

## History of the Role of the Three Friends Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) in Prospering Oil Palm Farmers in Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province

Lathifah Humairah<sup>1\*</sup>, Zaiyardam<sup>2</sup>, Harry Efendi<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Master of History, Department of History, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Andalas, Indonesia

\*correspondence email : tasyawkui@gmail.com

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### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan sejarah peran KUD Tiga Sekawan dalam mensejahterakan masyarakat petani sawit yang ada di Desa Pulau Kabupaten Batanghari Provinsi Jambi. Peran yang dimaksud adalah melalui program KKPA yang bermitra dengan PT Citra Mulia Manunggal selama tahun 2012-2023. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode keilmuan sejarah, diantaranya: heuristik, kritik sumber, interpretasi, dan historiografi. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian yang dilakukan, diketahui bahwa program KKPA yang dijalankan oleh KUD Tiga Sekawan belum mampu mendorong kesejahteraan petani sawit yang ada di Desa Pulau Kabupaten Batanghari Jambi selama tahun 2012-2023. Hal ini dikarenakan dalam pelaksanaan KKPA tersebut, ditemui permasalahan, diantaranya: tidak adanya transparansi pengelolaan dana dan publikasi distribusi hasil usaha yang dilakukan oleh pengurus KUD kepada anggota koperasi. Ketidakjelasan pembagian hasil dan jangka waktu penyerahan tanah kepada koperasi sebagai bentuk kerjasama mitra dengan PT. Citra Mulia juga tidak sesuai dengan perjanjian. Untuk itu, diperlukan pengawasan yang lebih lanjut dari semua pihak yang terkait dalam pelaksanaannya.

**Kata kunci:** petani, sawit, koperasi unit desa.

### Abstract

*This study aims to explain history of the role of the KUD of three Sekawan in the welfare of the palm oil farmer community in the village of Pulau Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province. The role in question is through the KKPA program that partnered with PT Citra Mulia Manunggal during 2012-2023. The methods used in this study are historical scientific methods, including: heuristics, source criticism, interpretation, and historiography. Based on the results of the research conducted, it is known that the KKPA program that was held by KUD three Sekawan had not been able to encourage the welfare of oil palm farmers in the village of Pulau Batanghari Jambi Regency during 2012-2023. This is because in the implementation of the KKPA, problems were encountered, including: the absence of transparency of fund management and publication distribution of business results carried out by the KUD management to cooperative members. The unclear distribution of results and the period of land surrender to cooperatives as a form of partner cooperation with PT. Citra Mulia is also not in accordance with the agreement. For this reason, further supervision is needed from all parties involved in its implementation.*

**Keywords:** farmers, palm oil, village unit cooperatives.

### INTRODUCTION

Cooperatives can be said to be a people's economic institution that is very important for Indonesia. Cooperatives have become the 'pillar' of the nation's

economy based on the principles of democracy and kinship.

The main goal of cooperatives is to meet the needs and prosper their members. Therefore, cooperatives function as a forum for many individuals

who can collaborate in economic activities to improve common welfare (Paulus, 2005).

Cooperatives have several principles; these principles are regulated in Law No. 25 of 1992. The principle of cooperatives consists of seven main points that are the basis of cooperative operations and ethics. First, cooperatives are voluntary and open, meaning that any individual can join without coercion, as long as they meet the specified conditions. Second, the management of cooperatives is carried out democratically, where each member has the same voting rights in decision-making, ensuring the active participation of all members.

Third, the distribution of the remaining business results (SHU) is carried out fairly based on the contribution of each member, reflecting the business services provided by each individual. Fourth, cooperatives provide services for the capital paid by members with certain limits, so that they do not prioritize profits alone. Fifth, cooperatives operate on the principle of independence, functioning as independent and autonomous business entities without relying on outsiders.

In addition, cooperatives are also committed to educating their members about cooperative principles so that they can actively participate in cooperative activities. Finally, cooperatives encourage cooperation between cooperatives to

strengthen their position and improve common welfare. Through the application of these principles, cooperatives are expected to achieve economic and social goals that are beneficial to their members.

The term of office of cooperative administrators is limited to five years. At that time, they were responsible for the management of cooperatives. The preparation of the supervision report is part of the supervisor's task in ensuring that the cooperative policy is implemented properly. In addition, the cooperative apparatus organization and managers have a close relationship in carrying out cooperative activities through the Annual Member Meeting (RAT).

