

# EMPOWERMENT OF HORTICULTURAL FARMING COMMUNITIES THROUGH FARMER GROUPS

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## ABSTRACT

Empowerment of horticultural farming communities through farmer groups is one of the strategic approaches in increasing farmers' independence and welfare. This study aims to identify and understand the stages of empowerment of horticultural farming communities through farmer groups using *the systematic literature review* (SLR) method. SLR is applied to collect, evaluate, and synthesize various relevant studies in an effort to formulate effective empowerment stages. The results of the analysis show that the stages of empowerment of horticultural farming communities through farmer groups include identification of needs and potentials, planning empowerment programs, implementation of training and mentoring, as well as evaluation and monitoring. Each stage has an important role in ensuring the success of empowerment, with government support, access to technology and information, and active participation of farmers as a determining factor for success. These findings are expected to provide insights for policymakers and program implementers in designing and implementing effective and sustainable empowerment initiatives.

**Keywords:** *Community Empowerment, Farmer Groups, Empowerment Stages*

## INTRODUCTION

Empowerment broadly is development that helps communities gain control over their own lives and increases people's capacity to act on issues they deem important (Luttrell et al., 2009). Empowerment comes from the term "empower" which means to give legitimate authority or power so that someone is able to do something. Empowerment is a process of building abilities or developing human capacity. Empowerment is related to the exploration and development of the potential owned by the community (Mutmainna et al., 2016). Empowerment is the process of giving individuals or communities greater control over their lives, giving them the ability to make the most appropriate decisions to guarantee their survival. Empowerment involves processes and outcomes. The empowerment process emphasizes capacity building and involves more groups in the process of planning, implementing, and assessing or evaluating their development initiatives. The results achieved include improving economic conditions and increasing access to economic resources (Luttrell et al., 2009). Poverty, when associated with empowerment, is more than just money poverty. This is due to the lack of security, voice, and access to power due to social exclusion. Therefore, empowerment must be defined as the capacity of individual and group action to address disparities that result in poverty (Luttrell et al., 2009). It's about interaction, awareness and how people's interests relate to the interests of others, the idea is that both parties will be in a better position to influence and make decisions.

Four empowerment approaches put forward by (Luttrell et al., 2009).

1. Economic empowerment aims to ensure that people have access to resources to earn sustainable income and livelihoods, including appropriate abilities and skills.
2. Human and social empowerment is related to the ability of people to organize their lives and take action.
3. Political empowerment is associated with a rights-based approach, namely empowering people to demand their rights.
4. Cultural empowerment is associated with redefining norms, values, rules, utilizing culture to focus on minority rights.

Community empowerment is an effort to increase the capacity and potential of the community to maximize their identity, dignity, and ability to survive and grow independently in the economic, social,

religious and cultural fields (Ayuningtyas, 2014). Empowering an individual or society means giving them a lot of inspiration and support so that they can see and assess themselves, realize their potential, and take action to make their lives better (Fauzi, 2018). By providing awareness and self-ability in order to empower the community. People will realize that they have potential in them that they can use to build a better life.

The main goal of community empowerment is to improve the quality of the environment through an integrated management approach, taking into account the socio-economic situation of the community as well as the available facilities and infrastructure. Second, encourage initiative, creativity, and the spirit of independence in carrying out activities to improve welfare and increase business capacity to create a source of income that can support the economy of oneself and the community (Suhartini et al., 2005). The purpose of community empowerment is to shape society into independent individuals and communities, this independence includes thoughts, behaviors, and decision-making and actions (Sulistiyani, 2004). The community empowerment program aims to improve the socio-economic and environmental situation independently and sustainably. Community empowerment can grow and develop from within the community itself through the use of local resources, which can then be supervised and supported by the government or commercial (private). The purpose of the community empowerment process is to develop the ability of individuals or groups to improve the quality of life. Strengthening these capabilities can be done together through social groups to achieve common prosperity, community empowerment must ultimately be able to mobilize community involvement as a whole.

