

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEADING FOOD COMMODITIES BASED ON LOCAL WISDOM IN FOOD-INSECURE AREA IN EAST NUSA TENGGARA PROVINCE, INDONESIA

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Abstract. Food insecurity is still a major issue in developing countries, like Indonesia, particularly in East Nusa Tenggara Province. 11 of 21 districts in this province are facing food insecurity. Therefore, efforts should be made to alleviate food insecurity in the community. One way is developing leading food commodities based on local wisdom. The aim of this study is to find a method for developing leading food commodities based on local wisdom, which can be applied in East Nusa Tenggara Province. This study uses secondary data taken and reviewed by the government. The data show that agricultural commodity cultivation the food-insecure area in East Nusa Tenggara is not specialized in certain agricultural commodities, meaning various agricultural commodities are available in various districts and they are not concentrated into a certain district. The availability of commodities is relatively spreading in various districts and is not concentrated in a certain district, although each district has particular leading commodities. Paddy can be cultivated in every food-insecure district except for the East and West Manggarai districts. It depends on the climatic conditions, temperature, humidity and the effort to procure adequate means of irrigation. Upland paddy “gogo”, cassava, corn, soybeans, peanuts and sweet potatoes can be cultivated in all district by adjusting appropriate cropping patterns during rainfall, temperature, and humidity suitable for the commodities. The improvement of food security in order to overcome food insecurity in 11 of 21 districts in East Nusa Tenggara should be done by promoting local wisdom, especially by the development of agricultural cultivation based on customs and local potency. Increased focus needs to be put on local potentials regarding the development of staple foods, with the support of all parties and active participation of the community.

Keywords: *staple food, upland paddy “gogo”, agricultural cultivation, cropping patterns*

Introduction

The problem of food insecurity is closely related to poverty (Sue and Smith, 2001). Poverty in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) is caused by the condition of natural resources and the dry climate (Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), 2013; Natamba et al., 2018). The poverty rate in 2010 to 2017 has always been higher than the national poverty rate. The poverty line is used as a boundary to determine whether a person is categorized poor. The poverty line component consists of the Food Poverty Line and Non-Food Poverty Line. Food commodities in contributing poverty line is greater than that of non-food commodities (housing, clothing, education, and health). The Food Poverty Line is the minimum food expenditure requirement equivalent to 2,100 kilocalories per capita per day. The basic food commodities are represented by 52 types of commodities, such as grains, tubers, fish, meat, eggs and milk, vegetables, beans, fruits, oils, fats, etc (BPS^c, 2017).

The expenditure to meet food needs is a basic requirement that must be met regardless of one's income level. Economists portrait the economic prosperity level of the community (BPS^b, 2016) by using food groups as indicators. Engels' Law states that if the tastes are the same, the percentage of expenditure on food will be decreasing along with the increasing income (Nicholson, 1992). *Figure 1* shows that the expenditure of the population in rural areas of NTT on food is approximately 60% of its total income, while in urban areas it is about 45% of its total income. Population expenditure on food in rural areas is greater than that of urban areas although the agricultural land is wider. This indicates that agricultural land has not been managed at an optimum level.

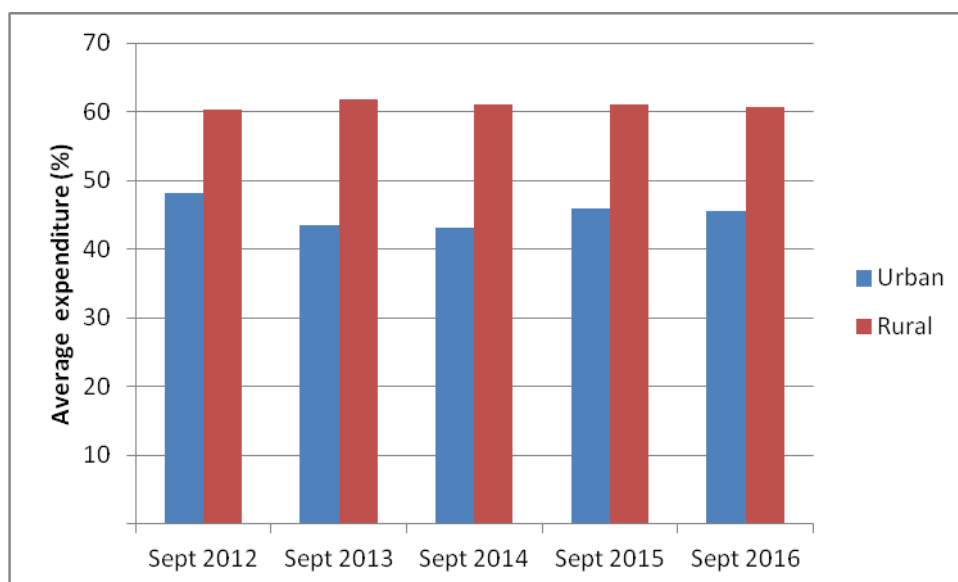


Figure 1. Percentage of average monthly expenditure per capita for food in NTT

The level of adequacy of energy and protein consumption can be used as an indicator to show the nutritional condition of the community, as well as to see to which extent the development in food, agriculture, health and social economy sectors is successful. According to *Widyakarya Nasional Pangan dan Gizi* (WNPG), the limit of the sufficiency standard of calories and protein consumption by Indonesian people are 2,150 kilocalories (kcal) and 57 g of protein per capita per day. This standard is certainly based on individual, instead of domestic approach. The average of daily consumption of calories and protein per capita per day in NTT (BPS^b, 2016) are presented in *Figure 2*.

