ABSTRACT

Serang District has approximately 60% of the population as small-holder farmers. This condition has a great potential for agricultural development. Up to now, farmers in some areas find limited access to extension services. This is due to lack number of extension workers and quality of agricultural extension workers that are needed by the farmers. The Act No. 16/2006 about System of Extension in Agriculture, Fishery, and Forestry states that the competency of extension workers is important.

The objectives of the research were: (i) to describe the farmer’s perception on the extension worker competence, and (ii) to describe the relationship between the personal and farming characteristics and quality of extension activities with their perception about the competence of extension worker. This research was conducted with the survey methods and observations in the two Pontang subdistrict, including Pulokencana dan Sukanegara. The 60 farmer samples were randomly selected as respondents. The data were analyzed through Spearman rank correlation test.

The result showed a correlation between participation in training were significantly correlated with the perception of the competence of extension worker. There was also a significant correlation between the perception of extension activity quality (intensity, materials, and methods) with the farmer’s perceptions of the competence of extension worker.

Keywords: small-holders farmers, perception of the farmers, the role of extension workers, extension services