Forming a community organization is one of the ways for the community or the government to improve common welfare. The principle is that they have the same fate and have the same goal, which is to change life for the better. One way to empower the economy of a community is through farmer groups. The agricultural sector has an important role in the growth structure of the national economy so that it becomes the focal point of economic development in Indonesia. For most people in developing countries, the agricultural sector is a source of basic income, in addition to being a job. Given how important the agricultural industry is in providing the food needs of the community, it is very necessary to empower farmers. Improving the welfare of farmers must be the goal of empowering rural communities. The development of Poktan (Farmer Groups) and Gapoktan is regulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture Number 82 of 2013 which states that Farmer Groups (Poktan) are associations of farmers, planters, and ranchers formed on the basis of common interests, equality, social, economic, environmental, and understanding conditions to achieve goals. The formation and function of farmer groups according to (Kures et al., 2017) have several advantages, including the following:

1. Closer relationships within the group and group leadership
2. Increasing the spirit of mutual cooperation between farmers that is more targeted
3. Faster diffusion of innovation
4. Increasing ability of the average farmer to pay debts
5. Increased market orientation, both for inputs and products produced
6. Improving the ability to support the efficiency of irrigation water distribution and farmer monitoring

According to the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture Number 273/Kpts/OT.160/4/2007 which outlines guidelines for the institutional development of farmers. Farmer groups have special functions, binding elements, and traits that are possessed both individually and in groups. When a group is used as a means of empowerment, all elements of the group must be able to work well and have a beneficial impact on the group members.

## RESEARCH METHODS

In this study, the method used is *Systematic Literature Review* (SLR), Literature review is a scientific process that aims to examine theories and concepts related to the subject of research to show their uniqueness and completeness (Zakaria & Priyatni, 2021). The uses of *SLR* for research include: 1) mapping several disciplinary approaches to a particular issue; 2) combining various theoretical views; 3) compare the research methodology used to answer one research question. As an alternative to creating a new theory over the existing theory of empowerment (Lina et al., 2021). In academic research, literature reviews are essential to gather the latest information and assess the condition of

things (Kunisch et al., 2018). *SLR* is a term used to describe a research approach or method used to collect and assess research on a specific topic's emphasis.

The objectives of *the SLR* include finding, examining, assessing, and analyzing all the research that has been done on a topic of interest with several relevant research questions. *SLRs* are often required to create a research plan, as well as to complete a research funding application and include it in a dissertation or thesis. The stages of the literature study process in this paper are as follows: the first stage is the selection of topics, the second stage is to collect several literary sources related to the topic of empowerment of the peasant community through farmer groups, the third stage is to study related literature sources and compile them into a discussion of the paper on the empowerment of horticultural peasant communities through farmer groups, the final stage is to summarize and conclude the research findings.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Result

Table 1.  
 Results of Review of Several Journals on Empowerment of Horticultural Farmer Communities through Farmer Groups

Research and Years of Research	Title	Research results
Mia Septia Ningrum, Lilis Karwati, Nastiti Novitasari. (2022) Journal of Out-of-School Education, Vol 6 No 1, pp. 9-16	Community Empowerment Through the Mekar Tani Group in Babakan Kalangsari Village, Cipedes District, Tasikmalaya City	The results of this study show how community empowerment carried out by farmer organizations increases the income of rice farmers through various ways, including through the empowerment stage, namely strengthening, protecting, supporting, and maintaining. Meanwhile, the Food Security, Agriculture and Fisheries Service can help provide counseling and assistance in this rice harvesting activity by utilizing natural resources and human resources and increasing knowledge and skills in these activities. This will increase good rice yields due to the empowerment of rice farmer groups.
Abdul Yami, Dindin Solahudin, Dedi Herdiana. (2021) Journal of Islamic Community Development Vol 6 No 1, pp. 43-64	Community Economic Empowerment Through Farmer Groups	The findings of this study show that: first, the presence of farmer organizations contributes to the economic welfare of the community, because most of its members make a living from agricultural products. Second, there are stages of the process of achieving economic empowerment through the Makmur Farmers group, which are as follows: assessment, action, facilitation, and involvement. Third, income from the sale of crops or processed products provides a minimum monthly income for those who are members of the Makmur Farmers group.
Endang Warih Minarni, Darini Sri Utami, Nur Prihatiningsih. (2017) Journal of Community Service and Empowerment. Vol 1 No 2	Empowerment of Farmer Women Groups Through Optimizing Yard Utilization with Lowland Organic Vegetable Cultivation	The strategy or stages of empowerment carried out in this activity are with a participatory approach, teaching, training, and mentoring. The results of this activity are as follows: (1) the target

