercial plants.

Productive plants include vegetables such as tomatoes, cayenne pepper, leeks, and caisim. The productive plants are prioritized to fulfill the family needs. Bandung city government itself provides assistance facilities such as seeds, fertilizers, and pots or plants shelves. In the following year, urban farming was developed into agricultural commodities (vegetables).

The next activities, government of Bandung City was giving a training to a number of society member (maximum of 50 people) at each sub district location. The instructor of Urban Farming training program are a field extension officer from the Agriculture and Food Security Unit of Bandung City, assisted by facilitators and volunteers whom living in the area. In the first year, urban farming program was socialized to the whole family in every Rukun Warga or RW, they are trained to plant a variety of productive crops that have high economic value. Productive plants include vegetables such as tomatoes, cayenne pepper, kale, leeks, and caisim. The productive plants are prioritized to fulfill the family needs of foods. Bandung city government itself provides assistance facilities such as seeds, fertilizers, and pots or the plants shelves. In the following year, urban farming was developed into agricultural commodities (vegetables), so that the society can build productive agriculture and produce their own food independently.

One of the communities that support the Urban Farming Program is Bandung Gardening. This community is very supportive of gardening activities in the city of Bandung, especially gardening activities of plants or vegetables. In order to succeed Urban Farming program, this community often give education to society about gardening in urban area. This program received a positive response from the community, because the community assessed the implementation of Urban Farming Program has a positive profit that can increase society income. Communities involved in Urban Farming activities are not based on coercion but on the basis of voluntary consciousness.

Table 1. Implementation of Urban Farming Activities in Bandung

Area	Effort and Innovation
Sub district : Cisaranten Kidul District : Gedebage	Provided 1000 m2 of land for farmland. Originally that land was provided for the construction of sub district office, but provided the land left to not be built, so the society took the initiative to build the gardens on that land. Land utilization was initiated by the Chairman of PKK in Sub district of Cisaranten Kidul.
Sub district : Tamansari, District : Bandung Wetan	Utilized open space under Flyover Pasopati Bridge
Sub district : Mekarwangi, District : Bandung Kidul	Utilized the empty land in the local area, some of them are used for vertical garden
District : Bojongloa Kidul	The gardens are managed by the PKK and the local RW. They harvest the plants once a month, with a profit up to 1 million rupiah
Sub District : Pajajaran, District : Kecamatan Cicendo	Managed by youth group, <i>Pemuda Karang Taruna</i>
Sub District : Sukapada, District : Cibeunying Kidul	Utilized open space such as yard area, vacant land, school yard, PKK gardens, the building walls and other passive land

Figure 2. Harvesting activities of agricultural products in Cisaranten Kidul, Bandung (2015)
source : <https://www.goodnewsfromindonesia.id/2016/08/10/begini-inovasi-urban-farming-dari-kelurahan-cisaranten-kidul-bandung>



The society get benefit from this program for example in the district of Bandung Kidul, from the harvest is processed into spinach chips and unit of Food and Agriculture of Bandung City assisted the marketing their product. In Bojongloa Kidul Subdistrict, community plantation products can be accessed once a month and earn a profit of 1 million rupiah. Through this program, the public understands that the Urban Farming Program is not only beneficial for addition income for the family financial but also useful for maintaining the cleanliness and the beauty of the environment and the city, and also generating a healthy air for urban life.

Figure 3. The Vertical Garden at one of Sub District in Bandung

Sumber : <https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/pertanian-kota-solusi-penghijauan-di-bandung/1830394.html>



Although the implementation of Urban Farming Program in Bandung has been running well, but the results have not been optimal and could not reach the target. Ridwan Kamil as the mayor, targeted that Bandung City to be the best urban farming city in Indonesia, in 2016. However, until 2017 now, the Urban Farming program has not achieved the expected results. Although the Urban Farming program is a very good program and beneficial to the community, but in the implementation there are some shortcomings, including:

- There was a negative opinion from the public that vegetables grown on the roadside was not feasible because it has been exposed by pollution of the vehicles;
- Community involvement in each area was still low due to the lack of information and socialization about the Urban Farming Program.
- People assessed that the urban farming guidance and training from the government of Bandung City was very inadequate, from plant the seeds to harvest. The community feels that they did not have the knowledge and skills of agriculture, so that a few people participated in the program.
- Implementation of Urban Farming in the City of Bandung, one of them used the private land which at any time can be taken back by the owner, so the urban farming program can not guarantee the sustainable food security.
- Many people are not aware of the food security issue, so the participation of the community to succeed the program is very low.
- The existing social communities have not been so massive in providing socialization and education related to the importance of urban farming in preventing the impact of the food crisis

