



Implementation of the Food Security Village Program Policy in Realizing Local Food Security in Padang

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ABSTRACT

Organisations face the challenge of establishing ways to mitigate *This study aims to analyze the implementation of the Food Security Village Program in Padang City within the context of efforts to achieve sustainable local food security. This study begins with the general problem of public policy, which tends to be administrative and top-down, while social dynamics at the local level often determine the program's success. This research used a qualitative descriptive approach, focusing on Kuranji Village as the program's implementation area. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, participant observation, and a review of policy documents.*

The results indicate that program implementation occurred amidst high ambiguity and low conflict, with each actor interpreting the policy according to their own interests. However, this ambiguity created space for social adaptation, enabling communities to develop innovations such as collective gardens, organic fertilizer production, and harvest sharing systems. Local food security was achieved not through bureaucratic mechanisms, but through social initiatives that grew out of participation and the value of mutual cooperation. This research confirms that the effectiveness of public policy at the local level depends on the community's ability to interpret and implement the policy within their social context.

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This research is expected to provide evaluation material for the Padang City Government in strengthening sustainable food security policies.

1. INTRODUCTION

Food security is an essential foundation of the sustainable development agenda, which requires ensuring food availability, access, and stability for all levels of society. According to Law Number 18 of 2012 concerning food, food security is understood as the condition of meeting food needs for the nation down to the individual level, as reflected in the availability of adequate food in terms of both quantity and quality, as well as ensuring that it is safe, diverse, nutritious, equitable, and affordable. In the national context, realizing food security is not solely the responsibility of the central government but also requires the active role of local governments and communities as key actors in the sustainable management of food resources.

The Padang City Government strives to strengthen local food security through the implementation of the Food Security Village Program, which is part of the Thematic Village initiative based on Padang Mayoral Decree Number 273 of 2024 concerning the Locations and Themes of Thematic Villages for 2021–2024. This program aims to optimize the potential of local resources through the utilization of home gardens, increasing community participation, and developing a sustainable, community-based agricultural system. One of the program implementation locations is Kuranji Village, which boasts productive agricultural land and active community groups engaged in agricultural and fisheries cultivation.

However, the implementation of this program faces various challenges. Data from the Padang City Government (2024) shows that agricultural land has progressively decreased as a consequence of land conversion for residential and infrastructure development.

Furthermore, dependence on food supplies from outside the region remains high, while public awareness of maintaining agricultural land productivity is relatively low. These issues indicate a gap between policy design and implementation at the local level.

Previous studies have shown that the successful implementation of food security policies is largely determined by the capacity of implementers, inter-agency coordination, and community participation. Fikri et al. (2021) emphasized that limited resources, weak coordination, and land conversion are the main factors hampering the implementation of food policies in the region. Similar findings were also presented by Marlinda et al. (2023), who stated that the agribusiness system for superior commodities in West Sumatra is not yet integrated due to weak integration between upstream and downstream subsystems. However, these studies still focus on technical aspects and have not examined policy implementation from the perspective of governance and community participation in urban contexts.

Studies on the implementation of food security policies at the city level, particularly through community-based approaches such as the Food Security Village Program, are still limited. Yet, in the context of urbanization and climate change, strengthening local food systems is becoming increasingly important. According to Allen and Prospero (2022), food security in urban areas depends not only on food availability but also on the ability of local governments to build adaptive and inclusive food governance. Therefore, an analysis of the implementation of the Food Security Village Program policy in Padang City is relevant to understanding the extent to which the policy is able to promote sustainable local food security.

Based on this background, this study aims to examine the implementation of the Food Security Village Program policy in supporting locally based food security in Padang City, while also identifying factors that drive and hinder its implementation. By using the theoretical framework of Mazmanian and Sabatier's policy implementation and enriched with the Ambiguity–Conflict Model approach from Matland (1995), this research is expected to contribute to strengthening local food security governance at the regional government level.

2. METHOD

This study applies a qualitative approach with descriptive methods to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the implementation process of the Food Security Village Program policy in supporting locally based food security in Padang City. The research location focuses on Kuranji Village, Kuranji District, Padang City, which was determined through purposive sampling technique because it is considered representative in describing the implementation of the program in urban areas facing the dynamics between productive agricultural activities and land conversion pressures. Research informants were determined using purposive sampling, including officials from the Department of Agriculture, Bappeda, and the Department of Fisheries and Food of Padang City, Kuranji Village officials, and members of the Women Farmers Group (KWT) as implementers at the community level. Primary data were collected through in-depth interviews, field observations, and documentation studies, while secondary data were obtained from various official sources, including institutional reports, policy documents, and scientific literature relevant to the implementation of food security policies. Data collection was conducted using triangulation to ensure the validity of the findings. Data analysis uses the interactive model of Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014) which includes data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions, and is supported by the theoretical framework of Mazmanian and Sabatier (1983) and the Ambiguity–Conflict model of Matland (1995) to explain the relationship between policy characteristics, implementer capacity, and local socio-economic context in the success of policy implementation.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Food Security Village Program is a policy innovation from the Padang City Government that seeks to increase community food self-sufficiency by optimizing the use of yard space and encouraging the empowerment of community groups. This program implements Padang Mayoral Decree No. 273 of 2024 concerning the Determination of Locations and Themes for Thematic Villages for 2021–2024, which designated Kuranji Village as one of the primary implementation areas. Kuranji was designated as one of the primary implementation areas. Kuranji was chosen because of its productive agricultural land and active community involvement in small-scale agricultural and fisheries cultivation.