The Annual Members Meeting (RAT) is the forum with the highest power in cooperatives, where members can express opinions and proposals related to cooperative management. The RAT functions to account for the management and supervisors, establish the articles of association, and appoint or dismiss the management. RAT also has the authority to determine organizational policies and share the rest of the business results. Decisions are taken democratically, with each member having equal voting rights. This meeting is mandatory at least once a year to ratify the financial statements and work plans of the cooperative (Putu Adi Wiguna & I Wayan Sukadana, 2018).

One of the significant forms of cooperatives in Indonesia is the Village Unit Cooperative (KUD). KUD plays a role as an economic institution that serves the needs of rural communities, especially in the agricultural sector. This is done by providing production facilities, marketing agricultural products, and providing savings and loan services. For this reason, KUD helps increase the income and welfare of farmers in the village through its programs (Susie Suryani, Randi Saputra, & Herdian Wahyudi, 2022).

Based on the Instruction of the President of the Republic of Indonesia No. 2 of 1978, in the context of implementing the national development program to increase production, create job opportunities and distribute income fairly and equitably. The government said that there is a need to grow the role and increase the responsibility of rural communities through Village Unit Cooperatives (KUD). This is intended so that rural communities are able to take care of themselves and participate in village development on the basis of self-help and mutual cooperation.

One of the many KUDs in Indonesia is the Tiga Sekawan KUD in Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province. The Tiga Sekawan Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) was established with the aim of serving as a forum for the people of Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province who collaborated with PT. Citra

Mulia Manunggal. Based on the initial findings, KUD Tiga Sekawan is also an intermediary in solving problems between farmers in Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency and PT. The mechanism is that the farmers do not deal directly with the Company, but convey their complaints to KUD Tiga Sekawan. Then it is KUD Tiga Sekawan who will later report the problem to PT Citra Mulia Manunggal.

The cooperation between farmers and PT. Citra Mulia Manunggal which is under the auspices of KUD Tiga Sekawan, one of which is through the Primary Cooperative Credit for Members (KKPA) program has been started since 2012. This program aims to provide access to capital to farmers, especially in the plantation sector, with cooperatives as a management container. For this reason, it is hoped that the KKPA program can have a significant impact on increasing income for the farming community of Batanghari Jambi Regency Island Village.

Village Unit Cooperatives play a very important role in the implementation of the KKPA program by regulating cooperative relationships between farmers and companies. Village Unit Cooperatives are responsible for providing for farmers' needs, including access to the credits needed to increase production. This allows farmers to collaborate and get support from the company (Ella Wahyu Praningsih & Mustopa Marli Batubara, 2022).

The Primary Member Cooperative Credit Pattern (KKPA) is an initiative designed to improve the welfare of farmers through partnerships with core companies. This program aims to provide access to capital to farmers, especially in the plantation sector, with cooperatives as a management forum. The Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) functions as a liaison between farmers and companies, regulating the administration and sales of production products (Dian Sari, 2017).

The cooperation between farmers and PT. Citra Mulia Manunggal is in the form of a partnership with a profit-sharing system in land profit management. The land handed over will be used as a plasma area for the development of oil palm plantations and the profits will be divided in half. The profit sharing from the results is 50% for farmers and 50% for PT. Citra Mulia Manunggal. The land area handed over by farmers to be used as a plasma area of PT. Citra Mulia will be issued a certificate of Right to Use Business (HGU) on behalf of KUD Tiga Sekawan. The area of each area will be determined based on cadastral measurements of the National Land Agency (BPN).

However, in its implementation, oil palm farmers in Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province who participated in the KKPA KUD Tiga Sekawan program have not received real economic welfare. Farmers who are members of the Tiga Sekawan Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) in

partnership with PT Citra Mulia Manunggal also suffered many losses. The profit sharing of 50% (fifty percent) for farmers and 50% (fifty percent) for PT Citra Mulia Manunggal is not in accordance with what was promised. And what is quite disappointing is that the management of KUD Tiga Sekawan is not transparent in the management and publication of the distribution of results. In fact, the Tiga Sekawan Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) as a forum for the welfare of farmers through mutual cooperation, farmers also have the right to supervise core companies in the implementation of the KKPA program. This supervision is very important to ensure that all parties can run according to the agreement. The existence of supervision can also maintain transparency and accountability in the KKPA program that is being run by KUD Tiga Sekawan.

