



RESEARCH ARTICLE

HELPING FARMERS IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN TECHNICAL IRRIGATION
IN SOUTH SULAWESI INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the research is to find a research training model (R & D) for farmers to improve the environment quality in technical irrigation. The sample respondents were chosen by the purposive sampling method. Data collection was done by giving a questionnaire to the respondents. The analysis used was descriptive analysis. The results of the research are as follows: the training model consists of seven steps, namely: (a) perform needs analysis, (b) formulate the training objectives, (c) develop the training materials, (d) determine the tests and training methods, (e) conduct a preliminary assessment, (f) conduct training, and (g) make a final assessment. The description of the training materials required by the farmers, consisted of: (a) knowledge of wetland agricultural ecosystem, (b) environmental knowledge, (c) knowledge of irrigation area maintenance, (d) knowledge of environmental pollution and (e) conservation knowledge of irrigation areas. The development of training materials shall be carried out in the following steps: (a) analyzing the objective-based materials, (b) designing training materials based on the objectives, (c) develop the material by referring to the relevant literature, (d) validate, (e) implement materials and (f) conduct an evaluation.

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INTRODUCTION

The technical irrigation area is a sub-system of the ecosystem as a whole and is a built environment for farmers. Irrigation is the main means for farmers to farm, i.e., interacting with the environment to conduct various farming efforts to obtain products of farming businesses that can be sold for income. Therefore, this area needs to be maintained so that the quality of the environment and farmers' income is improved. The declaration is in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management, which states that everyone has the right to a good, healthy, and environmentally responsible environment to preserve the environment, prevent, and cope with pollution and prevent damage to the environment. Chiras (1985) states that the environment needs to be nurtured continuously so as to provide a variety of natural resources for sustainable human needs. Furthermore, Sastrawijaya (2009) states that between humans and the environment there is a reciprocal relationship. Man and his environment are an integral whole. Humans affect the environment, and vice versa; humans are influenced by the

environment. Based on that opinion, it can be understood that farmers are one unit with irrigation area. Farmers determine the bad environment or irrigation areas. Therefore, farmers should have knowledge of the environment, knowledge of the ecosystem, knowledge of farming, positive attitude towards irrigation, and good behavior to maintain irrigation so as to conserve irrigation and sustainable farm land for a long time in the future. Agricultural activities that can cause pollution include the use of various pesticides. Pesticides can be carried by rain water from drainage of rice fields to irrigation channels, rivers, and others. Excessive use of chemical fertilizers will lead to eutrophication, which grows fertile algae and water weeds. These plants interfere with the use of water for drinking, irrigation, fisheries, and tourist attractions. When the plant dies, it settles and decomposes, and decay takes place. The decomposition will disturb the sanitation of the reservoir (State Minister of Environment Regulation No. 01 The year 2010 on the Management of Water Pollution Control). The use of chemicals for the control of insects, pests, weeds, and fungi in agricultural areas has increased the productivity of farming. However, excessive use threatens the lives of humans and other species (Brundtland, 1988). Water can transmit diseases directly. Various insects, like mosquitoes, need water to grow and multiply. Mosquitoes can infect humans with dengue fever, malaria, and elephantiasis (Soerjani, et al., 1987).

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It is known that the use of chemical fertilizers by farmers in agricultural areas has increased agricultural production, but excessive use decreases the quality of the environment. Excessive use of chemical fertilizers will disrupt the use of water for various purposes. Water in wetland farms is a place to grow and breed a variety of disease-carrying predators. Therefore farmers in irrigation areas need to be empowered so that they have sufficient knowledge, positive attitude, and sustainable behavior toward their environment. The research of Muhammad Ardi (2011), on the behavior of the community in maintaining the environment in agriculture in Soppeng Regency, found that the behavior of the people in irrigated agriculture areas in the aspects of (1) maintaining the tract is still low, (2) landslides are low, (3) repair and maintenance of tertiary channels and irrigation buildings are very low. Muhammad Ardi's (2012) research on the factors that influence farmers behavior in farming and the preservation of the environment in some irrigation areas in South Sulawesi Province. The results of the research indicate that farmer behavior is strongly influenced by (a) ecosystem knowledge, (b) environmental knowledge, (c) environmental conservation knowledge, (d) farming knowledge, (e) attitudes toward the environment, and the environment. The study of Muhammad Ardi (2013) on the knowledge and attitude of farmers in farming and conservation of the environment in wetland, farmland and buffer zones in Soppeng Regency found that: (a) ecosystem knowledge, environmental knowledge, environmental conservation knowledge and knowledge about farmers' farming in wetland, moorland, and buffer zones is not sufficient for farming and conserving the environment, (b) farmers' attitudes towards the environment, and farmers' attitudes towards farming in these three areas have not been good.

