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The Power Relation Among Actors within National and Local Agricultural Sector Planning in Indonesia

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Article History	Abstract	
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Received: 06 June 2023 Revised: 05 Sept 2023 Accepted:11Sept 2023	Several actors with their powers and interests play important roles in national and regional planning in the agricultural sector. This study aims at analyzing the dynamism of the actor relationship and the interaction of their interests in connection to the national and regional planning of the agriculture sector. The study method applied is descriptive qualitative with the analysis of the stakeholders. The results, each actor with his relations and power plays a strong role in the planning process. In the case of aspiration funds, par-liament members are very dominant in allocating aid. In the case of co-administration funds: district heads and heads of services, and from central funds: technical director generals. No matter how democratic the concept of planning is made, there is always a distortion in making planning and policy formulations, which in the end the results of the planning that are born are the political preferences of the contesting elites. It is necessary for the Ministry of Agriculture, House Commission IV of Parliament, Provincial Office of the Agriculture Affairs and Regency to formulate a more comprehensive planning system to improve the	
CC License	management of the disbursement of the national fund.	
CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0	Keywords: Planning, Actor, Relation, Agriculture, Indramayu	

1. Introduction

Agriculture development in a region has something to do with the involvement and support of the key actors (Fahmid, 2013;Jumiati et al., 2018). The supporting actors, such as The Agriculture Ministry, House Commission IV of the Parliament, Directorate General of Technical, Regional Revenue Office, and other involved departments in the regional office can facilitate, support (Wittmayer et al., 2016) and contribute to the planning process from the central government level until the local government collaboratively (Wahyudi et al., 2020). Planning is carried out in its own context (Calderon C., Westin M, 2019). A complex contemporary planning paradigm is called collaborative planning, which mediates conflicts among parties by encouraging the involved actors to see all others in an egalitarian way, to share information, to learn new ways to promote innovations and to build institutional capacities (Purbani K, 2017). The focus of collaborative planning is on the decision making process that is through discussion or convention (SetÄlÄ M, 2017), the analysis of ideas and the consideration of suggestions from stakeholders as well as rational communication (Goodspeed R, 2016). The process of planning requires insights as one strategic planning that reflects future vision/thought, and anticipates opportunities and potentials that are implemented in actions (Bolisani E and Bratinu C., 2017). The success of a plan is influenced by several factors, such as management power, budget,

timing, performance standards, technology (Hasan N et al., 2021), target satisfaction (Bryson et al., 2017; Ramlee N et al., 2016; Rauws W, 2017), stakeholder collaboration (Healy P, 2020; Wamsler C, 2017), and the involvement of actors in a decision-making process (Marques et al., 2020; Jiang Y and Ritchie BW., 2017).

Actors play important roles in the success of planning; the roles can be seen in their provision of support (Horst et al., 2017), their involvement in both local and central fora (Duval P et al., 2017) either in economic aspects or social ones (Lennon M and Scott M., 2016), and also their communication among the stakeholders (Lamprou A and Vagiona D., 2018). The success of this planning process and goal requires organizing, mon-itoring and controlling a number of aspects that should be done with high level of motivation, the agreed schedule planning, budgeting, work performance (Radujkovie M and Sjekavica M, 2017), commitment, or-ganization readiness and its vision and mission (Saade R.G and Nijher., 2016). Knowledge management of the actors also has a positive impact on an organization to reach to a higher level (Agrawal A and Mukti S.K, 2020).

The planning in agriculture sector in Regency of Indramayu, West Java has something to do with the roles of the actors in it. A big number of actors starting from those from the legislative body/ Commission IV House of Representative Republic of Indonesia (HRRI) Ministry of Agriculture. Head of Local Government, Ag-riculture Office in Regency, NGO, to Farmers Group can facilitate and speed up the planning process in the region (Wahyudi et al., 2022a). This is due to the fact that those actors managed to create a collaborative network among the public sectors, researchers, businesses, and even the public in general (Hedensted Lund D, 2018) in an institution-like body. The institution is designed with some limiting factors (such as, regulations, norms, and system value) (Arsyad et al., 2021) to control the social interactions and incentives in reaching the common goal (A Ali et al., 2018). The involvement of stakeholders should improve the problem solving syn-ergy towards the growing complexities of prolems (Sopari et al., 2014). However, that big number of actors involved in Kabupaten Indramayu particularly in the provision of agriculture tools and machinery has turned out to be ineffective. Of 4.310 units of the agriculture tools and machinery that have been given, lots of them have not been fully utilized; this has led to the expected output (Wahyudi, et al., 2022b). It is thought that the influence and interests of an individual or group in the planning process had made the roles of the actors shift from those of what are supposed to be. Therefore, the element of planning itself did not come to its realization and can even potentially create conflicts among actors, like the rising of conflicting opinions due to the different perceptions about the management of the resources (De Pourcq et al., 2017) which were hard to mediate as there was a lack of trust in working in a team (Mukhlis M., 2018).