Figure 2 indicates that the average consumption of calories and protein per capita per day in NTT are lower than the standard limit for the adequacy of calories and protein intake. In the long run, this will worsen the physical and health condition of the population in NTT.

Many factors can affect household vulnerability to food insecurity. These factors are categorized according to their relation with three dimensions of food security, which are food availability, food access and utilization of nutrients in food. Based on the Map of Food Security in NTT, sub-districts included in Priority 1 are those with the tendency to have higher levels of vulnerability than sub-districts with higher priority. Thus, Priority

6 include sub-districts that tend to have higher food security. Sub-districts with Priority 1, 2 and 3 have tendencies to be more vulnerable to food insecurity and those with Priority 4, 5 and 6 are considered as food-secure categories. Sub-districts with Priority 1, 2 and 3 are mapped in red gradations and Priority 4, 5 and 6 in green color gradations.

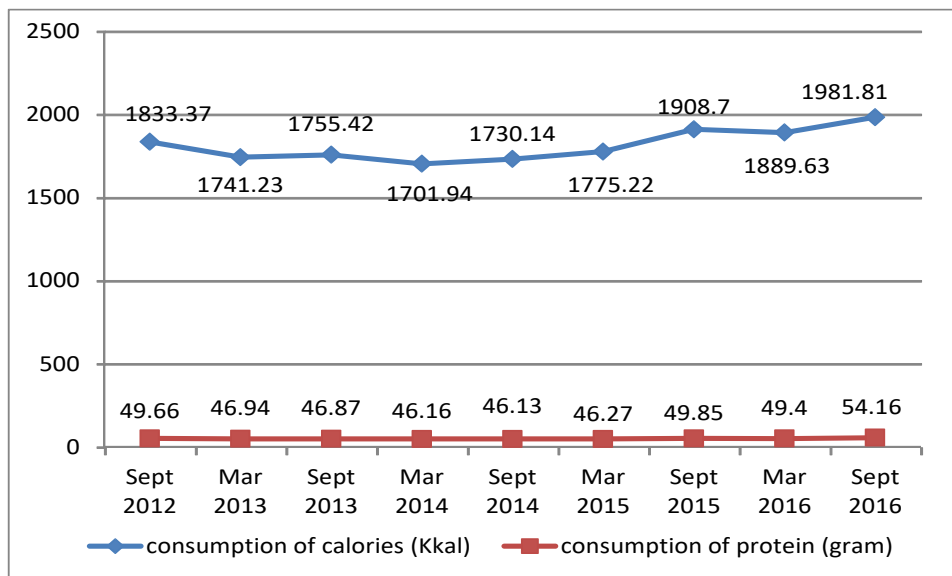


Figure 2. The average consumption of calories and protein per capita per day

Based on the analysis of food security composite in Figure 3, 300 sub-districts in NTT are clustered into six priority groups as follows: 14 sub-districts in Priority 2 (5%), 67 sub-districts in Priority 3 (22%), 74 sub-districts in Priority 4 (25%), 138 sub-districts in Priority 5 (46%) and 7 sub-districts in Priority 6 (2%). There is no sub-district considered as Priority 1. Table 1 shows that the total of sub-district grouped in Priority 1 to 3 (most vulnerable to food insecurity) are 81.

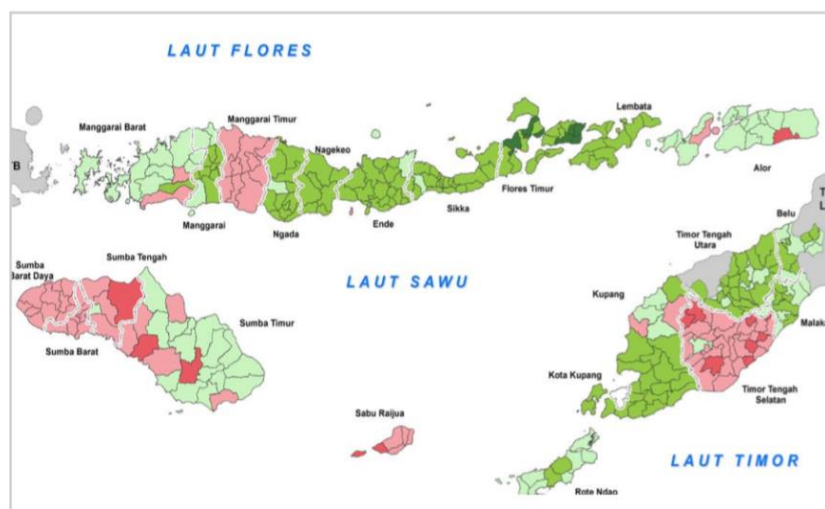


Figure 3. Food security maps in NTT. (Sources: Dewan Ketahanan Pangan NTT and World Food Program, 2015)

