

## Women's Role in Smallholder Coffee Management in North Sumatra

**Tri Martial**

Universitas Medan Area, Indonesia

Email: [trimartial@gmail.com](mailto:trimartial@gmail.com)

**Yusniar Lubis**

Universitas Medan Area, Indonesia

Email: [lubisyusniar@gmail.com](mailto:lubisyusniar@gmail.com)

**Ahmad Rizki Harahap**

Universitas Deli Sumatera, Indonesia

Email: [ahmadrizkiharahap@gmail.com](mailto:ahmadrizkiharahap@gmail.com)

**Fahman Urdawi Nasution**

Universitas Deli Sumatera, Indonesia

[fahmanurdawinst@gmail.com](mailto:fahmanurdawinst@gmail.com)

**Muhammad Arief Tirtana**

Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

[tirtanaarief2@gmail.com](mailto:tirtanaarief2@gmail.com)

**Mahya Humaira**

Universitas Medan Area, Indonesia

[mahya89aisyah@gmail.com](mailto:mahya89aisyah@gmail.com)

Corresponding author: [ahmadrizkiharahap@gmail.com](mailto:ahmadrizkiharahap@gmail.com)

**Abstract.** *The main objective of this research is to find out the role of women in the people's coffee management system in North Sumatra. The approach in this research is qualitative. The population of this study comes from 5 city districts in North Sumatra including karo, dairi, humbang hasundutan, simalungun, north tapanuli and mandailing natal districts. The sampling technique uses incidental sampling, namely any female farmer who is found in the field and meets the criteria of the researcher, the sampling number used is 60 farmers. This research data analysis technique uses descriptive analysis. The results of data analysis show that in the management of smallholder coffee plantations in North Sumatra, women take a considerable share. Where 8 out of 10 jobs in coffee management are done by women, while 2 more things are done by men. The roles played by women in coffee management are Land Preparation, Seed Planting, Plant Maintenance, Fruit Picking, Fruit Processing, Seed Drying, Seed Cleaning, Storage, and Distribution, while Pest and Disease Control and seed Grinding are carried out by men.*

**Keywords:** *Role of women, Coffee management, North Sumatra*

### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is the world's fourth-largest coffee-producing country after Brazil, Vietnam and Columbia (Afriliana, 2018). One of the coffee contributors in Indonesia is the province of North Sumatra. The quality of coffee produced from North Sumatra is

one of the best quality Coffee in Indonesia with the type of Arabica coffee. Arabica coffee from North Sumatra, especially in areas such as Sidikalang, Lintong, Dairi, Simalungun, Humban Hasundutan, and Mandailing Natal has distinctive flavor characteristics. North Sumatra coffee is characterized by a smooth texture, low acidity, and a rich and complex aroma. Coffee from this region is often used as single-origin coffee or blended into coffee blends to create unique flavor complexities.

North Sumatra coffee is also known as Mandheling coffee which refers to the name of a region in North Sumatra, namely Mandailing Natal. Mandheling coffee is one of the most famous Arabica coffee types in the region. The good quality of coffee in North Sumatra is inseparable from a good coffee farming management system as well where, the management of good coffee plantations is mostly carried out by women because women are considered more patient and painstaking than men. (Martial et al., 2023). However, if during the harvest and post-harvest period, the picking of fruits is carried out on immature ones, incomplete and too long fermentation, drying on the ground, defective horn-skinned coffee, and high water content levels, it can be ensured that the quality of the coffee is not good enough. (Saragih, 2010). According to (Sembiring, N.B., I.K. Satriawan & Tuningrat, 2015) Quality in coffee production is determined by the coffee processing process, generally, farmers prefer dry processing with lower processing costs compared to wet processing. Wet processing produces better coffee quality than the production of dry processing. Most of the wet processing of coffee is carried out by large plantations and female labor, resulting in good physical quality of coffee, but in the fermentation process, there is a risk of damage to the taste. (Mayrowani, 2013). The fermentation process is difficult for coffee farmers to implement because it requires higher production costs and generally the post-harvest technology used by farmers is still traditional. In this case, the role of women in the coffee management system is very much needed, because, in the management of coffee plantations, both maintenance, harvesting, and fruit picking empower women or require the role of women. However, this role in the management of smallholder coffee farms in North Sumatra is invisible (invincible) because in this management only men are seen as managers of coffee plantations, not women. so the purpose of this study is to determine the role of women in the management of smallholder coffee in North Sumatra.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### The Role of Women