In the case of the provision of the agricultural tools and machinery in the Regency of Indramayu, the actors were competing one to another. The budget fund of that was allocated from the National Budget and Revenues (APBN) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Politics Aspiration fund, or from task support fund. From these 3 (three) kinds of fund sources, the actors had varied interests and influences in deciding the ongoing plans.

Actor is an individual or group that has a power network and has particular interests (Krott M, 2015; Sahide et al., 2016). Generally, actors have a focus in their actions in creative institutional work and avoid disturbing activities (Laura et al., 2020). Individual actors have double roles and different social identities in terms of characteritics (Waseem D and Biggemann S., Garry, T., 2018). Among actors, there is an interaction in an "arena" that is considered as a capital room of the organization that accommodates a relation among actors (Emirbayer M and Johnson., 2008), competition among actors that take place through the capital they have (Swartz DL, 2008). The actors form a network of stakeholders that is needed in the development involvement (Lestari AW, 2020) that needs to be built and nurtured so that actors are able to make use of the resources optimally (Pawalluri T et al., 2020). Actors are able to change the attitudes of the other actors in power relation in the form of inducing influence, interest or even confrontation (Krott M, 2015). This kind of power is the one that dominates the less fortunate groups or people with no access in "controlling" (Bourdieu P, 1987). This can happen as a leader has a power that includes an interaction with other actors below him and his attitude is also influenced by the reaction of the actors that have no power (Foulk T. et al., 2018). The actors who are domi-nating one another in power relation have three elements: coercive power, that is

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influence that is compelling; incentives power, influences that are based on rewards; and information power, that is influences through information sharing.

Some experts observe that power as an interaction among actors that is articulated through knowledge as the basis of the power and closely linked domination of actors (Foucault M, 1980) that connects knowledge to action or measures taken in public field (Friedman J, 1987) and conducted by each actor (individual, group or institution) in getting some capital in a specific field (Bourdieu P, 1993). The form of actor domination arises as a discourse on how to control opinions, beliefs, and actions of each individual in reaching the goal (Wardah et al., 2017). Power conceptualization becomes part of planning (Metzger et al., 2017). The concept of power is then translated into a number of basics, which are: 1) power is not a possession but as a someone's strategy or a group's strategy that are competing to achieve their respective goals; 2) power can be spreading and cannot be contained; 3) power doesn't always work with oppression and repressions, but through normalization and governmentality; 4) Power is not destructive but instead it is productive and producing something that can change something in actual social and political construct (Foucault M, 1980).

Studies relations to dynamism of actor relation have been done in some countries with various and dif-ferent themes. An actor is often involved in a conflict of a solution to a problem (Fahmid, et al., 2013). One potential main problem in a planning process is a conflict of interests (Goedkoop F and Devine-Wright P, 2016); however, the government is not the main or central player here. Actually there are other actors that are involved with a variety of resources that could include funding, regulation power, sources of information (Howell K and Wilson BB., 2019), service / facilities owned (Jacobs E, and Baez Camargo., 2020), functional network such as social and political environment, structural navigation of power, and policies (Mukherjee F, 2020).

In practice, an actor has a tendency to address his personal interests, so he looks for ways to efficiently accommodate his interests though there are some hurdles faced (Teo SSK, 2020), such as the interests or domination of other actors (Vasstrim M and Normann R., 2019). Particular studies on actor relation are also available, some of which are related to trust and the aspect of fairness; actor and collaborative planning; power relation, actor and institutions, actors' interests, government and society roles, agriculture innovations dan multi actor (Kernecker M., 2021); and also collaboration of the Institutions (Carolin M and Kristina., 2018). The study on actor relations in the agriculture sector has actually been carried out but its focus was on the agriculture innovations with digitalization technology in Europe.

