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## **Implementation of Improving Diversification and Community Food Security Program through Optimizing Yard Utilization in Tomohon City**

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**Abstract.** This study aims to determine, analyze and describe the implementation of the program to increase community food diversification and security through optimizing yard utilization in Tomohon City. Food diversification itself is an effort to increase the availability and consumption of food that is diverse, nutritionally balanced and based on the potential of local resources. This research uses a qualitative method with a research focus on increasing diversification and community food security through optimizing yard utilization in Tomohon City with sub-focus or indicators: socialization, resources, communication between agencies, social and economic conditions. The results showed that of the four indicators studied, various problems were found, namely: 1) Indicators of program socialization: limited clarity of socialization information, gaps between the program and the local needs of the community, and limited accessibility and infrastructure that hamper the smooth implementation of the program; 2) resource indicators: Limited capacity of Human Resources involved in the program, both in terms of knowledge and skills, limited budget, minimal use of technology, inadequate infrastructure and lack of participation and synergy between stakeholders; 3) inter-agency communication indicators: mismatches in information systems between agencies, differences in priorities and perspectives between agencies, lack of budget transparency, lack of community and private sector participation; 4) indicators of social and economic conditions: limited community income, low education levels which have an impact on low community understanding of the importance of food diversification, lack of community participation in program planning and implementation and lack of support from political elites so that the program has not been running effectively.

**Keywords.** Policy Implementation, Food Diversification, Food Security, Optimization, Yard Utilization

### **A. Introduction**

Food diversification is an effort to invite people to provide a variety of staple foods consumed, so as not to focus on only one type (Ikhrum & Chotimah, 2022) [1]. In Law No. 18/2012 concerning on Food, food diversification is defined as an effort to increase the availability and consumption of food that is diverse, nutritionally balanced and based on the potential of local resources (Pradita, 2017) [2]. Widowati (2023) explained that one class of

diversification is horizontal diversification, which is a strategy to fulfill people's food needs to reduce dependence on one commodity, namely rice. Its implementation is by diversifying the production and consumption of various types of local foodstuffs. Food diversification does not intend to replace rice as a staple food but to change people's food consumption patterns with the habit of consuming more types of food and better nutrition [3]. Susmawati (2023) in her article said that diversification of food consumption is able to bring a multiplier effect, not only useful for strengthening food security development, but also able to realize the quality of healthy, intelligent and productive human resources [4].

The government through the Ministry of Agriculture is targeting to reduce people's rice consumption to 85 kg per capita per year from around 92 kg per capita in 2020 (Arif et al., 2020) [5]. Therefore, according to Sastraatmadja (2023) Indonesia needs to reinvigorate its food diversification program through upstream-downstream development of local food. High or excessive consumption of rice also affects health because rice contains high carbohydrate content that can increase blood sugar and affect the body's glucose metabolism. Therefore, changing the pattern of food consumption that does not depend on the staple food of rice is an important thing to be a common concern [6].

Food security is a condition of food fulfillment for the state to individuals, which is reflected in the availability of food that is sufficient, both in quantity and quality, safe, diverse, nutritious, equitable and affordable and does not conflict with religion, beliefs and culture of the community, to be able to live actively and productively in a sustainable manner (Salasa, 2021) [7]. To realize food security, Law No. 18/2012 concerning on Food Article 60 mandates that the government and local governments have the obligation to realize the diversification of food consumption to meet the nutritional needs of the community in accordance with local potential and wisdom in order to realize a healthy, active and productive life. In strengthening the food security of the community, the food diversification program policy is promoted by the government, including some guidelines for activities listed in the Minister of Agriculture Regulation No. 15/Permentan/OT.140/2/2013 concerning on the Program to Increase Diversification and Community Food Security of the Food Security Agency in 2013.

The Tomohon City Government is currently still faced with the problem of the low quality of people's food consumption patterns. Judging from the parameters of the Expected Food Pattern (PPH) Score, Tomohon City's consumption reached a score of 90.7 in 2022, which is still far from the Ideal PPH Score of 100. The PPH score illustrates the nutritional quality of food consumption and the level of diversity of community food consumption. The higher the PPH score, the more diverse, nutritious and balanced food consumption. From the results of the PPH Score mentioned above, it shows that the community's food consumption is not yet diverse.

