

UTILIZATION OF CORN AND PEANUT HARVESTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUPERIOR FOOD PRODUCTS

Lely Suryani^{1*}, Imaculata Fatima², Charly Mutiara³, Krisnoto Yohanes Fowo⁴,
Regina Caely Jessy Rinda⁵, Novita Nia Leo Djina⁶, Yohanes Debrito Nae⁷,
Godeliva Doi Blolon⁸, Maria Vianey Peti⁹, Yanuarius Punan¹⁰,
Rodriques Da Weo Wolo¹¹

¹Mathematics Education Study Program, Flores University, Ende-NTT, Indonesia

²Master of Management Study Program, Flores University, Ende-NTT, Indonesia

^{3,4}Agriculture Study Program, Flores University, Ende-NTT, Indonesia

^{5,11}Development Economics Study Program, Flores University, Ende-NTT, Indonesia

⁶Accounting Study Program, Flores University, Ende-NTT, Indonesia

^{7,8}Management Study Program, Flores University, Ende-NTT, Indonesia

⁹Law Study Program, Flores University, Ende-NTT, Indonesia

¹⁰Indonesian Language and Literature Education, Flores University, Ende-NTT, Indonesia

Corresponding Author, email: lelypane@gmail.com

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Abstract. *Tendambonggi village has considerable agricultural potential, particularly in corn and peanuts. However, most farmers still use conventional methods, rely on a single crop, and lack the skills to manage their harvest into value-added products. This situation has resulted in agricultural production not being able to contribute optimally to improving the community's economy. This program aims to utilize corn and peanut harvests as raw materials for the development of superior food products through training and assistance based on local innovation. Implementation methods include socialization activities, training in the manufacture of processing products such as corn tempeh, corn flour, and corn noodles, as well as training in the processing of fried peanuts as a food product unique to Tendambonggi Village. In addition, the program also integrates an agroecological approach through the use of natural organic fertilizers to improve soil fertility and reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers. The results show an increase in the community's skills in processing crops into food products that are competitive in the market, as well as a growing awareness of the importance of innovation and agricultural sustainability. This activity is expected to encourage the formation of joint business units that manage corn and peanut processing independently and sustainably, while strengthening food security and the local economy in Tendambonggi Village.*

Keywords: *food innovation, empowerment training, food security*

Abstrak. Desa Tendambonggi memiliki potensi pertanian yang cukup besar, khususnya pada komoditas jagung dan kacang tanah. Namun, sebagian besar petani masih menggunakan metode konvensional, bergantung pada satu jenis tanaman, serta belum memiliki keterampilan dalam pengelolaan hasil panen menjadi produk bernilai tambah. Kondisi tersebut menyebabkan hasil pertanian belum mampu memberikan kontribusi optimal terhadap peningkatan ekonomi masyarakat. Program ini bertujuan untuk memanfaatkan hasil panen jagung dan kacang sebagai bahan dasar pengembangan produk pangan unggul melalui pelatihan dan pendampingan berbasis inovasi lokal. Metode pelaksanaan meliputi kegiatan sosialisasi, pelatihan pembuatan produk olahan seperti tempe jagung, tepung jagung, dan mie jagung, serta pelatihan pengolahan kacang goreng sebagai produk pangan khas Desa Tendambonggi. Selain itu, program juga mengintegrasikan pendekatan agroekologi melalui pemanfaatan pupuk organik berbahan alami untuk memperbaiki kesuburan tanah dan mengurangi ketergantungan pada pupuk kimia. Hasil pelaksanaan menunjukkan peningkatan keterampilan masyarakat dalam mengolah hasil panen menjadi produk pangan yang memiliki daya saing pasar, serta tumbuhnya kesadaran terhadap pentingnya inovasi dan keberlanjutan pertanian. Kegiatan ini diharapkan mampu mendorong terbentuknya unit usaha bersama yang mengelola produksi olahan jagung dan kacang secara mandiri dan berkelanjutan, sekaligus memperkuat ketahanan pangan serta ekonomi lokal di Desa Tendambonggi.

Kata Kunci: *inovasi pangan, pelatihan pemberdaya, ketahanan pangan*

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INTRODUCTION

Tendambonggi Village, located in Ende District, Ende Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province, is one of the rural areas with considerable agricultural potential, particularly in the cultivation of corn and peanuts, which serve as the main crops for local farmers (Wahyuni et al., 204). The village's geographical characteristics, which include hilly terrain, fertile land, and relatively high rainfall throughout the year, provide favorable conditions for agricultural activities and position the sector as the primary livelihood of the community (He et al., 2022; Namgyal & Sarkar, 2025). Agriculture not only supports household food security but also plays a crucial role in sustaining the local economy (Rehman, et al., 2022).

However, despite these natural advantages, agricultural development in Tendambonggi Village has not yet reached its optimal level. Most farmers still depend on conventional farming practices, characterized by a single cropping system, minimal adoption of improved cultivation techniques, and heavy reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides (Sithole & Olorunfemi, 2024). Crop diversification remains limited, and post-harvest processing is rarely carried out, causing agricultural products to be sold mainly in raw form with low market value (Naik et al., 2022). These conditions contribute to relatively low crop productivity, inefficient land use, and declining soil fertility over time (Ndegwa et al., 2023).