(Hubeis, 2010) states that the role of women is seen from 3 perspectives about their position as household managers and development participants or breadwinner workers, when viewed from the area of a woman's role in a household, it can be divided into the following: 1. Traditional roles include activities and activities at home such as all housework, from cleaning the house, cooking, washing, taking care of children, when viewed broadly about the role of women as housewives, women have provided a role that is truly expensive and important in the formation of a prosperous family. 2. Transitional role is the role of women in terms of working and earning a living. The participation of female labor or mothers is caused by several factors, for example in agriculture in meeting the basic needs of female labor is needed to increase existing labor. While in the industrial sector opens up opportunities for women to work because the development of industry means the availability of jobs that are suitable for women so that employment opportunities for women are open. Life problems encourage more women to earn a living. (Aristya, 2019) 3. Contemporary roles include being a career woman.

Another opinion as stated by (Astuti et al., 2018) explains that in gender roles and needs the role of women is divided into the following: 1. Productive roles are roles that are rewarded with money or goods that produce money or goods that are closely related to economic activities. Examples: farmers, tailors, teachers, and entrepreneurs. 2. Reproductive role That is a role that cannot be valued with value, money, or goods, this role is related to human survival. Example: the role of a wife such as conceiving, giving birth, breastfeeding a child is the nature of a mother and educating children, cooking, watering plants, washing, bathing children, sweeping even though it can be done together 3. Social role Namely the role related to the role of the wife to participate in community activities. Examples: recitation activities, KPK, community organization arisan. d. The dual role of women According to Fakhri Mansur, in gender terms, women are defined as humans who are gentle, graceful, kaibuan, emotional, and so on.

In both the Eastern and Western worlds, women are lined up to be wives and mothers, in line with this life, the traits imposed on women are emotional, passive, weak,

decadent, non-assertive, and incompetent for domestic duties. Dual roles are two or more roles that are carried out at the same time. In this case, the role in question is the role of a woman as a wife for her husband, a mother for her children, and a role as a woman who has a career outside the home. This dual role is carried out in conjunction with the traditional role of women as wives and mothers in the family, such as being partners with their husbands in fostering the household, providing household needs, and caring for and educating children. Suryadi Denrich. According to Loekman Soetrisno, women work both as housewives and as "breadwinners" besides their husbands. Women in this group have accepted the dual role of a woman as a woman's nature. Because they see that without their help the husband cannot support them. The poverty that afflicts their families causes women in this group to be unable to leave the survival of their families to their husbands.

### **Management of Smallholder Coffee Plantations**

In the management of smallholder coffee plantations in North Sumatra, the majority is carried out conventionally and for generations. Every time the majority of coffee harvests are carried out jointly by family members and existing farmer groups. Coffee harvested every year is processed into HS coffee (coffee beans with the epidermis still attached) and sold to markets and other regions. Only a little is kept for daily consumption (Folkes E. Laumal, Jhon A. Wabang, Raden Budi Suharto, Nina Lapinangga, 2016).

The management system is still carried out traditionally in processing HS coffee by farmer groups through 3 stages, namely peeling, fermentation/washing, and drying. (Saragih, 2018). The peeling stage is carried out by mashing and grinding traditionally using wood. The Washing / Fermentation stage is not done immediately, because some of the coffee from the Pulper (wet HS coffee) is still mixed with the skin, so it takes additional time and energy to separate/clean the skin that is still attached manually, Washing is done conventionally in a special container and then watered with clean water while stirring by hand until the coffee is completely clean.