Table 1. Distribution of inter-district priority groups. (Source: Dewan Ketahanan Pangan NTT and World Food Program, 2015)

No	District	Number of sub-district in priority (%)					
		Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Priority 6
1	West Sumba	-	-	9	-	-	-
2	East Sumba	-	14	7	20	-	-
3	Kupang	-	-	3	4	14	-
4	South Central Timor	-	57	34	1	-	-
5	North Central Timor	-	-	-	5	14	-
6	Belu	-	-	-	8	4	-
7	Alor	-	7	3	19	-	-
8	Lembata	-	-	-	-	7	-
9	East Flores	-	-	-	-	9	100
10	Sikka	-	-	-	3	14	-
11	Ende	-	-	2	3	13	-
12	Ngada	-	-	-	1	8	-
13	Manggarai	-	-	-	4	6	-
14	Rote Ndao	-	-	-	11	1	-
15	West Manggarai	-	-	2	10	1	-
16	Central Sumba	-	7	16	-	-	-
17	Southwest Sumba	-	-	5	1	-	-
18	Nagekeo	-	-	-	-	5	-
19	East Manggarai	-	-	13	-	-	-
20	Sabu Raijua	-	14	6	-	-	-
21	Malaka	-	-	-	9	4	-

Most of the population in NTT work in the agricultural sector. Approximately 61.65% of the working population in NTT work in the agricultural sector in 2016, and the percentage dropped to 53.32% by 2017. From economic perspective, the agricultural sector contributed with 29.65% to Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) in 2016 and dropped to 28.89% to GDP in 2017 (BPS^d, 2017). This condition indicates that the economic contribution of the agricultural sector has dropped. On the other hand, this sector has not been able to meet the food needs of its population; there are 81 sub-district that are vulnerable to food insecurity.

The purpose of this study is to formulate the development of leading food commodities based on local wisdom in food insecurity areas in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. The fulfillment of staple needs is a basic need that must be met for the sake of food security. The community in the food-insecure areas has tried to provide of staple food through its cultivation. However, it is necessary to improve the management to achieve food sovereignty of local communities. Agricultural production seems to hold the key to economic growth and development in the developing nations of the world (Omotoso et al., 2018).

Materials and methods

Data used for the identification of leading staple food commodities

Identification of leading staple food commodities was carried out using location quotient (LQ). LQ is a technique known for a relative handful of development professionals. It is one of the most basic analytical tools available for economic

development researchers/ professionals. LQ is to yield a coefficient or a simple expression of how well a particular industry is represented in a given study region (Miller et al., 1991). This indicator (LQ) is a localization measure, in the sense that it allows us to assess the relative concentration degree of a given activity (i) in a given region (t).

$$\text{Analytically LQ} = \frac{v_i/v_t}{V_i/V_t}$$

v_i : Value of agricultural commodities production (i) at district level of food insecurity in NTT.

v_t : Value of total agricultural commodities production at district level of food insecurity in NTT.

V_i : Value of agricultural commodities production (i) from all food-insecure districts in NTT.

V_t : Value of total agricultural commodities production from all food-insecure district in NTT.

The reference base is unit. Thus:

$LQ < 1$ – means that sector i in region t is not very significant, and that the region is not particularly specialized in sector i ;

$LQ = 1$ – in this case the relative importance of sector i in region t equals its importance in the reference region;

$LQ > 1$ – means that sector i in region t plays an important role, and that the region is relatively specialized in sector i (Diniz et al., 2010). Localization quotients are useful tools to characterize regions internally and to compare them both among themselves and to the reference territorial unit (Delgado and Godinho, 2005).

The analysis of the area of leading agricultural commodity base is used to identify the areas that are the basis of the leading agricultural commodities. This analysis uses specialization quotient and location quotient. Special quotient (Ksi) are used to see if a district is specialized in a particular agricultural activity (Djojodipuro, 1992). The value of Ksi is obtained by the following formula:

$$Ksi = (v_i/v_t) - (V_i/V_t)$$

The value of the special quotient is derived from the total of positive values of Ksi. Criteria used is if the Ksi district ≥ 1 or $Ksi \sim 1$ then a district is specialized in agricultural activities on certain commodities and if $Ksi \text{ district} \sim 0$ then a district is not specialized in agricultural activities on certain commodities.