Dependence on the staple food of rice still dominates the food consumption of the people of Tomohon City. Meanwhile, the availability of rice in Tomohon City still depends on supplies from outside Tomohon City, namely from Bolaang Mongondou, Palu and Gorontalo. Dependence on rice consumption by the community will be felt when there are obstacles in the distribution of rice from outside Tomohon City, resulting in obstructed supply so that the availability of rice staple food in the market or at the trader level decreases and can affect the increase in rice prices due to the lack of available rice stocks.

As an elaboration of the Law on food, Government Regulation No. 17/2015 on Food Security and Nutrition has been issued. In article 26 paragraph 1, it is stated that one of the efforts to diversify food can be done through optimizing land use, including yard land and in paragraph 2 of the article it is stated that diversification can be carried out by the government, local governments, universities and/or local food businesses (Indonesia, 2015) [8]. Therefore,

efforts to increase food diversification through optimizing land use, including yard land, is also something that must be done by local governments. In order to create household food security in urban areas such as Tomohon City, the concept of yard land utilization is considered suitable as an effort to meet family food and nutrition needs as well as a form of implementation of the program to increase diversification and community resilience. The optimization of the use of yard land implemented by the Tomohon City Government through the Regional Food Service is a food village which is implemented through efforts to empower community groups to utilize yard land or vacant land in the middle of residential areas.

Optimization of yard utilization such as food village activities that support the Community Food Diversification and Security Improvement Program is the implementation of the Government of Indonesia's policy that promotes agriculture-related programs in the urban sector involving urban communities by utilizing vacant lands around the city in order to improve health, economy, and quality of life of families and motivate families to be more productive in utilizing the land around them, which currently the area of agricultural land is getting smaller due to land conversion. Data from the Regional Food Service of Tomohon City in 2017 the land area reached 1,104 hectares, and in 2018 agricultural land in Tomohon shrank due to high development to 1,065 hectares, in 2019 it reached 1,014 hectares. The data identifies that the higher the number of population movements in urban areas, the less agricultural land in Tomohon per year. The existence of land conversion has also made people who work as farmers prefer to leave their jobs as farmers and become workers in other sectors. If this condition continues, the food security of the community will also become worse due to the increasingly narrow land in the agricultural sector and will certainly affect the productivity and quality of agricultural products. Data from the Regional Food Service of Tomohon City shows that the population of Tomohon City in 2023 is around 87,719 people.

The Community Food Diversification and Security Improvement Program in Tomohon City is an initiation of one of the programs implemented by the city government through related agencies, especially the Regional Food Service Office. The Regional Food Service Office of Tomohon City is an organizer of extension and operational technical elements of government in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry and food security that support agriculture, animal husbandry and food security programs at the central and regional levels. Data from the Regional Food Service of Tomohon City, the program to increase diversification and community food security has become a program of the Tomohon City government through the Regional Food Service Work Plan which refers to the Decree of the Minister of Home Affairs number 900.1.15.5-1317 of 2023 concerning Amendments to the Decree of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 050-5889 of 2021 concerning the Results of Verification, Validation and Inventory of Classification and Nomenclature Updating of Regional Development and Financial Planning (1487).

The Food Diversification Program has a concept as a diversification of food consumption based on local resources with one of the concepts presented, namely by strengthening household food security with activities to optimize the use of yard space to meet community food availability which has been widely implemented in other regions in Indonesia. The constraints in Tomohon City according to the Head of the Food Consumption Division (2024) are generally similar to other urban areas in Indonesia where there are constraints that the community is not yet aware of food security issues, the community's understanding of the food diversification program is still lacking because socialization is carried out regarding the methods, methods and infrastructure used, has not been carried out or the lack of land and lack of time to carry out yard utilization activities due to community work time from morning to

evening. Also, the lack of coordination between activity organizers and community groups involved in activities is an obstacle that affects the implementation of the program, including the lack of optimal assistance provided by activity organizers. Coordination between related agencies is also still lacking so that in planning program activities in the field of agriculture and food there is often overlap.

