

# Efforts of LBH Olat Maras UTS in Encouraging the Formation of Forest Farmer Groups in Ongko Village, Empang Sub-District, Sumbawa District

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**Abstract**—*The objective of this study is to investigate the actions taken by LBH Olat Maras UTS to promote the establishment of Forest Farmers Groups in Ongko Village, which is located in Empang District, Sumbawa Regency. The Empirical research approach is going to be utilised for this particular study endeavour. According to the findings of this study, LBH Olat Maras (OM) UTS has been responsible for the formation of six different forest farmer groups. These groups include the Sampar Dangar forest farmer group, the Kuang Bungir forest farmer group, the Kokar Woja forest farmer group, the Kokar Woja 1 forest farmer group, the Saung Tau forest farmer group, and the Tiu Jaran forest farmer group.*

**Indexed Terms**—*LBH OM UTS, Encouraging, Forest Farmer, Ongko Village*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a tropical country that has been overshadowed by forest destruction, both due to legal and illegal logging and exceeding ecological draw limits and the problem of illegal deforestation which causes permanent forest damage. Forests have a very important position and role in supporting national development. Maintaining the integrity of the forest is part of preserving the environment. Environmental problems in line with the development of development in the last decade have increasingly received the spotlight not only nationally but also internationally (Kadir, 2004).

The forest area in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) Province covers 1,071,722.83 hectares or more than 53% of NTB's land area. Increasing population growth has made people's lives in this era dependent on forests. Realising this, the NTB Provincial

Government has implemented the Social Forestry programme which is a national programme of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. The main focus in social forestry is to engage communities and individual farmers with trees and analyse how people plant trees and use them as they grow. The fundamental issue in social forestry is how to change land use so that people sustainably meet their needs from a relatively fixed or shrinking land base (Gregersen 2010).

This social forestry programme is realised by the government by making acceleration steps to achieve the set targets. The steps taken are by issuing Permen LHK no. P83/2016 on social forestry, issuing and ratifying PIAPS (Indicative Map of Social Forestry Areas) (Djauhari et al. 2018), Permen LHK no. P9 of 2021 on social forestry management, and several other efforts. Specifically in NTB, the government is implementing the Strengthening Social Forestry (SSF) programme. This programme is a collaborative project between the Government of Indonesia and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the World Bank. The SSF project aims to improve community access rights to forest areas in priority areas for social forestry development. One of the strategies of this programme is to provide social forestry assistants for community groups, both pre-licence and post-licence assistance.

NTB Province Regional Regulation Number 14 of 2019 concerning Forest Management aims to obtain optimal benefits from forests and forest areas for the welfare of the community, so in principle all forests and forest areas must be managed while taking into account their nature, characteristics and virtues, and are not allowed to change their main functions, namely protection and production functions which are the authority of the Provincial Government. Therefore, forest management needs to maintain a balance.

Community empowerment around forest areas is one of the priorities of the Joko Widodo-Jusuf Kalla administration. This is evident from the target of 12.7 million hectares of community-managed areas set out in the RPJMN 2014-2019 document, an increase from 7.9 million hectares in the RPJMN 2009-2014. In addition to providing wider access, forest communities need assistance in order to improve their institutional capacity, capacity to manage the area, and entrepreneurial capacity, targeting more than 5,000 social business groups and partnerships by 2019. Community empowerment in and around forests, as stated in Government Regulation (PP) No. 6/2007 in conjunction with PP No. 3/2008 on Forest Planning and Preparation of Forest Management Plans, as well as Forest Utilisation designated for Social Forestry management areas consisting of Community Forests (HKm), Village Forests (HD), and Forestry Partnerships (KK). In its development, Community Plantation Forest and Rights Forest (customary forest and community forest) are included in the community empowerment scheme.

In order to encourage the acceleration of social forestry, all communities are encouraged to encourage government programmes at the lower level, including village governments. Throughout 2018-2023 all components of the institution assisted the village government in encouraging the birth of forest farmer groups, as was the case in Ongko village, Empang sub-district, Sumbawa Regency. The movement of LBH Olat Maras UTS continues to provide assistance for the formation of the Ongko Village Forest Farmer Group. This forest farmer group is a form of opening up access for people living in forest areas to utilise forests both for plantations and for farming with a partnership pattern as mandated by the regulation of the minister of environment and forestry on social forestry, where one of them can access forest areas through forest farmer groups with social forestry schemes. For this reason, the author is interested in looking further into the efforts of LBH OM UTS in the formation of KTH in Ongko village, Empang sub-district, Sumbawa Regency.