Operationally, this program focuses on yard space utilization, urban farming development, crop and fish cultivation training, and institutional strengthening through Women Farmers Groups (KWT). The Padang City Agriculture Office serves as the technical coordinating agency, while the Fisheries and Food Office and the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda) are responsible for planning and policy support. Village officials and KWT are the primary implementers in the field. Although the program has been implemented, the results have not yet achieved the expected effectiveness. Key issues include the conversion of agricultural land, limited funding, and low levels of consistent community participation. This phenomenon demonstrates that even well-designed policies cannot be effectively implemented without adequate implementing capacity and social support.

In practice, the implementation of the Food Security Village Program in Padang City proceeds through several stages involving collaboration between the local government and the community. According to interviews with the Department of Agriculture and the Kuranji Village Office (2025), program implementation began with outreach activities and the formation of implementing groups at the neighborhood (RW) level, coordinated by the Women's Farmers Group (KWT). Currently, there are eight active KWT groups in Kuranji, managing approximately 5.3 hectares of productive land, mostly homesteads and idle land owned by residents. The Department of Agriculture provides chili, mustard greens, and tomato seeds, as well as sprayers and organic fertilizer, while the Department of Fisheries and Food provides technical assistance for freshwater fish cultivation in homestead ponds.

The field implementation process demonstrated that in the initial phase (May–August 2024), community participation was very high, reaching approximately 70 percent of households with home gardens. However, this enthusiasm waned after the initial assistance ended due to the lack of ongoing evaluation and monitoring mechanisms from relevant agencies. Some community groups remained active due to strong internal support and social capital, while others ceased production due to limited funding and manpower. Nevertheless, home garden utilization activities continued in several locations, using an independent urban farming approach using simple vertical farming and hydroponic systems.

These facts indicate that the implementation of the Food Security Village policy in Padang City has been uneven across regions, depending on local social capacity and institutional support. The program has succeeded in raising public awareness of the importance of household food self-sufficiency, but its effectiveness is still largely determined by the sustainability of government assistance and consistent community participation. This situation provides an important entry point for understanding how this policy is implemented in practice and the extent to which the theoretical variables in Mazmanian and Sabatier's implementation model can explain these dynamics.

Coordination Between Implementing Actors

Coordination between implementing actors is one of the most crucial aspects in the effective implementation of the Food Security Village Program. Based on interviews and field observations (2025), coordination between implementing agencies—namely the Department

of Agriculture, the Department of Fisheries and Food, the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda), and the Kuranji Village—remains sectoral and unsustainable. Cross-agency meetings are usually held only at the initial stage to discuss the annual activity plan. After that, each agency carries out its duties separately according to its respective fields and budget allocations. As a result, activities often overlap, and program information is not properly communicated to all implementers.

Field data shows that throughout 2024, there were only two formal inter-agency coordination meetings, in March and September. There were no regular forums to discuss activity progress, evaluations, or technical needs in the field. Several informants from the Department of Agriculture stated that limited travel budgets and work time make intensive cross-sectoral coordination difficult.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on research findings related to the implementation of the Food Security Thematic Village Program in Kuranji Village, Padang City, using the policy implementation theory of Mazmanian and Sabatier, it can be concluded that this program has been quite effective and has made a positive contribution to the community. The program has improved residents' ability to utilize their yard land and promote family food self-sufficiency. This is supported by a strong policy foundation through Padang Mayoral Decree No. 273 of 2024, as well as assistance with infrastructure such as seeds, cultivation training, and mentoring from agricultural extension workers. With this support, the community has become increasingly motivated to practice urban farming, grow various types of horticultural crops, and try out household-scale fish farming.

When analyzed through the theoretical perspective of Mazmanian and Sabatier, the implementation of this program demonstrates a connection between the characteristics of the problem, the policy implementation structure, and local social and environmental conditions. Although the program's objectives have been clearly formulated and institutional support is in place, its implementation still faces several obstacles, such as limited land availability due to land conversion, climate change, pest infestations, and irregularities in the quality of seeds received by the community. Therefore, the program's success is greatly influenced by consistent implementation, the competence of field implementers, and the community's ability to adapt to more effective technology and cultivation methods.

Furthermore, variables were identified that both strengthened and hindered the program's implementation. Clear policy support, technical assistance from agricultural extension workers, and the active participation of farmer groups and the community were factors that strengthened the program's success. On the other hand, obstacles arose in the form of a lack of consistency among some residents in utilizing seed assistance, limited technical knowledge, and environmental constraints such as unstable weather conditions and pest attacks. Furthermore, socioeconomic factors and the characteristics of the Kuranji region also influenced the program's overall success.

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