Based on the description above, the author is interested in conducting this research with the aim of knowing, analyzing and describing the Implementation of the Community Food Diversification and Security Improvement program through Optimizing the Utilization of Yards in Tomohon City.

### **B. Method**

The research method that will be used in this research is Qualitative Research Method. The qualitative research approach is an approach that emphasizes more on the aspect of in-depth understanding of a problem rather than looking at problems for generalization research, preferring to use in-depth analysis techniques, namely examining problems on a case-by-case basis because qualitative methodology believes that the nature of one problem will be different from the nature of other problems. Qualitative research can be understood as a research method that uses descriptive data in the form of written or spoken language from observable people and actors. This qualitative approach is carried out to explain and analyze individual or group phenomena, events, social dynamics, attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions (Sugiyono, 2017) [9].

The focus of this research is on improving diversification and community food security through the optimization of yard utilization in Tomohon City with sub-focus or indicators: socialization, resources, communication between agencies, social and economic conditions.

The data collection techniques used by researchers are observation, interviews and document studies. The steps of data analysis were carried out using the interactive model of Miles and Huberman (1984) in Kairupan and Mantiri (2020) i.e: data collection, data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification [10]. Data validity tests in qualitative research include tests of credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability.

### **C. Result and discussion** **Program Socialization**

Food diversification and security programs are designed to reduce people's dependence on one type of commodity such as rice and encourage the consumption of more diverse local foods. By utilizing local food potential, the program not only improves food security, but also supports the local economy and the sustainability of natural resources (Ariani, 2007) [11]. However, the success of this program largely depends on how the information is conveyed to the public. Without proper socialization, public awareness of the importance of food diversification remains low.

The following are the findings of the research results for the first sub-focus or indicator, namely the socialization of the program to improve diversification and community food security in Tomohon City.

**Table 1.** Research Findings on Indicator of Program Socialization

Indicator	Findings
Program Socialization	<p><b>Limited Clarity of Socialization Information:</b> The socialized food diversification and resilience improvement program has not been accompanied by information that is clear enough and easily understood by the community. Many communities consider the information provided to be too technical and incompatible with their understanding, leading to a lack of in-depth understanding of the program's objectives, methods and implementation.</p>
	<p><b>Gap Between Program and Local Needs:</b> There is a mismatch between the socialization materials provided and the local needs of the community. Some farmers revealed that the program has not fully taken into account local conditions, such as the type of food they consume and the type of agriculture they manage. This suggests that the socialization needs to pay more attention to the context and field conditions in Tomohon City.</p>
	<p><b>Accessibility and Infrastructure Limitations:</b> There are still limitations in terms of accessibility to participate in socialization, especially in more remote areas. Inadequate infrastructure and limited facilities and infrastructure, such as venues and information media, hamper the process of disseminating information to all levels of society, especially farmers in rural areas.</p>
	<p><b>Lack of Coordination Between Related Parties:</b> Lack of coordination between the various parties involved in socialization, whether between the government, non-governmental organizations, or farmer groups, hampers effective information delivery. This left communities confused about who to contact for further information or support related to the program.</p>
	<p><b>Limited Follow-up and Assistance:</b> After the socialization was conducted, there was no clear follow-up or mentoring from the extension workers or the government. The community feels disconnected from the program implementation process, even though the success of the program requires continuous guidance. Without follow-up assistance, the information provided during socialization becomes less effective in achieving the desired results.</p>

*Source: data processed by researchers (2024)*

In relation to the research findings on the implementation of the Community Food Diversification and Security Improvement Program in Tomohon City, the theory of public policy proposed by Thomas Dye (2008) in Langkai (2020) provides a foundation for understanding the dynamics of policies implemented by the government. According to Dye, public policy is the government's choice to do something or not do something, with certain objectives that require action [12]. In the context of this research, the food diversification and resilience program is one form of public policy taken by the Tomohon City government to deal with existing food problems. However, the implementation of this policy has not gone smoothly due to obstacles identified in the research, such as limited clarity of information dissemination,

gaps between the program and local needs, and limited accessibility and infrastructure. This shows that although the government has chosen to implement this policy, there are still a number of problems that hinder its success.