	Based on Local and Sustainable Wisdom	group or members of the farmer women group have a high curiosity for new information that can improve their standard of living; (2) the group members responded positively to the technology transfer activity of garden utilization for organic vegetable cultivation and (3) this service activity can improve the mindset and behavior of members in growing organic vegetables by creating sustainable rural resources and local wisdom.
Derry Ahmad Rizal. (2017) Journal of Community Empowerment: Media of Thought and Da'wah Development Vol 1 No 2, pp. 317-334	Partnership-Based Empowerment Between the Government and the Wonorejo Tri Tunggal Farmer Group	This study produced a number of interesting findings, such as the government's collaboration with the Tri Tunggal Farmers group to increase agricultural productivity through the stages of socialization, mentoring, and marketing strategies. Regional regulations are the foundation for the government in empowering farmer groups.
Sahri Romadhon, Muhtadi. (2018) Journal of Integrated Agribusiness Vol 11, No 2	Community Empowerment Through Farmer Groups (POKTAN) Parakan Jaya Orchid Plants, South Tangerang City	According to Isbandi Rukminto Adi, the level of community empowerment includes the stages of planning, review, planning alternative programs, making actions, implementing programs, reviewing and terminating. The preparation stages include the preparation of officers and the preparation of the field. The assessment stage is carried out with the aim of considering all obstacles faced by farmers. The alternative planning stage involves the formulation of alternatives to address emerging challenges. The action plan formulation stage is carried out in several ways, including by creating a periodic meeting agenda that discusses the topic of extension, crop marketing planning, and group plans for the long term. The main activity of the farmer group is the program implementation stage. The review stage is completed with the participation of the entire group. Because the members or cadres still depend on the existing group leader or change agent, the termination stage has not been fully implemented.
Dwiningtyas Padmaningrum, Suminah, Bakti Wahyu Utami, Hanifah Ihsaniyati, Emi Widiyanti. (2022) Journal of Community Service Vol 13 No 1, pp. 158-167	Empowerment of Farmer Groups Through Chili Cultivation as an Effort to Increase the Income of Dryland Farmers in Sukoharjo Regency	Based on the findings of the research, empowerment steps are carried out by consolidating with farmer organizations. The team completed the consolidation long before the launch of the program, the preparation of events and proposals was carried out by partner farmer groups. The next stage involves counseling and training which

		<p>can improve farmers' knowledge and abilities and help them obtain specific information about the solution to the problem and its implications so that they can act in line with the chosen action. The next step is mentoring because training is not enough to increase farmers' motivation, on the contrary, mentoring is needed to learn about developments and potential unexpected obstacles. Assistance is carried out directly to the field.</p>
<p>Rika Mutmainah, Sumardjo. (2014) Journal of Rural Sociology Vol 2 No 3, pp. 182-199</p>	<p>The Role of Farmer Group Leadership and the Effectiveness of Farmer Empowerment</p>	<p>The results of the empowerment process research are carried out through the mentoring stage which aims to provide guidance so that the group remains involved and develops, the next stage is participation that involves the active participation of farmer group members in empowerment initiatives. The last is the stage of empowerment level, which is shown by the members of the farmer group determined by the capacity of independence and entrepreneurship. Behavior, knowledge, attitudes, and skill levels are used to measure self-reliance and entrepreneurial ability. Farmers who obtain empowerment through farmer groups usually have a high level of empowerment. This is shown by the high level of farmers' expertise in cost risk management, and promotion, as well as their positive attitude towards business renewal and sustainability as well as a high level of farming competence.</p>

In the implementation aspect, the researcher found that the empowerment of the farming community is carried out in Indonesia with positive results. The following is a complete explanation of the previous research on the concept of empowering horticultural farming communities through farmer groups.

### **Empowerment Concept**

Defined as an effort to build a just and civilized society, empowerment is an effective means systematically to influence family, community, regional, and global affairs in various fields such as politics, economics, and so on (Pranaka, 1996). Empowerment can be seen as an effort towards empowerment or as a process of acquiring strength, power or ability from a party that has more authority to a party that has less or no authority (Sulistiyani, 2004).