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs empirical research methods. Empirical Legal Research is a research methodology

that examines the practical implementation and impact of a law or rule within society. This research method is commonly referred to as sociological legal research. It involves studying the relationships and interactions of individuals within a society, particularly in connection to legal matters. In empirical or sociological legal research, the focus is on obtaining primary data or data straight from the source to accurately capture the reality at hand. Eight In empirical research, the focus of examination is predominantly primary data. The research methodology employed in this study utilises the statutory approach method. The statutory approach involves a comprehensive examination of all current laws and regulations in Indonesia pertaining to the responsibilities of the Indonesian government to safeguard its citizens, as outlined in the 1945 Constitution. This approach specifically addresses the concerns raised by the author.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1. LBH Olat Maras UTS

The Olat Maras UTS legal aid institution is an institution established by the Sumbawa University of Technology. This institution aims to provide legal assistance for people who need it. As the vision of realising justice in accordance with the principle of equality before the Law in a socially just legal order for the community. While the mission is to fight for the rights and legal certainty of the community both individually and collectively, improve the quality of services and the function of the law itself for the poor, actively organise legal counselling to the community both specifically and in general, actively involve themselves in regional and national cooperation as an effort to reform the law in Indonesia which is advanced and developed in accordance with the times, focus on legal aid services to the community and increase cooperation with other agencies and bodies, especially in the field of law.

In addition, institutionally, it is upright in fighting for public justice and is always at the forefront of upholding justice in general, both providing corrections to the government and the business world that are detrimental and do not carry out the mandate of the constitution and various laws and regulations in Indonesia.

## 2. EFFORTS OF LBH OLAT MARAS UTS IN THE FORMATION OF FOREST FARMER GROUPS IN ONGKO VILLAGE, EMPANG SUB-DISTRICT, SUMBAWA DISTRICT

Ongko Village is located in the eastern part of Kabupaten Sumbawa, precisely in Kecamatan Empang. The distance from Sumbawa city centre is approximately 2 (two) hours. Ongko village is a good agricultural producing area, both for wetland or paddy fields and dryland or corn or other crops. In addition to agriculture, residents of Ongko village also earn income for livestock, both cows, horses and buffaloes. However, not all Ongko villagers have a share in the form of rice fields or livestock. So they choose to farm partly to support their economic life. Besides relying on rice farming land, they also rely on land for planting corn on the mountain or they often call it RAU or other language forests. So as to help the process of opening access to the Ongko village community. The village government has a high enough thrust to appreciate the community to open forest access by utilising good forest functions and prosperous communities. One option is to form KTH.

In assisting the process of establishing a forest farmer group in Ongko Village, Empang Sub-district, Sumbawa Regency, several stages were taken, as follows:

### 1) Socialisation With Prospective Forest Farmer Groups

After receiving a letter from Ongko villagers in October 2022. The Ongko villagers asked LBH Olat Maras UTS for help in creating a forest farmer group (KTH) in Ongko village because the villagers found it difficult to access the forest that had long been inhabited by the community for their survival. On the one hand, the community wants to live to make a living in the forest area and on the other hand, the government prohibits them from using the forest area. So that there is friction between KPH Empang and the Ongko village community who want to keep control of the land that has been from generation to generation. Finally, the LBH Olat Maras UTS team conducted an initial socialisation to absorb information from the community about the community's celebration. In the first socialisation activity carried out by LBH, community leaders and the village head were present

to ensure and to see firsthand the response of the people of Ongko village.

In the socialisation activities, the community had various views on the pros and cons of using the forest area because it was considered a source of water for the community's livelihood. But on the other hand, the community wants to continue farming on the land that has been passed down from generation to generation. And on the one hand, it is the last source of livelihood because they have no other potential, other land and rice fields are almost not owned by the entire Ongko community. So that other alternatives continue to rely on the production forest to plant corn and other crops. During the socialisation conducted by LBH OM UTS, there was an agreement with the community that the process would be assisted by putting forward the principle of dialogue and agreement with the community. LBH did not want to clash with the community in the field, so there was a mutual agreement between the community and LBH to hold further meetings to hear input from all parties. LBH also asked the community to complete the documents required to form a Forest Farmer Group.

### 2) Seminars And Workshops For Forest Farmer Groups

#### a) Seminar

In order to absorb the aspirations of the community, LBH conducted a seminar by inviting all community leaders including RT, RW, kadus, BPD, Ongko village government, KPH Empang and prospective Forest Farmers group of Ongko village. The seminar was held on 11 March 2023. This seminar was organised by LBH and featured speakers from the Presidium of the Indonesian National Forestry Council and LBH Olat Maras UTS, as well as lecturers from UTS Legal Studies and KPH Empang. The aim was to provide an understanding to the people of Ongko village that the formation of a forest farmer group must fulfil all the requirements including KTP, KK and so on. The education conducted by LBH is to strengthen the composition of the community towards when the forest farmer group that is born is really an example for other groups or for other communities. Regulations allow that to get a social forestry scheme, it must start with the formation of a group in the village, which is decreed by the village head. The group will be the first reference to be submitted to the Ministry of

Environment and Forestry, recommended by the FMU and related agencies.