Overall, the role of the government in providing direction and assistance, as well as the ability to coordinate between various parties, determines the effectiveness of policy implementation in the food diversification program. Therefore, in order to achieve the objectives set out in Government Regulation No. 17/2015 on Food Security and Nutrition, there needs to be improvements in the communication system, mentoring, and resource support so that the community can more easily understand and implement the program according to their needs and local potential.

The ideal view related to the socialization of the program to improve diversification and food security in Tomohon City through the optimization of yard utilization emphasizes the importance of comprehensive planning, implementation and evaluation at every stage of the program. The success of socialization is highly dependent on how the government conveys information in a clear and understandable manner to the community. Information on the benefits of food diversification and food security programs must be relevant to local conditions, delivered through various communication channels, and involve various elements such as community leaders, NGOs, and local organizations in order to broaden the reach of socialization. In addition, good coordination between related parties, such as the Agriculture Office, Food Security Office, urban villages, and farmer groups, is essential to ensure the program runs efficiently and synergistically. Each party involved must have the same understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the program.

Continuous mentoring is also key to the successful implementation of this program. The community needs to receive practical training and technical guidance on agricultural technology and how to optimally utilize the yard, so that they can be independent in food management. In addition, food diversification policies must be tailored to local needs and regional potential. The government should conduct an in-depth analysis of the types of food that are suitable for local geographical and cultural conditions, and support the development of local food-based micro-enterprises that can improve the community's economy. Adequate infrastructure, such as irrigation systems and market access for food products, is also crucial to support the sustainability of the program. Therefore, infrastructure and accessibility improvements are part of the important elements that need to be considered in the implementation of this policy.

Finally, periodic evaluations of program implementation are necessary to determine the extent to which the program is working as intended and to identify any obstacles that arise. Clear follow-up after the evaluation, as well as policy adjustments when necessary, will strengthen the success of this program. With a holistic approach, which includes clear policies, effective socialization, continuous mentoring, infrastructure support, as well as continuous evaluation, it is expected that this program can improve food security, community welfare, and support the achievement of sustainable food diversification goals in Tomohon City.

Finally, the findings in this study illustrate the importance of careful planning, effective coordination, and continuous assistance in ensuring that public policy implementation goes as expected. Successful public policies depend not only on the decisions taken, but also on how the policies are translated into actions that can address existing problems, as expressed by Schubert in Nugroho (2009) regarding implementation as an engineering system that requires adjustment and collaboration between various actors [13].

### Resources

The Community Food Diversification and Security Improvement Program in Tomohon City relies heavily on the utilization of available resources. These resources include human, financial, material and infrastructure, all of which play an important role in ensuring successful implementation. However, challenges in managing resources often become obstacles that affect the effectiveness of the program's implementation. One of the main challenges is the limited human resources who are skilled and understand the concept of food diversification, so that the socialization carried out is not always able to reach the entire community optimally.

The following are the findings of the research results for the sub-focus or indicator of resources for implementing the program to improve diversification and community food security in Tomohon city.

**Table 4.** Research Findings on Resource Indicator

Indicator	Findings
Resources	<b>Limited Human Resource Capacity (HRC):</b> Field officers involved in the program have good basic skills, but minimal training and lack of intensive mentoring hamper their ability to effectively convey information to the community. This has resulted in the community's low understanding of the importance of food diversification.
	<b>Program Budget Constraints:</b> Limited budget allocations and an inflexible process for distributing funds meant that important activities such as socialization, training and providing incentives to farmers were not optimally implemented. As a result, program coverage is limited and uneven across Tomohon City.
	<b>Lack of Technology Utilization:</b> Food processing and distribution technologies have not been optimally utilized by farmers and small business actors. Limited access to modern food processing tools reduces the added value of local products, while the distribution of food products is hampered by inadequate infrastructure.
	<b>Lack of Stakeholder Participation and Synergy:</b> Collaboration between the government, private sector and local communities is still not well established. Differences in interests and lack of effective communication are challenges in creating synergies to support the success of diversification and food security programs.
	<b>Unsupportive Infrastructure:</b> The infrastructure conditions of local markets and roads leading to food production areas are still inadequate. The absence of storage facilities such as cold storage in local markets and poor transportation access increase distribution costs, which in turn affect food prices and availability in the market.