### **The Concept of Community Empowerment**

Empowerment has a community or individual focus. The process of increasing personal knowledge, encouragement, abilities, and experiences so that a person is more competitive and able to achieve independence is known as individual empowerment. The term individual empowerment refers to the capacity of an individual to control his or her own growth and organize himself in such a way that it is aligned with his goals and abilities. The process of strengthening the capacity of a community to organize itself and its community independently is known as community empowerment (Anwas, 2012). In order for empowerment to run effectively, a strategy or technique is needed. However, the success of empowerment emphasizes on processes and outcomes through significant involvement

depending on the demands and needs of the community. In essence, the empowerment approach is a movement from, by and for the community.

There is a relationship between non-formal education and community empowerment. A non-formal approach is carried out to meet the demands of the community by examining the needs, potentials that can be developed and problems that exist in the community itself. Community empowerment through non-formal education combined with a group approach to solve the latest problems faced by farmer groups.

### Community Empowerment Stage

The empowerment approach according to (Edi Suharto, 2017) which is abbreviated as 5P (Enablement, Strengthening, Protection, Support, and Maintenance). Meanwhile, according to (Suryana, 2010) the stage of community empowerment includes:

1. The stage provides awareness and the formation of behaviors and actions towards conscious and caring behavior.
2. The stage of ability transformation is in the form of knowledge, skills and opening insights to provide basic knowledge so that the community can contribute to the progress of development.
3. The stage of development of intellectual abilities, talents, and skills is such that community initiative and creativity develop and lead to independence.

(Mardikanto et al., 2015) divides the stages of the empowerment process into several stages, namely:

1. Select and introduce the field of work. Before embarking on any activities, it is necessary to reach a consensus on the identification of work areas among relevant stakeholders, including academics, NGOs, government officials, and local community members. Preventing conflicts and fostering collaboration with all stakeholders is critical to the success of the programs and activities implemented.
2. The socialization of activities is an effort to disseminate the empowerment initiative plan. The relevant parties who will be asked to be involved, the division of role allocation, as well as the techniques and strategies that will be used are all conveyed in the socialization of the activity. The community's interest in participating in the next empowerment program will be determined by this desire, so this is crucial.
3. This stage aims to increase public awareness of the existence of its members as human beings and as members of society, as well as environmental conditions related to the political, socio-cultural, technological, and physical realms. This involves efforts to highlight problems related to environmental conditions and resources.
4. Community organizing is very important because it is often not possible to make changes to solve problems individually; Instead, a community is needed. This phase includes the division of roles, the organization of task groups, the selection of leadership, and the building of partnership networks.
5. Policy advocacy, this activity is needed to obtain political support through policies that are in favor of the interests of the community.
6. Politicization means continuous efforts made to maintain and strengthen one's negotiating position by engaging in constructive political actions to gain legitimacy.

According to (Savitri, 2020) community empowerment has seven stages, which are as follows:

1. The preparation stage, at this stage there are two stages that must be done, namely the first is the preparation of officers is community empowerment personnel that can be done by *community workers*, and the second is field preparation which is basically carried out in a non-directive manner.
2. Assessment stage, at this stage the assessment process can be carried out individually through groups in the community. In this situation, the officer must make an effort to determine the client's resources as well as the perceived need problem.
3. Alternative program planning stage. At this stage, officers as agents of change try to involve the community in identifying the problems they face and solutions to overcome them.
4. Action plan formalization stage: In this phase, each group works with change agents to develop and decide what initiatives and actions they will take to address current problems. In addition,

officers help formalize the concept from the community in writing, especially in terms of submitting proposals to fund contributors.

5. At the stage of implementing programs or activities, the role of the community as cadres is believed to be able to support the continuity of the program designed in an effort to carry out community empowerment initiatives. At this point, cooperation between change agents and the community is very important because sometimes a well-planned concept can not run well and smoothly on the ground.
6. The evaluation stage, which is the process of supervision from residents and officers on the continuation of the ongoing community empowerment program. The involvement of the community is expected to be able to form a community system for internal supervision in the short term and for long-term effects can develop more autonomous community communication by utilizing existing resources.
7. The separation stage is the stage of formal termination or termination of relations with the target community.