In addition, limited access to agricultural extension services, insufficient knowledge of sustainable farming practices, and a lack of innovation in product development further exacerbate the challenges faced by farmers (Arowosegbe et al., 2024). As a result, agricultural income remains unstable and highly dependent on seasonal yields, making farmers vulnerable to price fluctuations and climate variability (Abebaw, 2025). Without strategic interventions aimed at improving cultivation methods, promoting sustainable agriculture, and enhancing the economic value of agricultural products, the long-term sustainability of farming activities in Tendambonggi Village may be at risk (Rachmawati et al., 2025)

Another problem faced by the Tendambonggi Village community is the lack of optimal capacity to process crops into value-added products. Corn and peanuts are generally sold in their raw form without undergoing any processing. As a result, farmers receive relatively low prices and are unable to improve their families' welfare (Xu et al., 2022). On the other hand, these two commodities have enormous potential to be developed into various superior food products such as corn flour, corn noodles, corn tempeh, and fried peanuts, which are competitive in the market and can become the village's signature products (Singh & Singh, 1991).

In view of these conditions, innovative and applicable efforts are needed to address the challenges faced by the Tendambonggi Village community, namely by utilizing corn and peanut harvests as the basic ingredients for developing superior food products (Royyani et al., 2025). This program aims to increase the economic value of agricultural products through training, mentoring, and the application of simple technologies that are easy for the community to apply (Ritz et al., 2019). Additionally, the program integrates the concept of sustainable agriculture by utilizing agricultural waste as organic fertilizer to maintain soil fertility and reduce dependence on chemicals (Bumb, 2021).

Conceptually, this activity is grounded in various literature reviews that emphasize the strategic role of local food product diversification in strengthening food security and promoting rural economic independence (Bene, 2020). Previous studies have shown that the utilization and development of local agricultural commodities into value-added food products can reduce dependence on external food supplies while simultaneously increasing household income and employment opportunities in rural areas (Clark et al., 2021; Rob & Cattaneo, 2021). Diversification also encourages more efficient use of local resources and supports the sustainability of agricultural systems by expanding market options for farmers (Lin, 2011).

Furthermore, several studies highlight that community-based training and participatory assistance programs are effective approaches for enhancing farmers' technical skills, entrepreneurial capacity, and motivation to develop agribusinesses based on local agricultural products (Hasmawati et al., 2024). Prajapati et al., (2025) argue that continuous mentoring and

hands-on training not only improve production skills but also foster innovation, collaboration, and self-reliance within farming communities. Through such approaches, farmers are better equipped to process raw agricultural products into superior and competitive food products with higher economic value (Requier-Desjardins et al., 2003).

Therefore, the program focusing on the utilization of corn and bean harvests for the Development of Superior Food Products in Tendambonggi Village is expected to serve as a practical and sustainable solution. This program is anticipated to contribute directly to improving community welfare by increasing income opportunities, while at the same time strengthening regional food independence through the optimal use of local agricultural resources.

METHOD

The implementation method for the community empowerment program in Tendambonggi Village was designed in a participatory manner through an educational and applied approach to address the issue of low added value of corn and peanut crops. The stages of the activity began with the socialization of the program to the community and village government to build a common understanding of the objectives and benefits of the activity. (Nasution et al., 2021). The next stage is the identification of partners' potential and problems, conducted through interviews, field observations, and group discussions to determine production conditions, processing capabilities, and community training needs (Hartutik et al., 2023).

Next, technical training on agricultural product processing was conducted, focusing on the production of various high-quality food products, such as corn tempeh, corn noodles, and fried peanuts. At this stage, the community was trained to use simple equipment that is easy to operate and suitable for rural conditions (Abdulai et al., 2023). The training process was conducted using a hands-on approach (learning by doing) so that participants could understand the processing techniques independently (Ma, 2023).

The third stage is entrepreneurship and business management assistance, which includes training in product packaging, labelling, simple digital marketing, and calculating production costs (Ridwansyah et al., 2025). The activities also integrate environmentally friendly agricultural innovations through the production of liquid organic fertilizer (POC) from local agricultural waste as a form of support for sustainable agricultural practices (Selvan et al., 2023).

To ensure the sustainability of the program, periodic evaluations are conducted using surveys, interviews, and field observations to assess improvements in skills, productivity, and the economic impact on the community (Yadava & Sinha, 2022; Demissie et al., 2024). The evaluation data is analyzed descriptively and statistically using simple percentages of skill and income improvement. The evaluation results are used as the basis for formulating follow-up strategies in the form of establishing community-based business units that independently and sustainably manage processed corn and peanut products.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of the activity utilization of peanut and corn harvests for the development of superior food products in Tendambonggi Village has produced various positive achievements in terms of improving community skills, product diversification, and increasing the economic value of harvests. This activity involved farmer groups and housewives in Tendambonggi Village as key partners in the process of developing and innovating food products using local ingredients (Kurnia et al., 2025). The implementation phase began with a survey of potential and the identification of community needs. Based on the survey results, it was found that corn and peanuts are the two main commodities harvested each season; however, most of them are sold in their raw form.