Based on the above problems, this study examines the economic life of the oil palm farming community in Pulau Village before the existence of the Tiga Sekawan Village Unit Cooperative (KUD). As well as the role of the Tiga Sekawan Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) in improving the welfare of the farming community in Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province through the Member Primary Cooperative Credit (KKPA) program throughout 2012-2023. "History of the Role of the Three Friends Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) in Prospering Oil Palm Farmers in Pulau

Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province (Case Study of the Member Primary Credit Cooperative Program (KKPA) in 2012-2023)".

There are several references related to writing, namely: the first is a research journal written by Aryu Ramadhani H., et al. (2024), entitled *The Role of Village Unit Cooperatives (KUD) in Prospering the Community (Case Study on KUD Tri Jaya Kasiyan Timur)*, explaining that the role of the existence of village cooperatives helps and develops various sectors of activities carried out by cooperative members. Some of these activities include the agricultural sector, industrial trade and services. The difference between the research journal and the research topic is the research object and the method used. This research journal is used as an initial reference regarding information or initial knowledge about the role of village unit cooperatives in an area.

Second, a research journal written by Dian Sari (2017), entitled *Evaluation of the Primary Cooperative Credit Program for Members (KKPA) of PT Perkebunan Nusantara v*, stated that the KKPA Program has an impact on income, time utilization and educational needs in the community. This research journal is an initial reference in finding out the impact of the implementation of the KKPA program for the community, especially those who are members of cooperatives.

The implementation of KKPA in the research journal is explained to be in accordance with the demands of the community. Although for the implementation of phases I and II, there was a delay in planting up to one to two years. This is because there is a problem of slow distribution of land to the community by the networking team.

Third. The book written by Irfan Bachtiar, et al., with the title *People's Palm Oil Mapping Policy Framework Real Conditions and Field Action*, explains that the people's palm oil sector in the archipelago has continued to evolve since the first introduction of palm oil species through the development of company oil palm plantations on the east coast of Sumatra under the Dutch colonial government, in the early 20th century. This book has no significant similarities with the research topic. This book is only used as a reference for researchers regarding oil palm plantations. The oil palm plantation discussed in this study is the oil palm plantation of PT Citra Mulia Manunggal.

## **METHODS**

This study uses historical research methods. The historical research method consists of 4 stages. The first stage is heuristic, the second stage is criticism, the third stage is interpretation and the last stage is historiography. The first stage of heuristics is the collection of written

and oral sources. The sources written here are archives, documents, certificates and deeds of sale, etc.

The oral sources used in this study are workers who work at PT Citra Mulia Manunggal, rubber farmers who turn into oil palm workers, and buffalo farmers who suffer losses. The second stage of criticism, at this stage the sources that have been collected are then tested for authenticity and credibility of documents and oral sources. After everything has been tested, then it enters the third stage, namely, interpretation to provide interpretation, opinion, and analysis of the facts that have been obtained and verified. After these facts are collected, they are then assembled into a chronological basis and the results of the research are interpreted. The last stage is the writing of scientific articles (Helius Sjamsudin, 2007).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In the discussion section, there are two main things related to research problems. First, it discusses the problems of the life of the oil palm farming community in Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province in 1990-2012. This section looks at the life of the oil palm farming community in Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province before the existence of the Tiga Sekawan Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) with the span of 1990-2012. Things included in it include

geographical landscape, population, and the economic life of the community.

Second, discussing the role of the Tiga Sekawan Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) in prospering the oil palm farming community of Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency through the Member Primary Cooperative Credit (KKPA) program. The range of problems in this discussion is between 2012-2023, the formation of the Three Friends Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) and the Primary Cooperative Credit (KKPA) program until several problems arise in its implementation. From this discussion, it can be known how the implementation of the Primary Cooperative Credit Program (KKPA) for Members of the Tiga Sekawan Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) and what problems arise in its implementation.

### **Economic Life of Oil Palm Farming Communities in Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province in 1990-2012**

The Island Village can be said to be a shining jewel in Muara Tembesi District, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province. It is so named because it has a rich history and its location is surrounded by water. This village was established in 1984 as a result of the expansion of Rambutan Masam Village. Abundant natural potential, especially in agriculture and plantations. The uniqueness of the culture of the island people, which is still thick with the values of mutual cooperation, is a special

attraction for visitors (Village Profile Spatial Mapping Document and Village Natural Resources Potential Survey).