*Source: data processed by researchers (2024)*

The implementation of the Community Food Diversification and Security Improvement Program in Tomohon City faces various challenges related to limited resources, in terms of people, budget and infrastructure. One of the main problems found in this study is the limited capacity of human resources (HR), which hampers the effectiveness of the program. Limited human resources, both in number and quality, are the main obstacle in providing

adequate training, guidance and mentoring to the community to optimize the utilization of the yard. The lack of technical understanding of effective crop cultivation and yard management techniques makes it difficult for communities to implement food diversification programs independently. Therefore, increasing the capacity of human resources through continuous training and improving technical knowledge is necessary to ensure the success of this program.

In implementing the Community Food Diversification and Security Improvement Program in Tomohon City, through the optimization of yard utilization, the challenges faced are strongly influenced by various factors related to resources, including human resources, budget, technology, participation, synergy between stakeholders, and infrastructure. As stated by Thomas Dye (2008) in Rushananto (2014), Public policy is the government's choice to do something or not do something, which of course has the aim of solving social problems [14]. In this case, the policy to improve food security through food diversification is a strategic choice to solve the problem of dependence on a single food and improve people's welfare. However, the success of the policy depends on the resources available, especially in its implementation.

According to Riyadi (2003), Food diversification is a process of food selection that does not only depend on one type of food, but has a variety of choices [15]. Therefore, if the technology used is still minimal, then the management of the yard will not be maximized in producing various types of food that are nutritious and sustainable. Therefore, better technology needs to be introduced to farmers and communities in Tomohon City so that they can utilize their yards in a more efficient way and produce diverse and nutritious food.

Human resources (HR) is the main factor that needs to be considered, because the quality of HR will determine the success of this program. With limited knowledge and skills in yard management, there is a need for capacity building through training, mentoring, and transfer of appropriate technology. In addition, improving the quality of human resources must involve not only farmers or farmer groups, but also the community as a whole to create a broader understanding of the importance of food diversification. This is in line with the opinion of Riyadi (2003), which emphasizes that food diversification aims to reduce dependence on one type of food and increase the diversity of food sources for the welfare of the community [15].

Furthermore, the challenge of a limited budget should be addressed by designing a targeted allocation of funds and ensuring adequate budget support to sustain the program. A sufficient budget will make it possible to provide the necessary facilities and infrastructure, such as agricultural tools, extension facilities, and relevant technology upgrades. The government must be able to plan and manage the budget wisely so that funding for this program is not only short-term, but sustainable.

The utilization of technology in yard management is an equally important aspect. The right technology can increase the efficiency and results obtained from the utilization of the yard. In this case, environmentally friendly and sustainable agricultural technology should be introduced and applied. The government and related agencies need to be more active in providing technologies that can increase productivity and reduce the risk of loss for farmers and communities.

Furthermore, community participation and synergy between stakeholders are the keys to success in implementing this policy. The program will not succeed if it is only implemented by the government or farmer groups, but requires the active role of all components of society, including the private sector, educational institutions, and civil society organizations. Open communication and good coordination between agencies and stakeholders will ensure the success of the program, in accordance with Grindle's view in Winarno (2016) that successful policies require synergy and solid cooperation [16].

Finally, supportive infrastructure is a decisive factor in ensuring that the distribution and marketing of food products produced from the yard can run smoothly. The provision of adequate facilities for the distribution of agricultural products will ensure that the products are accessible to consumers at reasonable prices. Without good infrastructure, the program will face difficulties in distributing the produce to the people who need it, so that the main objective of the food diversification program cannot be achieved optimally.

