ABSTRACT

SEPTRI WIDIONO. The Development of Palm Oil Plantation and Its Impact on Social Stratification and Livelihood Strategies: Case Study of Two Wetland Villages of Serawai and Java Ethnics in Seluma Regency, Bengkulu Province. Unde the direction of LALA M. KOLOPAKING and SAID RUSLI.

Estate small landholders of palm oil were developed with converting of wetland area. The characteristics of this crops affect to production organizing that may be different from wetland. This research was aimed to study conversion of wetland area into palm oil estate, to study palm oil estate profile of farmers, and to analyze its impacts on the social stratification and livelihood strategies. This research used survey method in combination with in-depth interviews that conducted at two villages with different ethnicity.

The finding of this research shows that land conversion have done in order to recovery household economy. In this context, land conversion were resulted by the interaction among the farmers with the labors of palm oil company (PT AA), migrants of Batak’s ethnic, and officers of Plantation Affair. Palm oil estate profile of farmers were most influenced by wetland area which were owned when its not converted yet. Palm oil productions of farmers were production entity of oil palm industry. Estate production structure of farmers were met the massive business organisation of sellers who have been partners of palm oil factories. The emerging social structure change was indicated by social mobility of some social strata. Social mobility was affected by land selling activities and availability of opportunities to work and entrepreneur in the off farm and non farm sectors. Employment alteration being estate farmer has affect to income source of household depend on their estate. The farmers of low and middle strata have to diversify their income source in order to survival (survival strategy), while the farmers of upper stratum have to specify in order to accumulation their wealth (strategy of wealth accumulation).

Keywords: land conversion, palm oil estate, social stratification, livelihood strategy