Figure 1. *Field observation with residents of Tendambonggi Village*

Therefore, training was conducted on processing crops into various value-added products such as corn flour, corn tempeh, corn noodles, and fried peanuts. This training was carried out in a participatory manner using a direct demonstration method with simple tools that are easily available at the village level (Krisnanda et al., 2023). After the training, the community began to put what they had learned into practice by processing some of their crops into ready-to-consume products (Christanti et al., 2023). Based on the evaluation results, around 80% of participants were able to produce processed products of good quality and marketable.



Figure 2. *Processing corn into innovative products*

In addition, product packaging and labelling were also carried out to increase attractiveness and selling value. Leading food products such as corn flour, corn tempeh, corn noodles, and fried peanuts are examples of tangible results that have received positive responses from the surrounding community. From an economic perspective, there was a 15-20% increase in household income after the diversification of local food products. This was due to additional income from the sale of processed products in village markets and MSME exhibitions. This data shows that innovation in crop processing not only expands business opportunities but also encourages the growth of a creative economy in rural areas (Tariq et al., 2025).

From a social perspective, this activity successfully fostered a stronger spirit of collaboration and collective participation among community members, particularly by encouraging group-based production processes (Zainuri & Huda, 2023). Through collaborative work, residents were able to build effective networks of cooperation, mutual support, and

solidarity, which are essential for the sustainability of community-based economic initiatives (Chen et al., 2025). In addition, this activity significantly strengthened the role of women in productive economic activities, as women actively participated in processing, packaging, and managing local food products (Amandaria et al., 2025). Their involvement not only increased household income but also enhanced their skills, confidence, and decision-making capacity within the community.

From an environmental perspective, the utilization of agricultural by-products such as coffee husks, guava husks, rice husks, and animal manure as organic fertilizer contributed to reducing agricultural waste while promoting environmentally friendly farming practices. The use of organic fertilizers helps improve soil structure, increase soil fertility, and support long-term land productivity. Moreover, this approach encourages sustainable agriculture by minimizing dependence on chemical inputs, reducing environmental pollution, and supporting ecological balance in agricultural ecosystems (Rehman et al., 2022; Rai et al., 2023).



Figure 3. Villagers display processed corn products, including corn flour, corn noodles, and corn tempeh.



Figure 4. Processed peanut products

Overall, the results of this activity demonstrate that the application of simple and appropriate technology, when integrated with community-based training and participatory assistance, can serve as an effective and sustainable strategy for increasing the added value of local agricultural products (Wright et al., 2017). The use of technologies that are affordable, easy to operate, and adapted to local conditions allows farmers to adopt innovations without creating additional economic or technical burdens (Vasavi, et al., 2025).

Furthermore, the introduction of basic processing techniques, improved post-harvest handling practices, and simple product innovations enables farmers to transform raw agricultural commodities into processed products with higher economic value and improved market competitiveness (Reddy, 2022). These improvements not only enhance product quality and shelf life but also expand market access and increase farmers' bargaining power. Consequently, such an approach contributes to strengthening rural livelihoods, encouraging

entrepreneurship, and supporting the long-term development of local food-based economies (Thompson & Subasinghe, 2011).



Figure 5. *Group photo of the community service team and the results of innovation*

The success of this program also reinforces the notion that local food development holds significant potential in supporting food security and promoting economic independence in rural areas (Sari et al., 2024). By optimizing the utilization of locally available agricultural resources, communities can reduce their reliance on external food supplies while simultaneously creating new income-generating opportunities (Sharma, 2025). Moreover, the strengthening of local food-based enterprises contributes to the sustainability of village economies and enhances community resilience in facing economic and environmental challenges (Sutapa et al., 2025).

CONCLUSION

The utilization of corn and peanut harvests for the development of superior food products in Tendambonggi Village has successfully achieved its main objective, which is to increase the added value of community agricultural products through food processing innovations based on local potential. Training and mentoring activities have had a tangible impact on improving community skills, particularly in the manufacture of processed products such as corn tempeh, corn flour, corn noodles, and fried peanuts, which are more competitive and have a higher selling value than raw commodities. Additionally, this initiative has fostered awareness of the importance of sustainable agricultural practices through the use of environmentally friendly local organic fertilizers. Thus, the program not only provides economic benefits but also strengthens food security and community empowerment in Tendambonggi Village.

As a follow-up, this program will focus on establishing joint business units (village food entrepreneur groups) that are independently managed by the community with support from the village government and educational institutions. These units will serve as platforms for the production, marketing, and development of innovative corn and bean-based food products. In addition, further training on business management, digital marketing, and modern packaging is needed so that processed products can compete in a wider market. In the future, it is hoped that this activity will become a model for community empowerment based on local potential that can be replicated in other villages, as well as part of a sustainability strategy to achieve regional economic independence and food security.

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