Localization Quotients (Lo) are used to determine the agglomeration or extension of a particular commodity in a region or to find out the existence of a concentration of agricultural activity in a district (Djojodipuro, 1992). To calculate the value of location quotient the following equation was used:

$$Loi = (v_i/V_i) - (v_t/V_t)$$

If the value of localization quotient is close to or more than one, the agricultural commodity centers in an area and if the value of localization quotient is near zero point, the agricultural commodity spreads in various areas. The value of Lo in each commodity is obtained by summing the positive Loi from each particular commodity in

all districts while LQ from each district obtained by summing positive Loi from all agricultural commodities in a particular district. After obtaining the analysis results of the superior commodity from each regency, the climatic conditions are then analyzed to determine the suitability.

Study area

District categorized in food insecurity areas are district with sub-district in category 2 and or 3, making the total of 11 district (areas mapped with pink gradation to deep red gradation in *Figure 3*).

The data used in this analysis are secondary data provided by the Central Bureau of Statistics of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) in 2011-2015, which include data on production, price, and Gross Regional Domestic Revenue (GRDP). The analyzed commodities are limited to staple food such as paddy, upland paddy, corn, soybeans, peanuts, green beans, cassava, and sweet potatoes. In addition, official information from government agency websites is used in result synchronization and the publication of the research results regarding the local wisdoms in NTT.

Geographical and climatic condition

East Nusa Tenggara belongs to the island province with 1,192 islands. East Nusa Tenggara is geographically located at 8° - 12° South Latitude and 118° - 125° East Longitude with the total width of 47,931.54 km². It is a province with flat topography and slightly tilted lands because some parts of the area are hills and mountains (BPS^d, 2017). The rain intensity (*Figure 4*) in the last six years is fluctuating and tends to decrease.

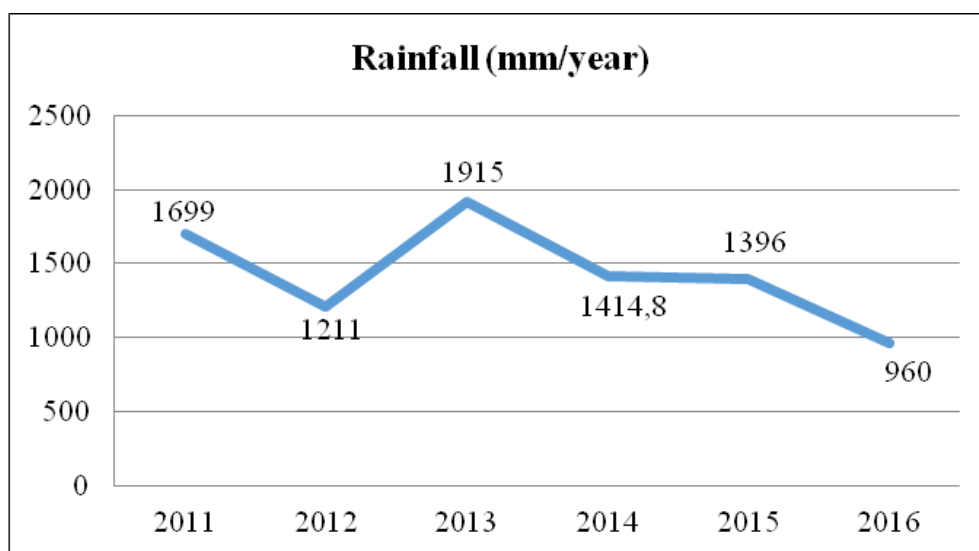


Figure 4. The rain intensity in East Nusa Tenggara in 2011-2016

The climatic conditions of the research location are identified using the climate classification method introduced by Schmidt-Ferguson (1951) by determining the Q ratio. The Q ratio is determined using the following equation:

$$Q = \frac{\sum \text{average dry months}}{\sum \text{average wet months}} \times 100\%$$

A month is categorized as wet month when the rain intensity is > 100 mm, as humid month when the rain intensity is 60 – 100 mm, and as dry month when the rain intensity is < 60 mm. Based on the value of Q ratio, an area can be classified into eight types, namely type A 0.0% < Q < 14.3% (very wet), B 14.3% < Q < 33.3% (wet), C 33.3% < Q < 60.0% (rather wet), D 60.0% < Q < 100% (normal), E 100% < Q < 167% (rather dry), F 167% < Q < 300% (dry), G 300% < Q < 700% (very dry), and H Q > 700% (extraordinarily dry). Based on the calculations, the data shown in Figure 5, East Nusa Tenggara has Q ratio = 175% which means it is a dry area.