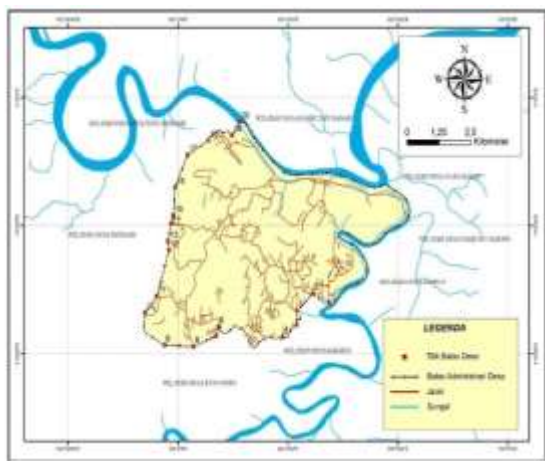


Figure 1. Map of Island Village, Muara Tembesi District (Island Village Profile Mapping Report and Village Existing Potential Survey of Village Natural Resources 2023).

Pulau Village is divided into several administrative areas called hamlets. Overall, Pulau Village has six hamlets that each have different characteristics and potentials. The hamlets are the long-existing Buluran Hamlet, Hilir Hamlet, Central Hamlet, and Hulu Hamlet as well as Rengas IX Hamlet which was later divided into two new hamlets, namely Aur Gading Hamlet and Aur Cino Hamlet (Field Control Report of the Registration Officer of the Population and Civil Registration Office of Batang Hari Regency, 2017).

Geographically, Pulau Village is located in the western part of Batanghari Regency. The area of this Island Village is  $\pm 3,700$  Ha and is at  $120^{\circ}$ - $140^{\circ}$  South Latitude and between  $102^{\circ}$ - $102.75^{\circ}$  East Longitude In addition, Island Village is also

bordered by several villages such as to the North bordering Sungai Pulai Village and Rambutan Masam Village, to the East bordering Suka Ramai Village, Tanjung Marwo Village and Ampelu Village, to the South of Pulau Village is bordered by Koto Boyo Village, to the West by Mersam and Mersam Fort (Island Village Profile Mapping Report and Village Existing Potential Survey of Village Natural Resources 2023).

The development of the population of Pulau Village itself continues to increase. It is known that in 2006, Pulau Village had a population of 1394 (692(L) and 702(P)). In 2007 it was known that Pulau Village had 1424 inhabitants (711 (L) and 713 (P)) (Monthly Report of Villages/Villages, 2006 & 2007).

In 2008 it was known that Pulau Village had 1530 inhabitants (764 (L) and 766 (P)). In 2009 it was known that Pulau Village had 1601 inhabitants (836 (L) and 765 (P)). In 2010 it was known that Pulau Village had a population of 1655 people (881 (L) and 774 (P)). (Monthly Village/Kelurahan Report, 2008, 2009 & 2010). In 2011 it was known that Pulau Village had a population of 1732 people (924 (L) and 808 (P)). Finally, in 2012, it was known that Pulau Village had a population of 1743 people (932 (L) and 811 (P)) (Monthly Report of Villages/ Kelurahan, 2011 & 2012).



Figure 2. Rice Fields in Island Village (Afayumi Private Collection, 2022).

The people of Pulau Village have a variety of livelihoods. However, the majority of the people of Pulau Village work as farmers. In addition to being a farmer, there is also a side job for the people of Pulau Village as a farmer.

Pulau Village itself is one of the villages whose people live on the riverside. One of the villages on the riverside, of course, the people do a lot of activities and even make the river one of their sources of livelihood. One of the livelihoods related to the river carried out by the people of Pulau Village is mining stones, sand and gold.

### **Primary Cooperative Credit Program for Members (KKPA) of the Three Sekawan Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province in 2012-2023**

The Tiga Sekawan Village Unit Cooperative (KUD) was established with the aim of serving as a forum for the people of Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province who collaborated with PT. Citra Mulia Manunggal. Farmers who collaborate with PT Citra Mulia Manunggal are under

the protection of KUD Tiga Sekawan, which also acts as an intermediary in the settlement if there is a problem between the two (Interview, Muhammad, Farmer who owns the CMM land, on August 23, 2024, at 11.00 am).