The objectives of the research are: (1) to examine and find a training model to improve environmental quality continuously in the technical irrigation area, (2) to examine and find textbooks (teaching material) in the continuous improvement of environmental quality in the technical irrigation area. The various theories underlying this research are as follows: Goad (1982) in Hanrahmawan (2010) suggests a training model with the following steps: (1) analyze to determine training requirements; (2) design the training approach; (3) develop the training materials; (4) conduct the training; and (5) evaluate and update the training. Nadler (1982) developed a training model known as The Critical Events Model (CEM) or an open training model with the following steps: (1) determining the organization's needs; (2) specifying task implementation specifications; (3) determining learning needs; (4) formulating objectives; (5) determining the curriculum; (6) choosing a learning strategy; (7) determining the source of learning; and (8) conducting training; Then back to determine the needs. This rotation aims to see the advantages and disadvantages of training that have been implemented. Friedman and Elaine (1985) put forward six stages of the training process. The six stages are as follows: (1) awareness of need; (2) analyzing the problems; (3) knowing options; (4) adopting a solution; (5) teaching a skill; and (6) integration in the system. Djudju Sudjana (1993) developed a training model with the following steps: (1) conducting recruitment of training participants, (2) identifying needs, sources, and possible barriers; (3) determining and formulating training objectives; (5) conducting preliminary evaluation of the trainees, (6) implementing the training process, (7) carrying out the final evaluation of the activity, and (8) carrying out the evaluation of the program

training. Banathy in Sanjaya (2011) designed a learning program consisting of six stages as follows: (1) analyzing and formulating objectives; (2) formulating test criteria; (3) analyzing and formulating learning activities; (4) designing systems; (5) implementing, and (6) making improvements and changes based on the evaluation. Dick and Carey in Sanjaya (2011) designed a training model that starts from (1) identification of objectives, (2) formulating the test, (3) developing learning strategies according to goals, and (4) evaluating. The various training and learning models that have been proposed are a reference or foundation for finding a model for training of farmers in technical irrigation areas in order to improve sustainability. The Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 32 of 2009 on the Protection and Management of the Environment, states that the environment is a system that is a unity of space with all objects, and living things including human beings and their behavior that determines the life and welfare of human beings and other living creatures. Further Soerjani, *et al.* (1987) stated that the environment is a living system in which there is human intervention of the ecosystem order.

If environmental knowledge, attitudes toward the environment, knowledge, and behavior of farming, and farmer behavior maintain good irrigation areas, the irrigation areas will not experience degradation. Irrigated areas that suffer from degradation do not benefit farmers. Soemarwoto (1985), suggests that environmental degradation poses an environmental risk, not environmental benefits. Soerjani, *et al* (1987), said that the nature of environmental management by humans is how humans make efforts to improve human quality, while environmental quality is also getting better. Irrigation by Dumairy (1992) and Pasandaran (1991) is an artificial procurement of water supply, both ground water, and surface water, to support agricultural development. Adequate irrigation facilities will increase agricultural production, farm income, and the economy as a whole. This concept brings increased efficiency and effectiveness of irrigation in the form of water-saving technology. Although there is already a water distribution arrangement on an irrigation system, farmers' competition in water use is difficult to avoid. This fact is in line with what Siy (1982) proposes, that farmers who have greater access to water supplies rarely pay attention to water consumption that exceeds their needs. Furthermore, Levine (1980), suggests that the mechanism of water use in irrigation areas should be expanded and be made efficient by incorporating additional functions necessary for the operating system, namely the maintenance of basic means of irrigation and handling of farmers' disputes arising from water problems.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research approach used is development research, with the following steps: (1) conducting survey research to study the training model and teaching materials; (2) developing teaching materials and models to continuously improve environmental quality in technical irrigation areas. Research location is the technical irrigation area in South Sulawesi Province. The sample area is selected by the purposive sampling method that is, the Langkemme irrigation area in Soppeng Regency. The Langkemme irrigation area is one of the technical irrigation areas that irrigates large rice fields, where the environment in this irrigated area is poorly maintained. The research respondents were chosen by the purposive sampling method. Respondents of this research were 25 people from the leadership

and employees of the Regional Environment Service, the Public Works Service (irrigation), the Forest Service, the Agriculture Service, and the Community Leaders (Farmers), each consisting of five persons. The variables or concepts to be considered are: (1) a suitable training model for farmers' development in improving environmental quality in a sustainable manner in the Langkemme irrigation area; and (2) description of training materials along with their development to improve environmental quality in a sustainable manner in the Langkemme irrigation area. Data collection was done by giving questionnaires to respondents whose contents involved the determination of the training model and training materials. The model and teaching materials were validated by relevant experts. Data analysis used was qualitative descriptive analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The training models found in the effort to improve the environmental quality in a sustainable manner in the technical irrigation areas were as follows: (1) conducting needs analysis; (2) formulating training objectives; (3) developing training materials; (4) determining the test and training methods; (5) conducting an initial assessment (6) conducting training; and (7) making a final assessment. Needs analysis was done to know exactly what knowledge was needed by farmers to improve the environmental quality continuously in the technical irrigation areas. Training objectives were formulated to determine the competencies required by the farmers in an effort to improve the environmental quality in a sustainable manner in the technical irrigation areas. Training materials were developed based on the needs of the farmers to meet their competence in an effort to improve environmental quality in a sustainable manner in the technical irrigation areas. To measure the initial ability and end-ability of the trainees, a test was developed based on existing training materials. To maximize the time and effort, the training method was determined so that there was good communication between the farmers and trainers. Before the farmers were given training, they were given a test to determine their initial competence (knowledge and attitudes toward the environment) in an effort to continuously improve the environmental quality in the technical irrigation areas.