Similar studies mostly discuss actor roles and actor relations in policies and programs/activities, mean-while the dynamism of actors in connection to the national and regional planning are still limited. Therefore, dynamism of actor relation in the planning needs identifying from several aspects and needs to be mapped well, so that the goal of a strategic planning can be made into a realization in accordance. Considering the im-portance of such involvement, contributions and roles of actors in the planning process, this study aims at analyzing the relation dynamism of the actors that covers roles, interests, and power in connection to the na-tional and regional planning in the sector of agriculture, specifically in the disbursement of the collection of the government fund in the forms of agriculture tools and machines in Regency Indramayu, Jawa Barat province. It is expected that this study can help to map out the roles, interest and power of actors in the planning in the agriculture sector to achieve the national and regional planning goals.

2. Materials And Methods

Study Area

The location of the study was purposively selected, which were the Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Indonesia and Regency of Indramayu in West Java province. Indramayu Regency with the fact that 54% of its total area is rice fields (Wittmayer., 2017), and that the considerably high number of supported agriculture tools and machinery amounting to 5,445 units in the last 4 years (Creswell JW, 2013) has implicated on its planning process of the budget plans and budget allocation. The study period was during the months of December 2022-June 2023.

The study method applied here was a case study in which there is an exploration of a bound system or of a case /a series of cases from time to time through complete and thorough data collection involving various sources of rich information in a context (Creswell, J.W., 2013). The kinds of data used are the primary and secondary data. The primary data were from the in-depth interviews to key informants, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with actors involved in the national and regional planning work, and documentation. Apart from the information data from the in-depth interviews to the selected informants Afrizal, 20152), there were also some from the documents on plans available in the Ministry of Agriculture during the period of 2020-2024 and the documents of the Regional Development Plan of Medium Term dan Strategic Plans of Regional Unit of Agriculture Affairs in Regency of Indramayu. Meanwhile, the secondary data were taken from the literature reviews and the analyses of reports/documents from related agencies and institutions about the agriculture development plans.

The plans concerned here were those regarding the disbursement of the support of the agricultural tools and machinery from the central fund, aspiration fund, or task support fund. The data collection method used was described in the flowchart below:

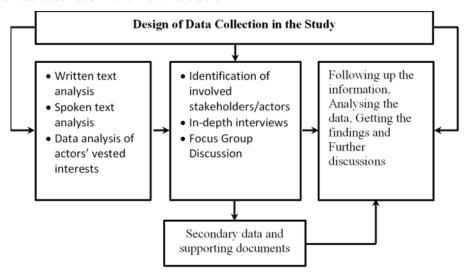


Figure 1. Flowchart of Data Collection. Based on the method develop by (Wahyudi et al., 2022c)

From the flow chart above in Picture 1, it is seen that the data collection can be described as follows: a) Written text or document analysis. In this study the texs referred to were the minutes of the hearing session of the Ministry of Agriculture and House Commission IV of Parliament, e-proposals, proposals from members of House Commission IV of Parliament (either in papers and social media), NGO proposals, and; b) Analysis of discussion texts. The texts were from those between Agriculture Bureau of the regency/ the Planning and Development agency and the Expert in House Commission IV of the Parliament, between the ministry of agriculture and the local regency office of agriculture, and between the unit work in the regency and the regional representative body; c) Data on Influences and Interests of each actor. These latter data were based on the interviews to all the actors to express all the concerns focused in this study and on the individual perceptions of each actor to the others. The data include both the consequences of the competitions among the actors towards the consistency of the national planning and the regional planning and the consistency of the plans and the implementations in the agriculture sector in Indramayu. Thorough interviews were carried out with specific topic questions that could also be possibly extended to other related topics (Trigueros R, 2018). The interviewees were the key informants chosen purposively from the society and related government officials from the local up to the national (Kairuz T, 2022). Those key informants were from influential actors in the process of planning (Tabel 1).

Table 1. Research information description in the thorough interview				
No	Informants	Number of informants		
NO	mormants	(n)		

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1.	Experts and Commission IV members of Parliament in charge of agriculture sector	1
2.	Bureau of Planning in Ministry of Agriculture	2
3.	Bureau of Planning in West Java Province	2
4.	Bureau of Planning in Regency of Indramayu	1
5.	Bureau of Regional Planning and Development	1
6.	Regional Unit Service of Technical	2
7.	Field Workers of Agriculture	2
8.	NGO	2
9.	Village Office Officials	2
10.	Farmers Group Union	2
	Total of Informants	17