PT Citra Mulia Manunggal's oil palm plantation itself has an area of HGU land which later became the core land in Pulau Village is 839 Ha, while the area of PT Citra Mulia Manunggal's oil palm plantation based on KKPA's partners with the Tiga Sekawan Cooperative is 404 Ha. So the total area of PT Citra Mulia Manunggal's oil palm plantation in Pulau Village is 1,243 Ha (Interview, Noverly, Head of Licensing and Non-Licensing Administration on November 13, 2024, at 10.04 WIB).

The cooperation between farmers and PT. Citra Mulia Manunggal which is under the auspices of KUD Tiga Sekawan through the Primary Cooperative Credit for Members (KKPA) program has been started since 2012. This program aims to provide access to capital to farmers, especially in the plantation sector, with cooperatives as a management container. The community or farmers who cooperate make a statement of land handover.

In the document of the Statement of Land Handover between farmers and Village Unit Cooperatives in 2012, there are 13 points of agreement between farmers and companies. The points are as follows:

1. Willing to hand over the land to the Tiga Sekawan Cooperative (hereinafter referred to as "cooperative", which will then be used as a plasma area for the development of oil palm plantations with a partnership pattern;
2. Willing to become a member of the cooperative, together with other members, will comply with and carry out the rights and obligations of members in accordance with the Articles of Association/Bylaws of the Cooperative, as well as support and approve the cooperation in the development of oil palm plantations with a partnership pattern, namely by and between the cooperative and PT Citra Mulia Manunggal (hereinafter referred to as "PT Citra Mulia or the core company");
3. Have received and understood the socialization material submitted by the core company on, 2012 and approved the pattern of land division of 50% (fifty percent) for PT Citra Mulia Manunggal or the core company and 50% (fifty percent) for plasma;
4. PT Citra Mulia Manunggal or the core company has the full right to determine the feasibility of land for planting, including but not inseparable from the determination of the exact location of the development and management of plasma land in a horizontal manner;
5. The physical land handed over will be relocated and determined by PT Citra Mulia Manunggal or the core company, the determination of the physical division of the core and plasma land will be considered with several factors, including: security, operational, location and others. On the plasma land that has been determined by PT Citra Mulia Manunggal or the core company, my part of the land will be incorporated and integrated into the expanse of plasma plantations, paved roads, bridges, ditches, buildings and other plasma plantation infrastructure;
6. In connection with the physical division of core and plasma land as referred to in number 5, while still paying attention to the provisions in number 3 above, the relocation of the land I handed over will be carried out randomly so that it is no longer in its original location;
7. The land area that I have handed over and has been relocated as referred to in number 5 above, will be made a Shariffikat of the Right to Use on behalf of the Cooperative for the entire plasma area that has been determined by PT Citra Mulia Manunggal or the core company, where the area of each will be determined based on the provisions based on cadastral measurements by

- the local National Defense Agency (BPN);
8. As a member of the cooperative as referred to in the number two above the comma, I hereby know that the distribution of garden products will be calculated on a pro rata basis from the area of the plasma plantation whose value or portion is in accordance with 50% (fifty percent) of the area of suitable land on the land according to PT Citra Mulia or the core company, so that the distribution of garden products is not based on the results of pencil or SHM that I have;
  9. Willing to bear the burden of investment credit along with the interest for the construction of the plasma plantation, which will be paid in installments along with current interest or it can be called interest in installments when the plasma plantation has entered the productive planting period (TM). The portion of installment payments will be taken at 50% of the net yield of plasma land after deducting operational costs.
  10. For the above-mentioned land handover, I will not claim land compensation in any form, type and reason to PT citra mulia manunggal or the core company;
  11. In any problem that arises on the cooperation agreement between pt citra mulia manunggal or the core company and the cooperative, I will fully hand it over to the cooperative management to solve it;
  12. For the land that I handed over, if there are demands from other parties in the future, I will be fully responsible for resolving and if I deny the statement I am willing to settle in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations;
  13. With the signing of this land handover statement, all forms of land handover statements that have been signed previously are no longer valid;
  14. I signed this agreement in a conscious state and not in any other state of health; This letter was also signed by the chairman of the Three Friends Cooperative who handed over in this case the landowner and the heirs of the land, then there is also the head of the island village and is known by PT Citra Mulya Manunggal.
- This land was then managed and cultivated until now by PT Citra Mulia Manunggal. PT Citra Mulia Manunggal convinces the village community or farmers in this island village by bringing people to the farmer's house and inviting them to do partner (Interview, H. Bedul, Farmer who owns the CMM land, on August 23, 2024, at 11.05 WIB). This means that the PT itself has targeted which land it wants to be used as an oil palm plantation (Interview, Nafis, heir of the farmer who owns the CMM land, on August 23, 2024, at 11.05 WIB at H. Bedul's residence).