Implementation of the training was carried out in the following steps: (1) determining the training ground; (2) determining the trainees; (3) giving direction to the trainees and equalization of perceptions about the training objectives; (4) supplying the farmers with training materials based on predetermined objectives; (5) providing an opportunity for the farmers to ask questions that are not yet understood; (6) the trainer responding to all questions and providing a more detailed explanation so that the farmers could understand the training materials; (7) the trainer providing a reinforcement of the core material that is difficult for a farmer to understand; and (8) the trainer terminating the training activity by first providing direction and motivation for the next training. After all the training materials had been submitted, the test to determine the improvement of competence of the farmers based on the training objectives that have been formulated was administered. This finding is supported by Goad (1982) in Hanrahmawan (2010), Nadler (1982) and Friedman and Elaine (1985), which states that the training model begins with needs analysis, material delivery, and evaluation. Description of the training materials needed by the farmers in an effort to improve environmental

quality in a sustainable manner in technical irrigation areas are: (1) knowledge of wetland agricultural ecosystem; (2) environmental knowledge; (3) knowledge of irrigation area maintenance; (4) knowledge of environmental pollution; and (5) conservation knowledge of the irrigation areas.

The knowledge of wetland agricultural ecosystems is a reciprocal relationship between all living and non-living beings that exist in wetland farming areas (technical irrigation areas) including the peasants who influence each other and form a system. The knowledge of this ecosystem must be understood by the farmers so that they can maintain the irrigation area in a sustainable manner. Environmental knowledge in technical irrigation areas is dominated by wetland farms and in it, there are objects and power including humans that determine the condition of the space. This environmental knowledge should be owned by the farmers so that they can maintain the sustainable irrigation areas. Irrigation maintenance, as well as the trunk, secondary channel, tertiary channel, irrigation building, and sewer, must be maintained by the farmers. Therefore, the farmers should have knowledge about how to maintain irrigation areas so that their irrigation areas do not cause harm to the farmers and the government. The entry of certain organisms in irrigation areas which resulted from the irrigation areas continuously decreasing in quality is called environmental pollution. For example, the use of excessive pesticides and chemical fertilizers can result in environmental pollution. The farmers must understand the elements that can harm farming and harm the health of farmers. In this way, the farmers will remain healthy in trying to farm in irrigated areas that do not experience degradation.

Conservation knowledge in irrigation areas involves knowledge of all known elements for continuously improving the environmental quality in the technical irrigation areas. Therefore, the farmers in irrigation areas should understand the elements related to improving the quality of the environment. In this way, the farmers can behave well in maintaining the irrigation areas in a sustainable manner. This finding is in line with Soerjani, *et al.* (1987) and Soemarwoto (1985), who stated that the environment consists of two parts, namely the physical environment and social environment; this environment needs to be nurtured so as to benefit humans in the future. Training materials were developed in the following steps: (1) analyzing objective-based materials; (2) designing training materials based on objectives; (3) developing the material by referring to the relevant literature; (4) validating; (5) implementing materials; and (6) conducting an evaluation. This finding is in line with what was proposed by Trianto (2012), Morrison, Ross, and Kemp (2004), Molenda (2003), and Dick and Carey (2001), who stated that material development begins with analyzing materials, developing, and evaluating the materials.

Conclusion

1. The training model for the farmers to improve sustainable environmental quality in the technical irrigation areas in South Sulawesi consists of seven steps, as follows: (a) conducting needs analysis; (b) formulating training objectives; (c) developing training materials; (d) determining the tests and training methods; (e) conducting preliminary assessments (f) conducting training; and (g) making a final assessment.

2. Description of training materials required by farmers to improve sustainable environmental quality in the technical irrigation areas in South Sulawesi are: (a) knowledge of wetland agricultural ecosystems; (b) environmental knowledge; (c) knowledge of maintenance of the irrigation areas; (d) knowledge of environmental pollution; and (e) irrigation area conservation knowledge
3. Development of training materials was done in the following steps: (a) analyzing objective-based materials; (b) designing training materials based on the objectives; (c) developing the materials by referring to the relevant literature; (d) validating; (e) implementing materials; and (f) conducting an evaluation.

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