THE PERCEPTION OF FARM HOUSEHOLD ON SMALL SCALED CATTLE FARMING
(Case Study at Desa Kanigoro Kecamatan Pagelaran, Malang Regency)

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ABSTRACT

The research was conducted at Desa Kanigoro Kecamatan Pagelaran in Malang Regency from May to July 2003. The research objectives were to describe the perception of farm household about small-scaled cattle farming and to study the possible factors which influence farm household’s access to cattle in Kanigoro. Forty five farmers were selected randomly and interviewed. The descriptive analysis and economic farming system analysis were applied to the data available.

It was found that farm household who kept cattle have perception that rearing cattle could be used as a form of saving, provided drought power to cultivate land (brujul sapi) and covered leisure as well. Farm household without cattle has perception that they had lack of family labour; they preferred rearing other ruminants (i.e. goats, buffaloes and milking cows) and did not have enough cash to buy cattle. The factors influenced farm household’s to access cattle were difficulty in collecting forages especially grass, fluctuated selling price of cattle and difficulties in finding the shareholders (penggoduh). If livestock development will be held in a specific area, this research would recommend that the stakeholders should concern on the perception of the local community, availability of feed resources and labours as well.

Key words: Perception, Farm household, Cattle

INTRODUCTION

Livestock development, cattle in particular could not be separated from the technical aspects (Soehadji, 1991; Satari et al., 1991; Subagiyo, 1996). So, if the population of cattle decline from year to year, it will be related to breed, feed, land, infrastructure or market while non-technical aspects sometimes are neglected.

Farmer may not interesting to raise cattle because of their bad experiences in the past such as selling price was low, cattle kept by the farmer was infertile or they met difficulties to fed them. Another possibility is farmers may have more profitable alternatives work compare to raise ruminants particularly cattle. These bad experiences make the farmer’s perception on raising cattle become negative. This negative perception then influence farmer to not raise cattle.

However, each farmer have their own perception due to their own experience in raising cattle, so this research aimed to describe the perception of farm household about small scale cattle farming and to study the possible factors which influence farm household’s access to cattle in Kanigoro.

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