ABSTRACT

PRABAWA EKA SOESANTA. Design of stabilizing pro-farmer controls of rice field conversion at special zones in Central Jawa Province. Under Supervision of SUPIANDI SABIHAM, NUNUNG NURYARTONO and MACHFUD.

The Special Zone (Kawasan Andalan) in Central Java Province that was intended to accelerate the process of economic growth has caused the conversion of rice fields. There are worries that this phenomena will disturb the food self-sufficiency of the zone, and in the end this will disturb self-sufficiency and food sufficiency throughout Indonesia. Because of these risks, research on this subject is needed. Research has the goals to: 1) Analyze the rate of rice field conversion in the Special Zone, 2) Analyze the influence of rice field conversion and other variables on the availability of rice and the transformation of farmers’ livelihoods in the Special Zone, 3) Analyze the influence of land rents, the dependency on farm labor, the age and education of heads of households, as well as the behavior of farmers towards rice field conversion in the Special Zone, 4) Design a pro-farmer way to control the conversion of rice fields in the Special Zone. The results of this research indicate that: 1) Rice field conversion from 1991 to 2006 was in the amount of 63,892.60 Ha. The rate of rice field conversion was 4,259.51 Ha per year (0.82% per year). 2) The conversion of rice fields had a negative impact towards rice sufficiency in the zone, while the contribution of the agricultural sector to the Regional Gross Domestic Product and the growth of the economy had a positive influence on the availability of rice in the zone. The conversion of rice fields and economic growth both had a positive influence on the transformation of livelihoods, while the agricultural sector of the Regional Gross Domestic Product had a negative influence on livelihood transformations. 3) Land rent, dependency on farm labor, the age and education of heads of households all had a negative influence on land conversion. The behavior of farmers who converted rice fields was directly influenced by motivation and attitude. Variables related to abilities, level of information about rice field conversion, cultural orientation, and perceptions all had indirect influences on the behavior of farmers in converting rice fields. 4) The control of rice field conversion that gives priority to poor families in the Special Zone of Central Java Province will be successful if the farmers receive several guarantees, including: a) availability of water for farming, b) a market for their rice, c) inexpensive and easy-to-obtain farming inputs, d) free property taxes on rice land, e) consolidated rice field management, f) changes in farmer behavior, g) an increase in non-farm income, and h) diversification to foods other than rice.

Keywords: conversion of rice fields, rice sufficiency within the zone, transformation of farmer livelihoods, land rent.