In Table 1. It is shown that there were 17 selected informants for the interviews who were the key actors coming from the influential ones affecting the planning process to the disbursement of the government support fund, such as expert members of House Commission IV of the Parliament, Bureau of Planning in the Ministry of Agriculture, The Planning Unit Section of West Java Province, The Planning Unit Section in Regency Indramayu, Regional Unit of Technical Support, Field Workers, Non-Governmental Organzation, Village Office Officials, Farmers Group Union. The information gathered through interviews was about the process of the government support fund either through: (1) Aspiration fund from politicians (political process); (2) Support task fund (participative process); and (3) Central government fund or ministerial (technocratic process). Based on the literature reviews done prior to the interviews, some explorations of interview questions to encourage more openness and freedom of expressions in informants were done. The researcher posed some related questions regarding the planning documents and gave much room for freedom of expressions or opinions in responding to the process and mechanism taken so far in the sector of agriculture.

Methods of Analysis

The method analysis used in this study is applying Stakeholder Analysis. This method is usually taken to analyze public policies and perspectives on decision making processes by several actors involved in those. Actor analysis can provide information for proposing or developing actions needed in designing policy strategies, instruments and recommendations in future (Raum, 2018). Similarly actor analysis serves as a supporting instrument to improve trust level on decision makers and to provide a transparency in a decision making process (Brescancin, F et al., 2018). Actor analysis method is applied in a specified activity that is designed to achieve a targeted goal. Actors are categorized using stakeholder identification approach. A stakeholder is defined as an individual or a group that can influence or can be influenced by an activity to achieve one specific goal (Mitchel RK, 19997), each of whom has interest and power (Fletcher, 2003). Stakeholders are grouped into three, namely: 1) primary stakeholder, who has a direct interest in one activity; 2) secondary stakeholder, who plays as an intermediary in describing the activity and has no direct interest in it but with some influence it it; 3) Key stakeholder is an important one with the authority to make decisions (Wahyudi et al, 2021); (Grimle R (1998)); (Crosby BL, 1992). Stakeholder analysis is to show an optimum description of the expected roles of each stakeholder. The term of interests is described as passion/concern/care of stakeholder in the agriculture development planning whether in a national or regional contexts, (influencing the execution). The rest, all of those involved in national or regional planning of agriculture development, are grouped in 9 quadrants of 3x3 (three-by-three matrix) as follows:

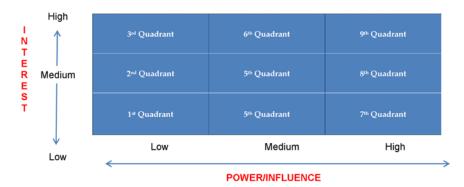


Figure 2. Mapping of Stakeholders/Actors based on Interest Level and Power/Influence Level (Matrix 3X3)

Interest Level

This consists of three (3) levels which are high, medium, low. 1) High is the level with hopes, aspiration and receiving direct benefits; 2) Medium is that with hopes and aspiration but with no direct benefits received; 3) Low is the one with neither hopes, aspiration nor direct benefits.

Influence Level

This comparises of three (3) levels as well, namely high, medium and low. 1) High is that who has a full authority to make a decision, facilitate policy implementation and influence others in making policies; 2) Medium is with a limited authority in decision making process, in facilitating policy implementation and in influencing others in making policies; 3) Low is the one who has no authority in all of the activities: making decisions, facilitating policy implementation and influencing other parties in policy making.

3. Results and Discussion

The roles of actors in applying a policy or a program is influenced by the power and interests owned by them (Kadir W et al., 2013). In the agriculture development plan process in either a national level or regional one, there are lots of *stakeholders*/actors involved who have their own direct or indirect interests to the planned agriculture programs. Moreover, there are also various differences of decision powers/influences of the actors in the process of the disbursement of the agricultural tools and machinery support. The provision and the disbursement of such agricultural tools and machinery comes from the national budget, regional budget in the form of task support fund or from the aspiration fund of house members. Based on the analyses of the actors, the categories, and the roles done earlier, the descriptions of their level of interests and decision power can then be formulated as follows.

Aspiration Funds

The analyses of the interests and power of the actors in the planning process of the agriculture sector in the distribution of the supported tools and machinery coming from the aspiration funds in the Regency of Indramayu can be described in Table 2 below.