Overall, the researcher's ideal view is to create a comprehensive support system, integrating all relevant aspects from human resources, budget, technology, participation, synergy between stakeholders, to infrastructure. With this holistic approach, the food diversification program in Tomohon City can have a significant positive impact in improving community food security and welfare in a sustainable manner.

### **Inter-Agency Communication**

Inter-agency communication is an important element in the implementation of the Food Diversification and Security Improvement Program in Tomohon City. This process involves coordination between the Food Service Office and other agencies, such as the Agriculture Office, Trade Office, as well as private institutions and local communities. However, obstacles in communication often arise, both in terms of information flow, transparency, and lack of alignment in program planning and implementation in the field.

The following is a description of the research findings for the inter-agency communication of the community food diversification and security improvement program in Tomohon city based on observations, interviews and document studies in the field.

**Table 5.** Research Findings on Interagency Communication Indicator

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Findings</b>
Inter-agency Communication	<b>Discrepancies in Inter-Agency Information Systems:</b> There are discrepancies in the information systems used by various agencies, which hampers coordination and data exchange. Some agencies still use manual methods, while others have used more modern digital-based systems, hindering the smooth flow of information and timely decision-making.
	<b>Differences in Priorities and Perspectives between Agencies:</b> There are different priorities between government agencies, the private sector and local communities in terms of the objectives and implementation of food security programs. The Food Agency focuses more on local food sustainability, while the private sector prioritizes commercial profitability, which often leads to imbalances in collaboration and communication between relevant parties.
	<b>Lack of Transparency in Budget Allocation:</b> Despite efforts to communicate information on budget allocations, there are still delays and irregularities in the sharing of such information between relevant agencies. This affects the timely implementation of activities that must be supported by the budget, and reduces the effectiveness of food security program implementation.
	<b>Challenges in Using Technology for Communication:</b> Utilization of existing technology to support communication between agencies is still

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not optimal. Barriers such as the lack of integration between systems used by different agencies cause information to not be updated in real-time, thus slowing down decision-making and coordination between the parties involved.

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**Limited Involvement of Communities and Private Sector in Planning:** The involvement of local communities and the private sector in planning and evaluating food security programs is still limited. Communities are mostly involved in implementation and production, while the private sector is more focused on distribution and marketing. This limitation reduces the potential for more effective collaboration in achieving the goal of sustainable food diversification in Tomohon City.

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*Source: data processed by researchers (2024)*

Overall, to overcome the problems faced in inter-agency communication, there needs to be a more integrated and systematic approach. Coordination between agencies should be strengthened with a more harmonized information system, transparency in budget allocation should be improved, and the use of technology should be maximized to accelerate information distribution and communication between the parties involved. Active participation of the community and the private sector in the planning and implementation stages of the program must also be considered so that the food security program can run smoothly and have a real impact on the people of Tomohon City.

Inter-agency communication in the implementation of the food diversification and security improvement program in Tomohon City plays an important role in ensuring that the policy is effective. In this context, the incompatibility of information systems between agencies is the main problem faced. This impedes the flow of timely and accurate information, which is essential for planning and evaluation of existing policies. This mismatch in information systems also affects decision-making, which can impact on the effectiveness of food security program implementation. In systems theory, the organization of information is essential to support appropriate decision-making, which ultimately affects the success of the policies implemented.

Limited resources, be it funds or manpower, often hamper the implementation of food security-related policies. Research shows that the limited budget allocated to support program activities, such as food villages, reduces the effectiveness of their implementation. Without sufficient resources, even well-designed policies will struggle to be realized. In development theory, the availability of adequate resources is one of the important prerequisites in ensuring program success.

The role of the private sector in supporting food security policies is also very important. The private sector can contribute in terms of investment and technology development that can improve the outcomes of food security programs. However, as found in this study, the private sector in Tomohon City is less involved in food security programs. Public-private partnership theory suggests that collaboration between the government and the private sector can accelerate the achievement of development goals. Therefore, it is important to encourage private sector involvement in food security programs to increase their effectiveness.

