Land Tenure & Agrarian Structure in Regions of Small Scale Food Production
BACKGROUND
This study has looked at:

• Patterns of land control and agrarian structure in main rice production areas
• The relation between agrarian structure and “social efficiency” (Lipton, Berry).
Framework

• Social efficiency (White, Berry) defined by:
  - Productivity per hectare
  - Impact on employment and income distribution
  - Sustainability

• Land “access” (Peluso & Ribot) instead of ownership:
  - Ownership
  - Share tenancy (majority)
  - Lease
  - Mortgage

• Agrarian labor regime (Bernstein):
  – Who owns what, who does what, who gets what, what do they do with it

• Farm - non farm sector interaction (De Koninckke)
Field Methods:

• Locations: 20 rice producing villages in Java, Lampung and South Sulawesi (2013 -2015)
• Data collection: in-depth interview, secondary data and small sample household survey (30hh/village)
Village and rice production conditions

- Are not homogenous, egalitarian or static, but high variation in land ownership, access and strata differentiation

- Farm households are not single occupation but multi-occupation with off- and non-farm activities, including labour migration

- Unequal land distribution is harmful for employment, income opportunity, sustainability of production and economy

(Lipton, 2009)
FINDINGS
High inequality in access to land

• In some villages, polarization and land accumulation are alarming.
  – few have large landholding (2-5 ha in Java, 5-200 ha in Lampung & Sulawesi)
  – while on avg 25% farmers have no land (our small survey) and 55% (Agr census 2013) farmers only has marginal land (< 0.5 ha)
  – absentee (urban) landownership increasing

• Large-scale land ownership does not generate large-scale farms, but *increasing share-tenancy*
  (in 13 of 20 villages, [part-]tenants outnumber owner-operators)
High variation in income among the very extreme villages:

Variation in income among classic and equal villages:
Farm and non-farm incomes related to farm size: diverging patterns

A. Extremely unequal 1

- Capital rich Farm
- Large Farm (>2 ha)
- Medium Farm 1 (1 – 2)
- Medium Farm 2 (0.25 – 0.9)
- Small Farm (< 0.25 ha)
- Landless

FARM non RICE & RICE << >> NON FARM
Farm – Non Farm Classic type:

Kebumen H village:

Kerawang K village:
Farm - Non Farm Egalitarian village:

Kebumen S village:

Bone A poor village:

Model for equal land policy at village level
Land polarization increases are due to:

- Classic model → accumulation of land tenure
- Present pattern → much variation in farm - non farm based accumulation
- Land speculation
  → higher land price → only the rich can buy land, but not full tenant
  → absentee owners, private and corporate (ex. Sosro, Xanadu –Djarum group)
Small rice farming still supplies almost all Indonesian demand & more productive than the larger

- Small rice farmer in Java supply 53% of demand (BPS)
- More productive:

![Graph showing rice farming productivity by size and season](image-url)
Questions for policy

• To support food production could village block grant be used to support Kebumen model?
• Should we not focus on small scale production? (productivity and social efficiency)
• Should not policy intervention be based on better knowledge of agrarian heterogeneity and the ‘Bernstein questions’?