In terms of coffee plant management, allowing natural growth and development can reduce the quality and quantity of yields if care and cultivation mechanisms are not applied regularly and sustainably, according to local climatic conditions. When harvesting, conventional processing of Gelondongan Coffee takes a long time so the

freshness of the coffee can decrease and affect the quality of the HS Coffee produced. The conventional fermentation process also causes the coffee to dry longer, especially since farmers only estimate the dryness of the coffee beans because they do not have a moisture meter.

## **RESEARCH METHOD(S)**

The method used in this research is qualitative, using primary data, which comes from observations and interviews. the population of this research is all North Sumatra coffee farmers with incidental sampling techniques The number of samples is 5 districts including Karo, Dairi, Humbang Hasundutan, North Tapanuli, Simalungun, and Mandailing Natal with 60 respondents. the data analysis technique used is descriptive analysis.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Women's Role in Coffee Plantation Management**

The role of women in coffee plantations in North Sumatra is significant and diverse, depending on the geographical context, culture, and size of the plantation. Women's roles in coffee farming are often not limited to a single aspect but include several diverse and important roles in various aspects of farm operations. They play a significant role in maintaining the sustainability of coffee plantations, contributing to the family economy, and supporting the growth and development of local communities (Ahmad Anjas Wara & Yuniar Aviati Syarif, 2022). As according to (Ahmad Anjas Wara & Yuniar Aviati Syarif, 2022).

The role of women in North Sumatra is not only as housewives but many women who work as farmers who can contribute and have a role in increasing family income in the businesses that their families cultivate. A woman's income influences the survival of their own family. (Ilyas, 2011). Women can play a role in good farm management. In general, farm women play a role as workers who can assist the activities of their husbands (farm fathers). The life of farm women from time to time continues to change, reflected in changes in the managerial role of farming, and technology, and the increasing number of side jobs carried out by farm women, both in the agricultural sector and outside the agricultural sector. (Pujosuwarno, 2012). The North Sumatra region has good-quality coffee-producing districts, which include: Karo, Dairi, Humbang Hasundutan, North

Tapanuli, Simalungun, and Mandailing Natal. The majority of the population in these districts work in the agricultural sector. Coffee is one of the mainstay commodities in each of these districts. In the management of coffee commodities that have the main role is the role of husbands/men, but in reality, it is women/farm women (wives) who are involved in coffee plantation management activities. Farm women are involved in the management process of their family's coffee plantation. From the results of research conducted in the field using questionnaires, management, and activities in coffee plantations are the daily tasks of a woman. The management of coffee plantations has become a family routine from generation to generation, starting from childhood and continuing to family for a woman. (Ahmad Anjas Wara & Yuniar Aviati Syarif, 2022). The role of managing coffee plantations is his daily task. Coffee plantation management has several stages starting from land preparation to post-harvest coffee fruit processing. The process of managing coffee plantations includes land preparation and coffee seeds, planting seeds, plant maintenance or plant care, downloading fruit to processing coffee fruit, drying beans, cleaning, storing, and distributing coffee, and this is what is always routinely done by women/coffee farm women in North Sumatra. This is based on the demands of a custom and considers the work to be quite easy and light so that it can be done by women. (Martial et al., 2023). The management of coffee plantations is carried out by women family members voluntarily and sincerely because, with their direct involvement in the management of coffee plantations, they consider that they can manage the family economy compared to men so the role of men in the management of coffee plantations is only burdened with tasks that cannot be done by women farmers such as pest and disease control by spraying poisons, and grinding seeds because they must require energy in lifting. However, this only applies in the Humbang Hasundutan, Karo, Dairi, and North Tapanuli regions. For the Simalungun and Mandailing Natal regions, the role of managing coffee plantations is carried out jointly between women and men because they assume that involving all family members in working in the management of coffee plantations. Affects the time spent working in the garden. The more family members there are, the faster the work will be done and the lighter the work will be.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