Strategies to improve inter-agency communication are needed to overcome this problem. One step that can be taken is to form a coordination team consisting of representatives of various agencies involved in the food security program. By establishing this team, information can be channeled more efficiently and the decision-making process will be faster.

The use of efficient communication technologies, such as digital platforms or web-based applications, can also help facilitate the flow of information between agencies.

The researcher's ideal view related to the sub-focus of the implementation of the program to improve diversification and community food security in Tomohon City through optimizing the use of this yard, is closely related to the understanding of the theory of policy implementation put forward by George C. Edward III in Mubarok et al. (2020) [17]. Based on this theory, to achieve success in policy implementation, several key factors must be considered, namely effective communication between agencies, availability of adequate resources, positive disposition of implementers and the community, and bureaucratic structures that support efficient coordination.

In the context of the food security program in Tomohon City, researchers suggest that improvements in inter-agency communication should be a top priority. This is due to the mismatch of information systems between agencies that is currently faced. For policies to work well, information related to the goals, objectives and implementation of the program must be clearly conveyed and coordinated among all stakeholders. An integrated information system will reduce distortions in policy implementation and ensure that all parties involved understand their roles and responsibilities well.

Overall, achieving the goal of optimal food diversification and security in Tomohon City requires a holistic approach that incorporates effective communication, human resource capacity building, adequate budget allocation, active community involvement and good inter-agency coordination. With this integrated and holistic approach, food security policies in Tomohon City can be more effective and sustainable.

### **Social and Economic Conditions**

Social and economic conditions in Tomohon City play an important role in supporting or hindering the implementation of the Community Food Diversification and Security Improvement Program. Social factors such as food consumption patterns, people's habits and their perception of the importance of food diversification affect the success of the program. In the city, most people still rely on certain types of food, especially those that are easily available and affordable, which limits the acceptance of more diverse local food products. Therefore, there is a challenge in changing people's mindset to consume more local food as part of efforts to improve food security.

The following is a description of the research findings for the indicators of social and economic conditions of the community food diversification and security improvement program in Tomohon city based on observations, interviews and document studies in the field.

**Table 6.** Research Findings on Indicator of Social and Economic Conditions

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Findings</b>
Social and Economic Conditions	<b>Limited Community Income:</b> One of the main problems found is the low income of the community, especially among smallholder farmers and low-income families, which prevents them from accessing more diverse local foods. More varied local foods are often perceived as more expensive and difficult to obtain, so people prefer familiar and more affordable staple foods.
	<b>Low Education Level:</b> The low education level of the community is an obstacle in improving understanding of the importance of food

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diversification. People with low education levels tend not to understand the long-term benefits of diverse local food consumption, so they continue to consume limited and easily accessible food.

**Social Barriers and Eating Habits:** Eating habits and ingrained customs among communities are social factors that hinder the adoption of more diverse local foods. Many people are reluctant to try new types of food, despite being reminded of the benefits of food diversification, making it difficult to change their consumption patterns.

**Lack of Community Participation in Program Planning:** Although most community groups provide support for the program, there are still groups that feel uninvolved in program planning, implementation, and evaluation. This lack of community involvement reduces the success and effectiveness of the program in encouraging changes in food consumption patterns.

**Limited Political Elite Support:** Despite the support of some political elites, existing policies have not fully addressed the socio-economic problems faced by communities on the ground. The lack of attention to the socio-economic conditions of the community in the policies adopted hinders the sustainability of the program and community acceptance of the food security policy.

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*Source: data processed by researchers (2024)*

The social and economic conditions of the community play a very important role in the successful implementation of programs to improve food diversification and security, including in Tomohon City. One of the main problems faced is the limited income of the community. With low incomes, people find it difficult to access nutritious food, let alone to allocate a portion of their income to food diversification programs that may require initial investment in terms of training, materials or technology. This income limitation has the potential to worsen people's food security, as they are more likely to rely on cheap and less nutritious types of food, such as rice, rather than trying more varied local foods.