Table 2: The Interests and Powers of Actors in Planning Process of Agriculture Sector through Aspirations Funds in Regency of Indramayu

Aspirations Funds in Regency of Indramayu				
Actor	Interests	Power		
General Directorate of Agriculture Infrastructures and Facilities	Achieving performance targets of the I institution through the use of aspiration funds.	Doing the supervision and monitoring of the support to farmer groups/farmer group union.		
Bureau of Planning in Ministry of Achieving target plans and realization Coaching, allocating, and monitoring the Agriculture of the use of aspiration funds. disbursement of the funds.				
Provincial Office of Agriculture Ministry in West Java	Achieving agriculture development performance in the province through aspiration funds.	Conducting data verification process through online dan coaching in allocation of funds.		

Regent of Indramayu Regency	Achieving political performance (votes) through allocation of funds (when of the same political party) or agriculture development performance in the regency.	Possessing bargaining power position in deciding area location to receive support from the aspiration funds
Agriculture Office of Regency Indramayu	Meeting the needs for needed tools and machinery for agriculture development.	Possessing influence in managing the disbursement of support in the form of plans in the agriculture sector.
Regional Unit of Technical Services (UPTD)	Achieving the service in allocating support through aspiration funds.	Having authority in coordinating the process of handing in and receiving the support to targeted farmer groups/unions.
Penyuluh	Achieving the work performance as field worker to coach farmers particularly in getting the support.	Facilitating the connection and helping coordination between house members and targeted farmer groups/unions receiving the support.
Head of Farmer Group / Union	Achieving target to get agricultural tools and machinery quickly through aspiration funds.	Persuading and coordinating members to support the house of members in return to getting the funds from them.
Members of Farmer Groups/Union	Achieving production target and higher income from the donated tools and machinery from aspiration funds.	r Supporting the house members in return to their donating the funds, giving potential votes to the House members.
Village Office Official	Achieving agriculture development progress in the area from the aspiration funds.	Being the liaison on the disbursement of the tools and machinery from the House of parliament through farmer group/union.
LSM	Achieving the role to coach farmers to express their opinions and ideas.	Doing the supervision of the use of the given funds.
Experts Members of House Parliament	Achieving the fund allocation to maintain electoral basis of sectoral constituents	Selecting and deciding targeted areas to receive the funds with some political interests in it.

Source: Analysis Results, 2023

Referring to the above Table 4, the leveling of the interests and power of the actors in handing out and receiving the agriculture tools and machinery support coming from the central funds can be mapped in the matrix in Picture 5 below.

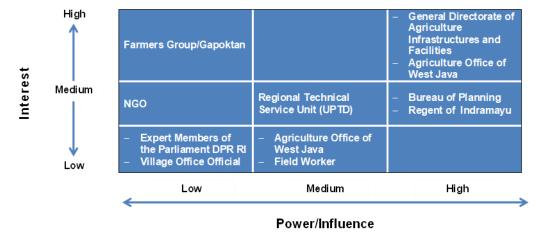


Figure 5. Matrix of the Actors' Interests and Power in the Handing out and Receiving the Agriculture Tools and Machinery Support from the Central Funds in Indramayu Regency. Sources: Analysis Results, 2023

Dynamism of actor relation existing in the planning of the government support in the agriculture sector through aspiration funds, central funds, and task support funds in Regency Indramayu is very strong. There is an interaction of power relation among them and they have the ability to persuade the other actors to have different attitudes through their power and interests they possess. The handing out of the support funds is attached with some particular interests like political interests that influence the actor of the fund beneficient, the farmers group, to give political support to members of the parliament in return to the funds. Therefore, the power and interests of members of the perliement of commission IV play a big role in the planning process of the fund disbursement as they have power of regulation and funding. Support fund allocation from task support fund source has more technical orientation, such as the priority of farmers' needs, required administration and condition (ability of farmers) for the benefit, and political interest to secure the constituents of the head of local government.

In this case, the power and the interest of the head of local government and the head of agriculture office in the regency have big roles in deciding who to have the fund supports as they have all detailed information in the area. Meanwhile, for the fund allocation from the central fund support the general directorate of agriculture infrastructures and facilities play a dominant role in the funding, the planned support which is based on the target performance of the agriculture development goals, the leader's discretion (General Director/Minister/President), accommodation suggestions from particular groups (NGO, Donation Group/Social Groups/or other agriculture related agencies).