Despite the shortcomings of urban farming programs, the communities want this program to be sustainable. According to Dr. Petrus Natalivan, ST, MT, researcher of Policy Planning and Policy Development of ITB who created the concept of Food Oriented Development (FOD), that Urban Farming is an innovation to develop agriculture in urban areas and this program can be a food resilience solution for urban communities. In some developed countries, with fewer agricultural land than in Indonesia, for example in Canada and the UK, the Urban Farming program has been included in urban legislation and development planning. Besides addressing the issue of food security, urban farming as a new recreational facility by creating eco-tourism. The diversity of crops that grown in urban gardens, will attract people who come to Bandung City both around the city and outside.

Figure 4. The international tourists were visiting The Urban Farming in Sub-District of Sukapada, Cibeunying Kidul
source: <http://jabarekspres.com/2016/rw-03-sukaharja-jadi-percontohan-program-urban-farming-kota-bandung/>



The agricultural technology in urban areas has been developed, such as vertical garden, hydroponics, rooftop, and others. Technological innovations make it easier for the people to engage in agricultural activities, which are independent of the vast land needs. M. Hui (2011) cites the results of Viljoen's research, Bohn and Howe (2005) and Mougeot (2006) explains that urban farming activities can improve the value and quality of life from economic and socio-cultural aspects. Even the research of Jonathan Crush, Alice Hovorka and Daniel Tevera (2011) suggests the importance of Urban Farming activities implemented (such as in African cities) to reduce food insecurity for the urban poor society. However, agricultural activities and urban food production often face constraints and the results are less significant as many households rely on food in supermarkets and the information sector to access the food. Then in urban farming activities, not all communities adopt the innovation of agricultural technology that has offered.

The urban farming program is actually very suitable to be applied in Indonesia. However, Indonesia is known as an agrarian country, agriculture should be a part of the character of the community where cultivation should be a new culture and lifestyle of urban communities that are ecologically useful and have economic and aesthetic value. Urban Farming program also gives the message that the lack of land is not a reason for not being able to grow crops. Many benefits that can be obtained through this Urban Farming Program

By enjoying the produce of their own farms, the community gains an economic benefit, save family expenditure, sell the crops from their own garden so that it can supplement the family income, preserve and re-greening the environment where people live. Planting habits can be used as a simple refreshing activities that can create its own happiness, when the urban people sometimes often tired with their busy work and the streets are jammed and crowded.

By improving the Urban Farming program intensively, the government should not only rely on public awareness to provide their own agricultural land, considering that Bandung is a dense residential area, so the Bandung City Government should provide more open and empty land to facilitate the community in order to be more involved in the Urban Farming program. The government through the provision of open land for agriculture can also form an agricultural community so that it can create new jobs for the people of Bandung. Gardening in the city can be a fun activity amid the intricacies of modern life. The community gardening collaborates with the government of Bandung City to help community mobilization and foster social awareness about the food crisis. By emerge the social awareness, urban farming is expected to increase participation so that the program can be implemented in bulk. Bandung City Government should include this program in the rules and development planning so that urban farming can implement the program, starting at RT and RW level and cooperation between government, private, social community and community to joint the implementation of urban farming program, and develop agricultural skills for the society of Bandung City.

CONCLUSION

The growing widespread of urban growth and increasing the population, resulted in the decrease of agricultural land. Many agricultural land has been transformed into both commercial and residential land. Reduced of the farmland has certainly affected to the inadequacy of food. Inadequaty food causes the dependency on food imports from other regions (countries or regions). The issue of food security and food independence related to the weakness of agricultural production, becomes an interesting issue to be our common concern. Therefore, it takes an effort for the urban population to

be independent in the provision of food that became a basic requirement in human life.

The Mayor of Bandung, Ridwan Kamil, has initiated Urban Farming program to overcome the problems of agricultural land crisis, self-sufficiency food needs, and air quality improvement through re-forestation activities that have economic and aesthetic value. The program is implemented in several steps, starting from socialization to the community, training, experimentation, program improvement, and development of agricultural commodities, where urban farming target is implemented in every sub district. But in reality, the urban farming has not yielded significant results. Although Urban Farming program in Bandung city there are some shortcomings, but people hope this program will be continued. Sustainability of the program is needed by the government, especially the supreme leader (mayor) of Bandung city government where the development is always oriented to the ecology and food security.

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