A low level of education is also an inhibiting factor in the implementation of food security programs. Low education can hinder people's understanding of the importance of balanced nutrition and the benefits of food diversification. This is related to the problem of ignorance or lack of awareness about how to optimize the yard to produce diverse foodstuffs. People who do not understand the benefits of food diversification or how to manage their yards efficiently may be less likely to participate in the program. Therefore, education and training are key elements that need to be improved to support the success of this program.

In addition, social barriers and dietary habits also pose challenges to program implementation. People tend to have deep-rooted eating habits, such as consuming rice-based foods as the main source of carbohydrates. This habit can hinder efforts to replace consumption patterns with more varied and nutritious local food ingredients. Overcoming this obstacle requires an approach that involves effective socialization and promotion of the benefits of local food, as well as strategies that can change people's established eating habits.

The lack of community participation in program planning is another challenge found in this study. Community participation is crucial in ensuring that the program is relevant to their needs and socio-economic conditions. If the community is not involved from the planning stage,

then they may not feel ownership of the program and are less committed to implementing it. Therefore, it is important for the government and related institutions to involve the community in planning and decision-making, so that the programs implemented can meet their needs and have a significant impact on their welfare.

Finally, limited support from political elites is also a major obstacle to the implementation of diversification and food security programs. Support from local governments, especially from officials and political leaders, is crucial in directing policies and allocating resources to support the program. Without strong political support, the program is likely to be hampered in terms of budget allocation, supporting policies, and encouragement to engage communities. Thus, strengthening political support and forging closer ties between the government, communities and the private sector are critical to improving the effectiveness of this food security program.

Overall, poor social and economic conditions, lack of education, social barriers related to eating habits, lack of community participation, and limited political support are constraining factors that must be overcome to achieve the goals of the food diversification and security improvement program in Tomohon City. Solving these problems requires a comprehensive approach, involving educational policies, socialization, training, as well as strong support from all relevant parties.

The researchers' ideal view is that effective inter-agency communication should be supported by a transparent information system, good human resource capacity training, and active involvement of the community and private sector. Through this approach, the objectives of the food diversification and security improvement program in Tomohon City can be achieved more optimally and sustainably.

#### **D. Conclusion**

Based on the results of the research and discussion described above, it can be concluded that:

1) In the socialization indicator: there is a lack of clarity in the socialization information, a gap between the program and the local needs of the community, and limited accessibility and infrastructure that hamper the smooth implementation of the program. In addition, the lack of coordination between related agencies and limited follow-up and assistance to the community after the initial socialization led to the low effectiveness of the program in creating sustainable change. This shows that although this program has potential, its implementation is still constrained by various factors that need to be addressed comprehensively.

2) In the Resources indicator: the limited capacity of Human Resources (HR) involved in the program, both in terms of knowledge and skills, is one of the main obstacles. In addition, limited budget constraints affect the smooth implementation of activities, such as socialization, training, and providing incentives to local farmers. The minimal use of technology, as well as the lack of participation and synergy between stakeholders, also hindered the achievement of program objectives. Moreover, inadequate infrastructure, especially in terms of food distribution and local markets, further worsens the implementation of the program.

3) In the Inter-Agency Communication indicator: it was found that the incompatibility of information systems between agencies led to unclear coordination and exchange of important data. In addition, there are differences in priorities and perspectives between agencies that affect alignment in achieving program objectives. Lack of transparency

in budget allocation and challenges in the use of communication technology further exacerbate this problem, impeding the flow of timely and accurate information. The limited involvement of communities and the private sector in planning and evaluation also reduces the opportunity to create programs that are locally appropriate and more effective.

4) In the indicator of Social and Economic Conditions: It was found that the limited income of the community is the main obstacle in accessing more diverse local food. In addition, the low level of education also has an impact on the low understanding of the importance of food diversification for food security. Social barriers and internalized eating habits are challenges in changing people's consumption patterns. The lack of active community participation in program planning and implementation indicates a gap between policies and local needs. Limited support from political elites also exacerbates the situation, given that without strong support, the program is difficult to run effectively.

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