After getting the desired land target, PT. Citra Mulia Manunggal is looking for information about the owner of the land. Then come to the farmers to be invited to further discuss about land management. PT. Citra Mulia convinces the public to be willing to hand over their tanha with their marketing techniques (Interview, Nafis, heir of the CMM landowner farmer, on August 23, 2024, at 11.05 WIB).

Of course, not all people of Pulau Village are interested in the invitation of partners from PT Citra Mulia Manunggal. Although rejected by PT Citra Mulia Manunggal, it has another way to conquer the farmers in the Island Village. The method referred to here is to buy land around the targeted land, so that the owner of the land who refused earlier feels pressured. In addition, PT Citra Mulia Manunggal also urges the measurement of land that has passed through the land it bought, so that the land that refused was slowly and slowly taken forcibly. Farmers of course feel disadvantaged, but they feel that it is useless for perotes, so they choose to join as a partner of PT Citra Mulia Manunggal (Interview, Mr. H. Bedul, Farmer who owns the CMM land, on April 4, 2024, at 14.00 WIB).

The sale and purchase of PT Citra Mulia Manunggal land also occurs a lot due to debt pressure. KUD Tiga Sekawan does provide savings and loans for its members. However, there are members who are

unable to pay the debt. Of course, this forces farmers to sell their land to companies, or other people who are interested in collaborating with PT Citra Mulia Manunggal (Interview, Mr. Sedi, the farmer who owns the land of PT Citra Mulia Manunggal, on August 4, 2024, at 9.00 WIB).

All farmers who cooperate in this case give up their land to partner with PT Citra Mulia Manunggal must indeed join as members of KUD. However, even though he has joined as a member of KUD, it does not guarantee that transparency will work. Sadly, the MoU between the farmer, KUD and the company was not given when the farmer asked the KUD and the company (Interview, Nafis, heir of the farmer who owns the CMM land, on August 23, 2024, at 11.05 WIB at H. Bedul's residence).

There is no transparency in fund management and clear publication in the distribution of results. This then gave rise to speculation that the problem was natural, because it was known that the salary of the KUD management came from the company (Interview, Mr. Nawi, Farmer who owns the CMM land, on April 3, 2024, at 14.00 WIB at Nawi's residence).

Farmers who were not happy with the problem also reported their complaints at the Permanent Members Meeting (RAT) of KUD Tiga Sekawan. However, the complaints of farmers are often not heard and solutions are

obtained. In fact, through the RAT, members can ask for an explanation about the management of the cooperative from the management and supervisors. For example, other problems regarding complaints about requests for monthly salary slips, income, expenses, and information on data on the remaining business results have never been realized until 2023 (Interview, Muhammad, Farmer who owns the CMM land, on August 23, 2024, at 11.00).

Throughout the journey of this PT, the community, especially the farmers who partner with them, are only able to carry out a closed resistance by vilifying the PT, and KUD, and re-checking the area of land that they partner secretly. As a result, they canceled their intention to increase the land area they partnered with the oil palm plantation of PT Citra Mulia Manunggal.

Aware of the amount of land that has been cheated, the amount of land that has been seized by PT Citra Mulia Manunggal has created a social conflict between the community and PT Citra Mulia Manunggal's oil palm plantation. This also causes a fundamental change in the structure of the island village community. It's just that, even though they are aware of all these bad things, the people of Pulau Village still choose not to try to reclaim their rights, this is because of their pessimism about the power they have. The power possessed by the PT is

considered to dominate the existing law in order to facilitate the achievement of their interests. The different interests between farmers and companies are also what end up creating conflicts among them.