The following conclusions can be reached based on the findings of the research and discussion that have been mentioned previously:

1. The role of women in the management of smallholder coffee plantations in North Sumatra, especially the areas of Humbahas, Karo, Dairi, and South Tapanuli, is very central because of the 10 jobs in managing coffee plantations, 8 are done by women while the other 2 activities are done by men.
2. Women in the management of coffee in North Sumatra are considered an obligation because in custom women have an obligation in terms of management.

## REFERENCES

- Afriliana, A. (2018). *Teknologi Pengolahan Kopi Terkini*. CV Budi Utama.
- Ahmad Anjas Wara, S. S. S., & Yuniar Aviati Syarif. (2022). Peranan Anggota Kelompok Wanita Tani Perkebunan Kopi Sekar Wangi Dalam Meningkatkan Kesejahteraan Keluarga di Kecamatan Sekincau Kabupaten Lampung Barat The Role of Members of the Women Farming Group of Sekar Wangi Coffee Plantations in Improving Family W. *Suluh Pembangunan: Journal of Extension and Development*, 4(1).
- Aristya, Y. (2019). *Peran Buruh Tani Wanita Dalam Pemenuhan Kebutuhan Keluarga*.
- Astuti, P., Mulawarman, W. G., & Rokhmansyah, A. (2018). Ketidakadilan Gender terhadap Tokoh Perempuan dalam Novel Genduk Karya Sundari Mardjuki: Kajian Kritik Sastra Feminisme. *Ilmu Budaya (Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Seni Dan Budaya)*, 2(2), 105–114. <https://e-journals.unmul.ac.id/index.php/JBSSB/article/view/1046>
- Folkes E. Laumal, Jhon A. Wabang, Raden Budi Suharto, Nina Lapinangga, J. I. B. H. (2016). *Peran Perguruan Tinggi dalam Pengelolaan Perkebunan Kopi*. 5–8.
- Hubeis, A. V. S. (2010). *Pendekatan Gender dan Pembangunan dalam Pemberdayaan Perempuan dari Masa ke Masa*. IPB Press.
- Ilyas, Y. (2011). *Kinerja, Teori, Penilaian dan Pelatihan*. BP FKUM UI.
- Martial, T., Lubis, Y., & Harahap, A. R. (2023). Women and Gender Discrimination in the Management of Arabica Coffee Plantations in North Sumatra. *International Journal of Research and Review*, 10(9), 200–205. <https://doi.org/10.52403/ijrr.20230922>
- Mayrowani. (2013). Kebijakan penyediaan teknologi pascapanen kopi dan masalah pengembangannya. *Forum Penelitian Agro Ekonomi*, 31(1), 31-49.
- Pujosuwarno. (2012). Dampak Multi Peran dan Pekerjaan Wanita Tani. *Jurnal AGRIC*, 22(1).
- Saragih, J. . (2010). Kinerja produksi kopi Arabika dan prakiraan sumbangannya dalam pendapatan wilayah Kabupaten Simalungun. *Visi2*, 18(1), 98–112.
- Saragih, J. R. (2018). Aspek Ekologis dan Determinan Produksi Kopi Arabika Spesialti di Wilayah Dataran Tinggi Sumatera Utara. *Jurnal Wilayah Dan Lingkungan*, 6(2), 74. <https://doi.org/10.14710/jwl.6.2.74-87>
- Sembiring, N.B., I.K. Satriawan, I. A. M., & Tuningrat. (2015). Nilai tambah proses

pengolahan kopi arabika secara basah (west indischee bereding) dan kering (ost indischee bereding) di Kecamatan Kintamani, Bangli. *Jurnal Rekayasa Dan Manajemen Agroindustri*, 3(1), 61–72.