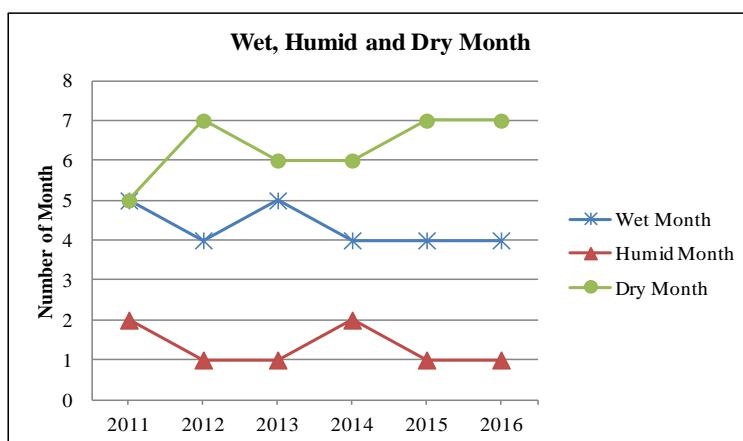


Figure 5. The number of wet months, humid months, and dry months in East Nusa Tenggara

Results

Determination of staple food commodities priorities

The development of staple food commodities need to be more organized to suit its potential. Therefore, local governments and communities need to recognize the conditions of the agricultural sector in producing products for public consumption, whether the production of staple food has been able to meet the needs of people in food-insecure areas or fails to meet the needs of the community and government still have to import from other areas. It is also important to support the right of individual farmers and indigenous communities to continue and develop their sustainable agriculture systems, environmental management practices and livelihoods. The practice of storage, development and exchange of seeds of food crops and medicines should also be concerned. Furthermore, the local food system means empowering the community to protect, conserve and utilize agricultural and other environments to ensure the fulfilment of their food and income needs. Food localization includes changes from dependence on external input and monoculture cultivation system to become self-sufficient in meeting the input needs and diversity of cultivated crops.

Based on the results of Location Quotient analysis to determine the leading staple food commodities in food insecurity areas in NTT, it is found that each district has different leading commodities. The leading agricultural commodities in each food-insecure district are included in Table 2.

Table 2. Leading staple food commodities in each food insecurity district in NTT from 2011-2015

District	Leading staple food commodities year				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
West Sumba	Paddy, upland paddy “gogo”	Paddy, mung bean	Paddy, peanut, mung bean	Paddy	Paddy, cassava
East Sumba	Paddy, corn, peanut	Paddy, corn, peanut	Paddy, upland paddy “gogo”, peanut	Paddy, peanut, sweet potato	Upland paddy “gogo”, peanut, sweet potato
Kupang	Corn, peanut	Upland paddy “gogo”, corn, peanut	Upland paddy “gogo”, peanut, sweet potato	Peanut, cassava, sweet potato	Paddy, peanut
South Central Timor	Corn, cassava, sweet potato	Corn, soy bean, cassava	Corn, soy bean,	Corn, soy bean, cassava	Corn, soy bean, peanut, mung bean
Alor	Upland paddy “gogo”, corn, cassava	Upland paddy “gogo”, corn, cassava	Upland paddy “gogo”, corn, soy bean, mung bean, sweet potato	Upland paddy “gogo”, cassava	Upland paddy “gogo”, mung bean, cassava
Ende	Paddy, upland paddy “gogo”, cassava, sweet potato	Paddy, upland paddy “gogo”, cassava	Paddy, upland paddy “gogo”, soy bean, sweet potato	Paddy, upland paddy “gogo”, cassava, sweet potato	Paddy, upland paddy “gogo”, mung bean, cassava, sweet potato
West Manggarai	Paddy, soy bean, mung bean, sweet potato	Paddy, mung bean	Paddy, sweet potato	Paddy, soy bean, sweet potato	Paddy, soy bean, mung bean
Central Sumba	Paddy, soy bean, mung bean, sweet potato	Upland paddy “gogo”, corn, soy bean, mung bean	Paddy, soy bean, sweet potato	Paddy, soy bean, peanut, sweet potato	Paddy, cassava, sweet potato
Southwest Sumba	Upland paddy “gogo”, soy bean, cassava, sweet potato	Paddy, cassava	Upland paddy “gogo”, soy bean	Upland paddy “gogo”, corn	Upland paddy “gogo”, corn, cassava
East Manggarai	Paddy, mung bean	Paddy	Paddy, soy bean, mung bean,	Paddy, mung bean, sweet potato	Paddy, sweet potato
Sabu Raijua	Peanut, mung bean	Peanut, mung bean	Peanut, mung bean	Corn, peanut, mung bean	Peanut, mung bean

Determination of areas specialized in leading staple food commodities

Specialization Quotient (KS) is used to see if a district is specialized in a particular agricultural activity or to see whether or not a particular agricultural commodity is specialized in a district. For the results of data analysis see *Table 3*.

The average value of Ksi as a whole is ~ 0. This means that there is no specialization in agricultural activities so there are no specialization of specific agricultural commodities. With the absence of specialization of agricultural activities in a certain

agricultural commodity, it is possible that commodities of staple food crops can be cultivated in various districts in NTT.

