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**TRAINING OF THE UTILIZATION OF OIL PALM MIDRIB AS A
CREATIVE BUSINESS TO SUPPORT THE ECONOMY OF THE NAKAU
VILLAGE COMMUNITY**

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Abstract

The training was held with the aim of providing direct insight into the community related to the use of oil palm frond waste as a productive product and has a sale value. The training carried out in the village of Nakau, Bengkulu Tengah Regency provided insight into the process and results of the utilization of palm oil waste. This training was given to PKK mothers in the village of Nakau, Bengkulu district, Bengkulu province. The training is carried out by providing a simulation of making products and continuing to design independently. Through this activity the community is expected to be able to utilize the waste and farmers have a solution to the waste of oil palm fronds.

Keywords: Utilization, Oil Palm Midrib, Productive Business.

1. Introduction

Most of the Nakau people in Central Bengkulu Regency meet the economic needs of the family by relying on making bricks and oil palm farmers. Profession as an oil palm farmer, of course, the community is very dependent on the results of existing plantations and the price of these commodities. Uncertain harvest yields that have caused the economic fulfillment of the Nakau people of Central Bengkulu District to remain low while the burden on the community in meeting the economic needs of the community is getting higher.

The extent of community oil palm plantations is directly proportional to the amount of waste produced such as oil palm fronds. This waste has not been utilized by the community at all so burning the waste is the only way to handle the waste. Palm oil waste is not utilized by the Nakau people because they do not know how to manage palm oil waste. especially oil palm fronds that can be used as high-value products. Palm fronds which are palm oil waste can be made woven to produce products in the form of curtains.

According to Pahan (2008), oil palm trees can produce 22 palm fronds / year and if no pruning can exceed 60 fronds / year. One appearance of oil palm midrib waste is as shown below.

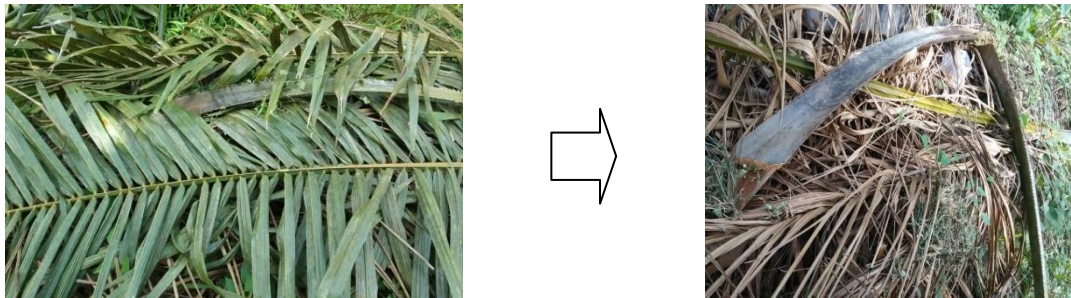


Figure 1. Palm Oil Midrib Waste

Palm fronds are one of the untapped wastes among farmers. This causes waste fronds to disrupt production results. One effort to reduce waste by using it as a basic material for making products that have a sale value such as curtains that are usually used in homes as a curtain so that sunlight does not penetrate into the house.

Based on the description above, it is known that there is still a need to increase public knowledge about treating waste, especially oil palm fronds to be made as products that have a sale value. The community's lack of concern in the Village of Nakau, Central Bengkulu Regency, for the oil palm fronds it produces and the large amount of oil palm fronds produced in an untapped environment will only become a pile that disturbs the aesthetics.

Therefore, we took the initiative to carry out activities utilizing the oil palm fronds by making the oil palm fronds a high-value product. Namely by making curtains in the form of curtains that can be used in stalls or houses as decoration or as a veil.

2. General Description of Business Plans

Nakau Village, Center Bengkulu Regency is one of the districts whose inhabitants work as oil palm farmers and bricklayers. The higher the number of plantations in the village of Nakau, Central Bengkulu Regency, the higher the volume of oil palm midrib waste. Coupled with the lack of concern from residents in utilizing oil palm fronds, encourages us to make a breakthrough to utilize oil palm fronds waste in the environment of Nakau Village, Bengkulu Tengah Regency by making efforts to utilize palm oil fronds.

The business of utilizing the oil palm fronds waste will be established in Nakau Village, Central Bengkulu District with the help of human resources from the PKK ladies and for the time being our production house will use the Village Hall. The selection of production houses in the Village Hall is due to the use of government facilities that have not been used optimally by residents. Nakau Village Hall is not yet fully functional.



Figure 2. Village Hall as a Production House

We plan to encourage citizens to care about the oil palm fronds they produce, the way we will create an association of environmentally friendly farmers who will produce palm fronds as high-value products. The community will utilize palm oil fronds from their plantations to produce a product called "TRAI".



Figure 3. Finished Product

In the establishment of this business plan, it will be implemented in Nakau Village, Seluma Regency. With the organizational structure of the business is still quite simple, where 1 person as chairman and 2 people as members with a predetermined division of tasks, so it is expected that this division can facilitate the running of the business. In planning the business of utilizing oil palm fronds, a theoretical calculation and estimation has been carried out that is accurate and can be justified.