Any actor having regulation power, information sources, and funding, has an important role in deciding the support to farmers. That actors are present with their own respective resources, in collaboration with others that include funding resources, regulation power, and information sources. The fact that power of regulation and funding possessed by members of the parliament is used to accommodate various form of support, reflects one of the three elements in power relation mentioned in this study (Krott M, 2005), that is Incentives (accommodating support) given to other actors to invite public sympathy. Such strategy is the one used by actors who have dependency on the individual/group interests; in this situation then it tends to be used by finding more efficient ways to accommodate their interests. This study finds that members of parliament from the national level, provincial, and regency, use "aspiration home" as an instrument or way to accommodate various government support allocated to the region. Although, according to (Cahasta LA, 2017); Ministry of law and human rights, 2014), an aspiration home is an office for members of the parliament to listen to society's aspirations.

The information sources owned by the local government from task support funds are commonly used as a locally based development strategy (MOLHI, 2014); Mukherjee, 2020). However, this study reveals a different finding: apart from its use as a development strategy, such task support fund distribution is also used for the head of regency's political interest to maintain or expand the constituency; all resources coming into the region are optimized to maintain or expand power.

Funding power from the central funds is used by various actors with their own varied interests, starting from achieving the development targets, discretion of their leaders, and meeting specific needs of one community group. The actors themselves come from the circle of power holders and do have their own influences and interests which often triggers conflicts among them. This condition arises as a response to a power that dominates individuals/groups with no access to the power which is known as symbolic violence (Bourdieu P, 1997), each actor has a network of power and varied specific interests, in which those differences of their interests can unavoidably trigger differences in their perspectives that can affect the planning process (Foucault, 1980). Such conflicts also happen among local government and members of house parliament, for example, in Indramayu the recipients of the tools and machinery support had once been decided by the members of house parliament, with their own consideration (i.e. of political constituency), but this was not approved by the local government as the proposed group of recipients actually does not need those tools and machinery.

However, in the end the handing out of the allocation was executed, and this had an implication on the ineffectiveness of the support benefits and on the social jealousy in some farmers. This is in line with (Li Li TM, 2010) stating that the intention to make development improvement of the power holders often differs from the intention of the benefit recipients themselves. One way to address that is by

avoiding conflicts of interests through democratic collaborative planning, building trusts and hopes among actors, and involving actors in a dialogue process to produce a solution to a problematic situation.

In the study, it was found out that there was an issue of the accountability for a fair and good quality service that became a hurdle in the process of disbursement of the support funds for the agriculture tools and machinery that come through central funds and task support funds. A longer handing out and receiving process for the tools and machinery supports coming through these two fundings was obvious, compared with that coming from aspiration funding. Actually, the roles and powers of the local Regencial Office of Ministry of Agriculture as an executor in a regional level should make it possible to create a smooth and easy process for that. This then shows how the complexity of the power practice and the resource contest in the bureaucracy could have an effect in its funding support implementation. Government as the key actor in the planning ought to put forward a principle of ease for the community to access the funds by strengthening a bottom up communication. Thus, any input from the community can help to contribute to the review and evaluation planning process in the agriculture sector particularly in the handing out and receiving the tools and machinery support.

4. Conclusion

The power entitled by those actors, whether in regulations, fundings, information sources on the process of national planning and regional planning in the agriculture sector through aspiration funds, task support funds, and central funds, has made the power relation dynamic. With each stakeholder bringing its own missions and interests, planning has become an arena for stakeholders to fight. Each actor with his relations and power plays a strong role in the planning process. In the case of aspiration funds, parliament members are very dominant in allocating aid. In the case of co-administration funds: district heads and heads of services, and from central funds: technical director generals. In every plan that is carried out there must be 2 (two) groups, namely the holders of power or the elite and those who do not have power or the masses. No matter how democratic the concept of planning is made, there is always a distortion in making planning and policy formulations, which in the end the results of the planning that are born are the political preferences of the contesting elites. The basic principle is, because each elite wants to maintain the status quo (the current situation), the policy is conservative (tends not to want change), meaning that for the purpose of development planning, the elite are not always concerned with the interests of society (not willing to improve). To improve the effectiveness of planning in the disbursement of government support funds, all stakeholders must formulate a system to accommodate all the related interests of each actor/stakeholder, including putting forward a principle of society's involvement in the participation in the planning process.

This is necessary to do so that the real essence of the planning process becomes better-targeted and the welfare improvement of the society can be achieved. This research is limited to programs/activities sourced from government funds in the agricultural sector. Therefore, the researcher suggests that a more in-depth study be carried out on the involvement of funds other than government funds, such as NGOs, foreign loans, the private sector, and community funding participation

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