Table 3. Value of specialization quotient in each food-insecure district in NTT from 2011-2015

District	Value of special quotient				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
West Sumba	0.19584	0.09161	0.14045	0.15634	0.19422
East Sumba	0.16897	0.12898	0.13566	0.11149	0.07923
Kupang	0.09560	0.07765	0.06396	0.04673	0.05149
South Central Timor	0.29377	0.31861	0.42061	0.38762	0.40853
Alor	0.24304	0.25715	0.31951	0.42115	0.44900
Ende	0.15481	0.25808	0.23558	0.25800	0.27226
West Manggarai	0.29057	0.48316	0.48127	0.47634	0.47996
Central Sumba	0.27011	0.34700	0.08576	0.19144	0.06385
Southwest Sumba	0.20736	0.26994	0.14967	0.28957	0.22449
East Manggarai	0.42555	0.41465	0.32463	0.33371	0.40123
Sabu Raijua	0.58179	0.43549	0.45691	0.47691	0.30326

The value of positive Specialization Quotient shows that a district has a comparative advantage to produce agricultural commodities. The low value of KS is because most of the commodity produced has negative Ksi value and negative Ksi value is due to the fact that the productivity value in district level is lower compared to the production value in provincial level for the same commodity. The lower production in district level compared to provincial level is caused by the fact that many districts produce the same commodities with high production value (which causes the commodity also become leading commodity).

Determination of agglomeration or distribution level of leading staple food commodities

Localization Quotient is used to determine the agglomeration or spreading level of a particular commodity in a region. If the value of Localization Quotient (Lo) ~ 1 or $Lo > 1$ then the commodity is concentrated in a district in NTT, and if $Lo < 0.5$ then the commodity is spread in some districts in NTT.

Table 4 shows that most Lo is higher than 0.5 which indicates the spreading of commodities in some district in NTT. By knowing the value of Lo , it is possible to estimate the location that has potential for the development of a certain agricultural commodities that can be used as the basis of agricultural development plan and implementation of agricultural policy plan. Thus, agricultural development can focus, grow and develop optimally. In other words, the determination of potential sites based on Lo analysis can provide an initial picture of the potential of agricultural activities in a district compared to other districts. Thus, it is expected to be a reference for developing regional development plans related especially to the agricultural sector and the development of regional economic in general as well.

Table 4. Value of local quotient in every district in food-insecure areas in NTT from 2011-2015

District	Value of local quotient				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
West Sumba	0.03094	0.02852	0.10160	0.02526	0.04463
East Sumba	0.16882	0.10654	0.14339	0.21576	0.31587
Kupang	0.35159	0.36747	0.18665	0.19733	0.19796
South Central Timor	0.27048	0.27632	0.28082	0.26993	0.31134
Alor	0.07858	0.09195	0.09449	0.13308	0.16735
Ende	0.02679	0.05458	0.25322	0.07266	0.10166
West Manggarai	0.20471	0.15779	0.16652	0.63531	1.05128
Central Sumba	0.21252	0.79200	0.08569	0.14780	0.03547
Southwest Sumba	0.49706	0.06723	0.23520	0.35100	0.25058
East Manggarai	0.13360	0.13708	0.18075	0.22387	0.29831
Sabu Raijua	0.32955	0.52879	0.53061	0.57237	0.31480

Discussion

Development of leading staple food commodities based on climate conditions

Strong agricultural adaptation measures are the keys to develop food production on dry land, but it depends on the financial policy and support. Because agriculture holds so many answers to the challenges posed by the changing weather patterns, it makes sense that this sector and research related to this sector take part in climate change talks (FAO, 2004).

The development of leading staple food commodities is important considering climate factors like rainfall, air temperature and humidity. One aspect of commodity development is to provide suitable land for planting, and one aspect to consider is the characteristic of agro-climate (Mujiyo et al., 2017; Varcoe, 1990). Climatic conditions such as drought, high or low temperature and high humidity can affect the quality and quantity of agricultural products (BPTP Maluku, 2017). Climate conditions that are less suitable to the growth of plants can also spur the growth of plant disease that can damage the plants (Gang et al., 2013; Ploetz, 2015). One of the strategies that can be implemented is evaluating land suitability of food crop seen from its agro-climate conditions such as rainfall, temperature and humidity. The results of land suitability evaluation show which areas are suitable for the development of leading food commodities. Evaluation of land suitability is done by matching the climatic condition with the requirement for leading food commodities to grow. Such terms refer to Ritung et al. (2011) and Wahyunto et al. (2016). Growing condition of agro-climatic leading food commodities are presented in *Table 5*. Agro-climate data source (rainfall, temperature, humidity) from Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) East Nusa Tenggara in 2015 (BPS^a, 2015).