Figure 1. Seminars and Workshops

In this seminar, the speakers conveyed general views on forestry regulations that allow communities utilising forest areas not to be criminalised or imprisoned, such as Law 41/1999 on Forestry, Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. 9 of 2021 on Social Forestry and village regulations including Law No.6 of 2014 on villages. In general, the speakers conveyed related rules that can be possible to carry out community-based forestry management.

#### b) Workshop

After the seminar and workshop, LBH strengthened the community's position by giving guidance to prospective forest farmer groups. This included administrative requirements, such as collecting ID cards, stamps and KK statements from the community that they were willing not to divert forest functions. And the last session was an agreement to elect a group leader, secretary and treasurer, and group members consisting of a maximum membership of 20 members. In the workshop agreement there was an agreement of residents to give birth to a forest farmer group, there are several groups that have been born. Firstly, the Sampar Dangar forest farmer group, secondly the Kuang Bungir forest farmer group, thirdly the Kokar Woja forest farmer group, fourthly the Kokar Woja 1 forest farmer group, fifthly the Saung Tau forest farmer group and sixthly the Tiu Jaran farmer group. After the formation of 6 (six) forest farmer groups, there was an agreement by group members to conduct a mapping of the locations that would be proposed to the ministry. Each location of the 6 (six) groups agreed on the time for mapping and at the same time elected

a group leader secretary and group members filled by 20 families. And the meeting at the workshop also agreed that the mapping time would be in July 2023 after the community was post-harvest. In preparation for the mapping, LBH and the head of the forest farmer group sketched out the map area and agreed that each member would only get 2 hectares each per household.

#### 3. MAPPING OF THE PROPOSED LAND AREA

On 11-12 June 2023, a field mapping process took place in Sampar dangar block for 2 groups and Brang Semangi area for 4 group members. The mapping was assisted by a team from LBH, Sumbawa University of Technology and a technical team from KPH Empang. The mapping was to ensure that all areas that will be proposed to the ministry are in line with the number of families and the proposed land.

The mapping was carried out in 2 (two) days in the field with a team of approximately 10-20 people. Because each team was divided into two teams, some took the eastern and northern boundaries as well as the western and southern boundaries. The mapping was conducted by the LBH team in collaboration with UKP3 AMAN Sumbawa or another technical team from the Participatory Mapping Work Unit. LBH did this and used other teams apart from the FMU itself to help with the process of taking coordinate points in the field. Later, the results will be combined together. The results of the participatory mapping carried out together with the residents with each group resulted in a proposed map with an area of 2 hectares each. So that in total, the 6 maps produced are 42.9 ha for KTH Kokar Woja 1, then 48.14 ha for KTH Kokar Woja, 47.82 ha for KTH Tiu Jaran, 62.65 ha for KTH Saung Tau, 18.64 ha for KTH Sampar Dangar, and 48, 10 Ha for KTH Kuang Bungir.



Figure 2. Mapping the Forest Area

After each forest farmer group gets an area that has been agreed to be proposed, it is then proposed to complete the documents. Both maps, KK ID cards, letters of statement, SK KTH, NKK and other certifying files and documents of the area being requested.

#### 4. FILING AND PROPOSAL TO KPH EMPANG

After completing the documents, the residents of Ongko Village Forest Farmer Group requested KPH Empang to recommend to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry that the field verification process for the KTH area determination be stipulated by the Minister of Environment and Forestry's decision.

When LBH deemed the proposed file complete, it was conveyed back to the community who are members of KTH so that all field processes continue to be carried out and while waiting for further processes. LBH asked the people of Ongko village to pay attention to the environment in using the area to be used. And continue to maintain local wisdom in the community.

#### CONCLUSION

The efforts made by LBH Olat Maras UTS in encouraging the birth of 6 (six) Ongko village forest farmer groups were taken with various steps, firstly socialization among the Ongko village community, secondly seminars and workshops to absorb community input and form groups, thirdly mapping the area to be proposed to the LHK ministry and finally completing the documents and sending the documents to KPH Empang to be forwarded to the LHK ministry. It was conveyed to all communities who are members of the KTH of Ongko village, Empang sub-district, Sumbawa Regency, so that in forest management they still maintain sustainable forest functions. And for the village government and KPH Empang to continue to control community activities in the field, and open access for KTH communities to continue to partner with various parties to improve community welfare.

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