According to (Rully Fajar, 2019) there are four stages of community empowerment, namely:

1. The location or region selection stage, the location selection is based on standards agreed with institutions, the community, and related parties and determines the selection of the place or location to the maximum so that the goal can meet the wishes.
2. The socialization stage of community empowerment plays a role in communicating the importance of achieving understanding with the community. With socialization, it will greatly help increase the understanding of the community and related parties towards leading the community to arrive at awareness and willingness, thus the community is more open and feels that they need knowledge and skills to improve conditions.
3. The stage of knowledge and proficiency transformation can take place well, full of enthusiasm and run effectively. At this stage, there is an openness of insight and acquiring the necessary basic skills.
4. The enrichment stage, which includes an increase in the intellectual level and skills necessary for them to be independent. The ability of the community to take the initiative, imagine, and apply innovation in their environment is what characterizes this independence. When the community has reached this point, the community is able to develop independently. In such circumstances, the idea of community development often places the community as the focal point or the main actor, and the government only plays the role of facilitator.

### **Community Empowerment Objectives**

The purpose of empowerment is to increase community capacity by motivating, inspiring, and creating awareness of potential as well as trying to realize that potential into a real action (Zubaedi, 2013). Payne states in his book on modern social work theory that the basic goal of empowerment is to achieve social justice by bringing greater peace to society and promoting political and social equality through the creation of simple steps that lead to greater goals (Huraerah, 2008). In addition, the purpose of empowerment is to increase the empowerment of the adversely affected party (Tesoriero, 2008).

Building or providing support for people's ability to move forward towards a better life in a sustainable manner is the goal of empowerment. Furthermore, the purpose of community development or empowerment is to increase the reach of community choice. This shows that people are empowered to have the freedom to observe and choose choices that are beneficial to them (Setiawan, 2014).

### **The Concept of Horticultural Farmers**

According to (Mario et al., 2017) agricultural development has an impact on the community and ensures the occurrence of comprehensive development involving the population who live on a large number of agricultural products from year to year to come. In addition, Indonesia is an agrarian country where agriculture is the main source of income. Since the majority of the population works in agriculture, agriculture is one of the main industries that drives Indonesia's economic development. Village communities can be empowered by recognizing their potential and gradually developing them so that they can be used as business opportunities, one of the potentials possessed by rural communities is agriculture.

## Concept of Farmer Group

According to (Hermanto et al., 2011), a farmer group is a farmer organization established to organize farmers in the agricultural sector. According to Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 19 of 2013 concerning the Protection and Empowerment of Farmers, Article 1 Chapter 1 states that; Farmer groups are groups of farmers, breeders, and planters formed on the basis of common interests in social, environmental, economic, resource, commodity equality and familiarity to improve and develop member businesses.

Members of farmer groups are the main actors, namely those who run farming businesses in the fields of food, horticulture, plantations, and livestock. Meanwhile, business actors are all people who strive with the desire and ability to help and organize themselves to access market information, technology, capital, and resources to increase business productivity and efficiency, income and welfare as well as increase awareness of environmental conservation. Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture Number 273 of 2007 which outlines the principles of farmer institutional development and village regulations.

## Functions of Farmer Groups

According to the findings of the study (Fatchiya, 2010), the group acts as a marketing coordinator. Customers who are interested in buying agricultural products are not required to meet with farmers who grow the same crops, but customers can visit the group directly as a marketer. Members of the farmer group also received guidance from the organization. Because groups participate in the same activities, learn together, and share responsibility for the aid program, group coaching facilitates the implementation of extension activities.

The following is the regulation of the Minister of Agriculture Number 82 of 2013 which regulates the responsibilities or functions of farmer groups:

1. Educational programs, especially farmer organizations, are a forum for their members to improve their attitudes, knowledge, and abilities to build and expand independent agricultural businesses that can increase output, income, and quality of life.
2. A vehicle for cooperation, farmer groups function as a forum to foster positive relationships between farmers, between farmer communities, and with other stakeholders. By working together, agriculture is expected to become more profitable and efficient in the face of threats, challenges, and disruptions.
3. Production units by maintaining quantity, quality, and continuity. Agriculture carried out by each member of the group as a whole must be seen as an integrated business unit that can be developed to achieve economies of scale.
4. Farmer groups are formed by, for, and from a group of 20 to 25 farmers, or can be adjusted to the needs of the local community (Minister of Agriculture). The chairman, secretary, treasurer, and other sections based on the need are the ones in charge of the minimum number of members of the farmer group, a group work plan must be made to determine whether the farmer group can continue to develop. Furthermore, in order to strengthen the capacity of member farmer groups in agribusiness growth (Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture Number 82 of 2013), then:
  5. Building a cooperative business environment that allows farmers to form and develop groups.
  6. Encourage members of farmer groups to be creative and proactive in utilizing all possible businesses, knowledge, and existing capital.
  7. Helping to simplify procedures, identify needs and problems, create strategies and solve problems faced by farmers in their businesses.
  8. Develop the ability of farmers to assess market potential, commercial potential, regional potential, and resources to produce developed commodities and generate the best profits of agricultural businesses.
  9. Increase the capacity of members to run agricultural businesses in a simple, sustainable, and profitable way.
  10. Improving the ability of farmer group members to assess the business potential of each member and make it a business unit that is guaranteed to be able to meet market demands in terms of quantity, quality and continuity.



11. Increasing the capacity of members to develop unique technologies in their region.
12. Encouraging farmers to carry out savings and loan activities to increase their business capital.

## Discussion

Empowering the farming community is an important strategic effort to improve the welfare and productivity of farmers. One effective method to achieve this goal is through the formation and development of farmer groups. Farmer groups are a forum for farmers to gather, share information, and cooperate in various aspects of agriculture. As shown by research (Rika et al., 2014) that farmers who obtain empowerment through farmer groups usually have a high level of empowerment. This is shown by the high level of farmers' expertise in risk management, capital, and marketing, as well as their positive attitude towards innovation and business sustainability as well as a high level of farming competence.

The benefits of farmer groups in farmer empowerment are:

1. Capacity building and knowledge, farmer groups are often a place of training and counseling for farmers. With direct access to the latest information and technology, farmers can improve their knowledge and skills. For example, training on sustainable farming techniques or the proper use of fertilizers and pesticides can increase crop yields and maintain environmental health.
2. Access to resources, through farmer groups, farmers can access resources that may be difficult to reach individually, this includes access to superior seeds, quality fertilizers, and agricultural tools and machinery.
3. Increasing the bargaining position, by organizing in groups, farmers have a stronger bargaining position in the market. They can sell their crops collectively so that the selling price can be higher than if they were sold individually.
4. Increasing solidarity and social support, farmer groups strengthen social networks among farmers. This solidarity and social support is important in facing challenges such as crop failure or natural disasters.

The success of empowerment through farmer groups can be seen from several indicators. First, increasing the productivity of agricultural products, with the transfer of knowledge and technology through training facilitated by farmer groups, farmers can implement more effective and efficient agricultural practices. Second, increasing farmers' incomes, farmer groups often have access to a wider and better market, allowing farmers to get more competitive selling prices. Third, increasing the capacity of individuals and organizations. The training and mentorship organized by farmer groups helps farmers to develop their managerial and technical skills. In addition, good management of farmer groups also creates strong leadership and transparent management, which in turn strengthens the organization as a whole.

One of the main obstacles in farmer groups is the difference in the level of knowledge and skills among group members. Not all farmers have the same educational background or the same access to information and technology. This creates gaps within the group and hinders the process of knowledge transfer. Other challenges are the lack of awareness and active participation of farmers, not all farmers have enough understanding of the importance of joining farmer groups and also limited access to markets and financing. Although farmer groups have the potential to strengthen farmers' bargaining positions, they still often face barriers to accessing larger markets to obtain adequate financing.

## CONCLUSIONS

The empowerment process will be successful if the empowerment carried out is *bottom-up* or in accordance with the needs of the community. This is important because community involvement is a key component of successful development. The more people participate, there will be fundamental empowerment, starting from the hearts of the community to the people who are fully involved in development.

The following are some of the objectives of empowering the horticultural agriculture community: 1) strengthening institutions by improving actions or activities, this includes strengthening commercial partnership networks between farmer groups and other groups; 2) increasing business, it is hoped that the business of each member of the farmer group will grow and develop through the exchange of

information and experience; 3) increase income, it is hoped that they can increase household and community income by joining and strengthening farmer groups; 4) Environmental improvement, it is estimated that as money increases, the social and physical environment will get better. Because low income or poverty often results in environmental degradation; 5) improved living standards, with higher income levels and better environmental conditions, this is expected to improve the living standards of everyone, including families and agricultural communities.

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