When land suitability level is considered 'suitable' (S1), it means that climatic conditions are not a factor inhibiting plant growth and do not significantly affect the productivity on the land. When land suitability level is considered 'enough' (S2), it means that climatic conditions can affect land productivity. When land suitability level

is considered ‘marginally suitable’ (S3), it means that climatic conditions become a difficult inhibiting factor and require a large input to overcome. When land suitability level is considered ‘unsuitable’ (N), it means that climatic conditions are a severe inhibiting factor and hard to overcome. The development of leading staple food commodities should pay more attention to the suitability of climatic conditions, as shown in *Table 6*, so that the production is optimal.

Table 5. Agro-climatic requirement for leading staple food commodity to grow

Agro-climatic characteristics	Agro-climatic requirement			
	Paddy	Upland paddy	Corn	Soybean
Temperature (tc)	S1: 24-29	S1: 22-25	S1: 20-26	S1: 23-25
Average temperature(°C)	S2: 22-24 or 29-32	S2: 25-27 or 20-22	S2: 26-30	S2: 20-23 or 25-28
	S3: 18-22 or 32-35	S3: 27-29 or 18-20	S3: 16-20 or 30-32	S3: 18-20 or 28-32
	N: < 18 or > 35	N: < 18 or > 29	N: < 16 or > 32	N: < 18 or > 32
Water availability(wa)		S1: 1,500-2,000	S1: 900-1,200	S1: 350-1,100
Rainfall(mm/year)		S2: 1,000-1,500 or 2,000-2,500	S2: 1,200-1,600 or 500-900	S2: 180-250 or 1,600-1,900
		S3: 700-1,000 or 2,500-3,000	S3: > 1,600 or 300-500	S3: 250-350 or 1,100-1,600
		N: < 700 or > 3,000	N: < 300	N: < 180 or > 1,900
Humidity (%)	S1: 33-90		S1: > 42	S1: 24-80
	S2: 30-33		S2: 36-42	S2: 20-24 or 80-85
	S3: < 30 or > 90		S3: 30-36	S3: < 20 or > 85
	N: -		N: < 30	N: -
Agro-climatic characteristic	Agro-climatic requirement			
	Mung bean	Peanut	Sweet potato	Cassava
Temperature (tc)	S1: 12-24	S1: 25-27	S1: 22-25	S1:
Average temperature(°C)	S2: 24-27 or 10-12	S2: 20-25 or 27-30	S2: 25-30 or 20-22	S2: 28-30
	S3: 27-30 or 10-12	S3: 18-20 or 30-34	S3: 18-20 or 30-35	S3: 18-20 or 30-35
	N: > 30 or < 8	N: < 18 or > 34	N: < 18 or > 35	N: < 18 or > 35
Water availability(wa)	S1: 350-600	S1: 400-1,100	S1: 800-1,500	S1: 1,000-2,000
Rainfall(mm/year)	S2: 600-1,000 or 300-350	S2: 1,100-1,600 or 300-400	S2: 600-800 or 1,500-2,500	S2: 600-1,000 or 2,000-3,000
	S3: > 1,000 or 230-500	S3: 1,600-1,900 or 200-300	S3: 400-600 or 2,500-4,000	S3: 500-600 or 3,000-4,000
	N: < 250	N: > 1,900 or < 200	N: < 400 or > 4,000	N: < 500 or > 4,000
Humidity (%)	S1: 42-75	S1: 50-80	S1: < 75	
	S2: 36-42 or 75-90	S2: > 80 or < 50	S2: 75-85	
	S3: 30-36 or > 90	S3: > 80 or < 50	S3: > 85	
	N: < 30	N: -	N: -	

The requirements of growing food commodities refer to Ritung et al. (2011) and Wahyunto et al. (2016)
S1: Suitable; S2: Suitable enough; S3: Marginally suitable; N: Unsuitable

Table 6. *Appropriate commodities developed by each food-insecure district in NTT based on weather condition. (Source: Land suitability evaluation)*

District	Suitability class for developed food commodity			
	Suitable (S1)	Suitable enough (S2)	Marginally suitable (S3)	Unsuitable (N)
West Sumba	Paddy, Peanut	Corn, Soy bean, Mung bean, Cassava, Sweet potato	Upland paddy	-
East Sumba	Paddy, Peanut	Corn, Soy bean, Mung bean, Cassava, Sweet potato	Upland paddy	-
Kupang	Paddy, Cassava	Upland paddy, Corn, Soy bean, Peanut, Sweet potato	Mung bean	-
South Central Timor	Paddy, Cassava	Upland paddy, Corn, Soy bean, Peanut, Sweet potato	Mung bean	-
Alor	Paddy, Cassava	Corn, Soy bean, Peanut, Sweet potato	Upland paddy, Mung bean	-
Ende	Paddy	Corn, Soy bean, Peanut, Sweet potato, Cassava	Upland paddy, Mung bean	-
West Manggarai	-	-	Paddy, Upland paddy, Corn, Mung bean, Sweet potato, Cassava	Soy bean, Peanut
Central Sumba	Paddy, Peanut	Corn, Soy bean, Mung bean, Cassava, Sweet potato	Upland paddy	-
Southwest Sumba	Paddy, Peanut	Corn, Soy bean, Mung bean, Cassava, Sweet potato	Upland paddy	-
East Manggarai	-	-	Paddy, Upland paddy, Corn, Mung bean, Sweet potato, Cassava	Soy bean, Peanut
Sabu Raijua	Paddy, Corn, Soy bean	Peanut, Sweet potato, Cassava	Upland paddy, Mung bean,	