3. Methods

Stages of Implementation Activities

a. Survey

The initial survey was conducted to observe the condition of the community, especially the community's economy and micro-businesses that can be utilized by the community as additional income. An initial survey was also conducted to review the oil palm plantations owned by residents in the village area of Nakau, Bengkulu Tengah Regency.

b. Coordination

Coordinate with the village head to take care of licensing and determine the location of the training.

c. Program Socialization

The program's socialization aims to provide information on plans for a series of training implementation and materials needed for training to the target communities.

d. Implementation of Activities

Before the activity is carried out, first a pretest is held to determine the respondent's initial ability. Implementation of activities by providing simulations of the process of making creative products to the community. The public is asked to try directly in making products to product finishing.

e. Activity Evaluation

After the training is given, the participants are given a questionnaire which aims to find out the response of the community about the training that has been given. The questionnaire analysis uses Linkert scale criteria with 5 criteria, namely: (1) Very High, (2) High, (3) Enough, (4) Low, and (5) Very Low.

Stages of Product Manufacturing

a. Material Collection

Material collection is carried out by selecting fresh palm oil sheaths in the farmer's garden when the farmers harvest. Palm fronds are selected and cut according to needs. At this stage participants are invited directly to sort out the materials used.

b. Material Formation

At this stage the palm fronds are separated between the sticks and the midrib. Separation is done to distinguish the ingredients for making plates, curtains. Forming the material is done by cleaning using a knife and refined so that the material can be woven.

c. Pattern Making

At this stage the pattern is made as desired. Submerged material is then woven according to the product you want to make. Such as: a stick weaved to make dishes for fruit and bag. While the palm fronds that have been cut are woven to make curtains.

d. Painting

The finished product is then polished to make the surface soft. The next step is to paint according to the color needed.

e. Marketing

The last stage is product marketing that will be carried out through:

1. Electronic / internet media (Facebook, Twitter, Blogs and Websites)
2. Following the Exhibition
3. Continually visit consumers
4. Leave the craft center in Bengkulu Province.

4. Results and Discussion

The training on the utilization of oil palm fronds was mostly participated by PKK mothers in Nakau village, Bengkulu Tengah regency. The provision of this training is a form of participation among PKK mothers towards the nakau village community in developing regional income by utilizing oil palm fronds. The oil palm midrib is processed into productive goods, this training is attended by 50 participants. Participants consisted of PKK mothers and youth clubs in the village of Nakau, Bengkulu Tengah District. The research begins with coordinating activities with village officials or officials related to licensing. The second stage of the survey was to invite participants to the oil palm plantation and directly select the material to be used for manufacturing the product. The third stage was conducted training using powerpoint media to explain directly the process of making products. The next stage is product assistance.

In the implementation of this training, pretest knowledge of the research objectives was conducted. At the end of the activity a posttest was conducted and the participants' questionnaire responses were distributed. The public is also given knowledge about how the marketing of products that have been made and where marketing is done such as the use of social media as a forum for promotion. Description of the implementation of research as in the following picture.



Figure 4. Service Implementation

The subjects in this training consisted of the community in the village of Nakau consisting of PKK members and youth members. The selection of research targets was based on invitations given through the

coordination of the village head, PKK chairman, and Karang Taruna Chairperson. There are several stages in the implementation of the training activities carried out namely;

The First Step Taken is Collecting Materials

At this initial stage the community, especially members of the PKK and members of the youth group of Nakau village, Central Bengkulu Regency, collected palm oil fronds taken from their respective gardens. This is done so that people can easily and quickly obtain raw materials in the manufacture of handicrafts.



Figure 5. Collection of Handicraft Raw Materials

The Second Stage is The Formation of Materials

At the stage of forming this material the first thing to do is the separation between the stick and the midrib. Separation is done to distinguish the ingredients for making plates, curtains. Forming the material is done by cleaning using a knife and refined so that the material can be woven. Here we only take the fronds that have been cleaned and cut into pieces to be used in drapery blinds.



Figure 6. Formation of Materials

The Third Stage is Pattern Making

The midrib that has been split and then measured is the same length. After that the formation of this curtain pattern using a plastik rope tied to a midrib and attached to a wooden stand so that this pattern can be done quickly. This buffer wood is very functional in making patterns into products in the form of curtains. The construction of this wood can use a ring or block wood and nailed at a distance of one hand span. The following is a picture of the wood supporting the use of palm oil fronds making:



Figure 6. Pattern Making

Painting

What is this stage to do when all the curtain making materials have been all used and installed on the curtain support pattern (see figure 4). The results of making these curtains can be directly colored using oil paint. This printing can be used colors to our liking. What if we do not want to give color to these blinds can be given a varnish and dried again so that the midrib is not easily eaten by termites.



Figure 7. Squeeze

Marketing

In this last stage, the Nakau village community in Central Bengkulu Regency was given an understanding of social media in marketing products produced through electronic media / internet media such as Instagram,

Facebook, Twitter, Blogs and Websites. The two communities market their products through exhibitions and competition activities in each month's routine activities at the PKK office and at the village hall, thirdly by direct selling to consumers, which entrusts the products of the village community's work to the cooperative department and direct sales in the traditional market, and finally with how to leave it to the Bengkulu Province craft center.

5. Conclusion

Nakau villagers are mostly self-employed by utilizing red land to turn it into bricks. The holding of training on the utilization of oil palm fronds can encourage the community to become entrepreneurs, increase the creativity of the people of Nakau village, Bengkulu Tengah Regency, Bengkulu Province, help increase community income, and finally reduce the unemployment rate in Nakau Village, Bengkulu Tengah Regency.

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