PT Sawit Citra Mulia Manunggal established PT Sawit by buying and renting land for the village community. The land of the village community which was used as PT sawit Citra Mulia Manunggal was originally a rubber plantation for residents. This is because when farmers refuse to partner with KUD and PT Citra Mulia Manunggal start buying land around the farmer until the land of farmers who do not want to partner is in the middle of the PT Citra Mulia Manunggal location. Not only that, farmers also began to realize that the land area began to decrease, of course, it was taken by PT Citra Mulia Manunggal in collaboration with KUD Tiga Kawanawan (Afrizal, 2006).

The farmers who partnered with PT Citra Mulia Manunggal actually also suffered a lot of losses. Farmers who were previously owners, instantly turned into laborers on their own land. One of the farmers who turned into laborers on his own land was Muhammad. Muhammad gave his land to PT Citra Mulia Manunggal because he was hampered by capital in cultivating his plantation. Muhammad owns land in partnership with KUD Tiga Sekawan. Muhammad divided his land with KUD Tiga Sekawan covering an area of 1

Ha. Through this partner, Muhammad has two important roles in PT Citra Mulia Manunggal, namely as the owner and as a worker (Interview, Muhammad, Farmer who owns the CMM land, on August 23, 2024, at 11.00).

Sadly, farmers who were promised a profit distribution of 50% (fifty percent) for farmers and 50% (fifty percent) for PT Citra Mulia Manunggal, in fact only got 30%. In addition, expenditures are only known to important parties in KUD and companies. Farmers can only accept, if they protest, then they are considered to only know the protest. However, only denials have occurred until 2023. But as hard as they are in denial, what can these farmers do? Even so far, the resistance seems to be non-existent. Therefore, other village people consider it as an advantage, in fact it is not. Many losses and injustices occurred but were covered by the money and power that existed (Interview, Nafis, Heirs of H. Betul, a farmer who owns the CMM land, on August 23, 2024, at 10.00 WIB).

In fact, the farmers who became aware of the company's fraud began to investigate secretly. The investigation here is by bringing in their soil surveyors. H. Bedul, a farmer who had donated 40 hectares of his land to PT Citra Mulia Manunggal had remeasured his land, and it was known that there was indeed fraud. However, for the protest, according to PT Citra Mulia Manunggal, their

measurements are more accurate, so the reporting is only considered a passing wind. This is of course strongly rejected by H. Bedul's heirs, they will continue to suffer losses for up to 50 years (the deadline of the agreement) (Interview, H. Bedul, Farmer who owns the CMM land, on August 23, 2024, at 11.00 WIB).

In addition, other losses felt by farmers can be seen from the construction of PT Citra Mulia Manunggal oil palm plantation carried out by groups. So one group of land that has been determined by PT Citra Mulia Manunggal will bear the joint loss. For example, in a group consisting of 10 landowners, of these 10 people, only 7 people get yields, 3 more experience crop failure, then these 7 lands will be divided into ten after being cut 80% for the company (Interview, Sedi, CMM landowner farmer, on April 24, 2024, at 11.00 WIB).

Of course, this further worsens the community's economy. Partnering with KUD Tiga Sekawan and PT Citra Mulia Manunggal alone has made people's income decrease by almost 50%. This land grouping, of course, also contains the community's less income. This is of course done only for the sake of PT so that PT does not lose too much, by carrying out a strategy to harm the community like this.

Not only that, the land purchased in 2012 was not all planted in 2012, it could be in 2018. However, as long as the contract is signed, the landowner can no

longer plant anything. Landowners who have not yet received results from their land also do not get profit sharing (Interview, H. Bedul, Farmer who owns CMM land, on August 23, 2024, at 11.00 WIB).

## CONCLUSION

KUD Tiga Sekawan, as the vanguard of improving the welfare of oil palm farmers in Pulau Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi, has a central role through the KKPA program. Unfortunately, the program's journey, which has lasted for more than a decade, from 2012 to 2023, has been hampered by a crucial problem: the lack of transparency. The management of funds and the delivery of business results, which should be the right of members, are actually shrouded in a fog of uncertainty.

Not only about transparency, fairness in the distribution of partnership results is also in the spotlight. The agreement, which originally promised 50% profit for farmers, actually only left 30%. This triggered deep disappointment and raised big questions regarding KUD's commitment to defending the rights of its members. Not only that, in fact, the presence of KUD Tiga Sekawan has worsened the economy of its members. This is evidenced by the sale of land due to being unable to pay credit debts to cooperatives

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