Paddy can be cultivated in almost every food-insecure area in NTT; West Sumba, East Sumba, Kupang, South Central Timor, Alor, Ende, Central Sumba, Southwest Sumba and Sabu Raijua. Meanwhile, in West Manggarai and East Manggarai, the suitability level is lower, and therefore, if paddy is cultivated in this location, it will require higher input. The suitability level is based on the temperature and humidity climate conditions in accordance with adequate procurement of irrigation facilities. Upland paddy/*gogo*, cassava, corn, soybean, peanut and sweet potato can be cultivated

in every district by adjusting the appropriate cropping pattern when rainfall, temperature and humidity is suitable with the commodities. West Manggarai and East Manggarai districts require higher inputs for the development of the commodity.

Development of leading staple food commodities based on local wisdom

Dynamic ecological and environmental change suggest that climate change induced drought events may push dryland systems to cross-biophysical thresholds, causing a long-term drop in agricultural productivity. Therefore, research is required to explore how development strategies and other socioeconomic changes can help livelihoods to become more resilient and robust at a time of growing climatic risk and uncertainty (Lefroy et al., 2000; Evan et al., 2011).

Food security is affected by various factors such as number and growth of population, nutritional adequacy recommendations, and food production, nutritional content of agricultural products, food safety, food distribution, socio-economic, community behavior, nutritional and health status and multi-functional food. Local wisdom serves as a food insecurity mitigation (Reijntjes et al., 1992). Local food wisdom means the provision of guarantees and authority in decision-making at local level involving marginalized groups like farmers and indigenous people and a group of women. This system should be done through structuring the control and management of productive resources such as land, water, seeds, technology, inputs, and capital, making institution more fair, productive and sustainable (Smit and Smithers, 1993). Developing a local food system also means strengthening the base of food sovereignty at local and national level (Witoto, 2003). Therefore, the development of staple food commodities in food security areas in NTT needs to be supported by all parties and the active participation by the community (Van der Werf and Petit, 2002; Rasul and Thapa, 2004; Hurni, 2000).

One of the examples of community active participation is building an *embung* or water reservoirs, which is one element of local wisdom. *Embung* in the dryland farming system has a very important role in growing staple food crops that can be used in dry seasons (Mganga et al., 2015). The suitability of climatic condition of superior staple plants in each food-insecure area needs to be supported by establishing a so-called *embung*.

The other form of local wisdoms of NTT people is the application of *mamar* and *kaliwu* systems in managing agricultural land. The *mamar* system acts as the form of the utilization of the areas surrounding the water springs or village areas to increase the carrying capacity of the environment through mixed planting system of the forestry crops, plantation crops, and food crops. The development of *mamar* system has proven to be able to preserve water springs in accordance with the needs of the community (Njurumana et al., 2007). Meanwhile, the *kaliwu* system is the form of land management by the local community for generations, which is integrated with the village areas where various types of plants are cultivated, including productive plants and plants with socio-cultural value. Various types of plants developed include forestry crops, plantation crops, and food crops (Njurumana et al., 2003). By building many *embung* according to the needs and increasing the application of *mamar* and *kaliwu* systems, the cropping index will increase and the risk of failing staple food cultivation can be reduced. At last, the food security in the food-insecure areas will increase.

Conclusion

Food insecurity in East Nusa Tenggara Province is not specialized in a certain agricultural commodity so that various agricultural commodities of staple food crops can be cultivated in various districts. Similarly, the presence of commodities is relatively spread in some districts, not centered in a certain district, although each district has its own leading commodity. Paddy can be cultivated in every food-insecure district in NTT except for West Manggarai and East Manggarai districts. This suitability is based on the temperature and humidity climate condition in line with adequate procurement of irrigation facilities. Upland paddy or *gogo*, cassava, corn, soybean, peanut, and sweet potato can be developed in every district by adjusting the appropriate cropping pattern when the rainfall, temperature and humidity values are appropriate for the commodities. The support of the local wisdom by building many *embung* according to the need and expanding the application of *mamar* and *kaliwu* systems in developing superior staple plants will increase the food security. The development of superior staple food cultivation needs to be studied further regarding its sustainability in agribusiness system so that problem solving in food insecure areas can be more comprehensive.

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