

Cultivation in Dutch East Indies

(Current review of forced cultivation policy to build agriculture)

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Abstract – *The system of forced cultivation has always been viewed negatively in the history of Indonesia, because as a form of oppression against the people with a mandatory system to plant certain crops that apply in the international market. But in fact the policy can be reinterpreted as a model in the development of agriculture in Indonesia agrarian country today. The problems in this research are: How can Cultivation model be used as a model of current policy in managing agriculture in agrarian country?*

The policy of forced cultivation in the Netherlands Indies as a policy that brings the suffering of the people because the system of forced labor and compulsory plants is the result of the people do not enjoy. After Indonesia's independence, policy as forced cultivation may be reinterpreted as a model of policy with mandatory planting model using a new concept called a regional superior product. In making regional superior policy with forced cultivation model, it takes the role of government as policy maker and also its supervision. If the superior product of the region by referring to the model of the forced cultivation policy can run, then the result will be enjoyed by the community as a superior producer of the region, as well as the regional financial income as the original income area

Keywords – *cultivation, reinterpretation and regional income*

I. INTRODUCTION

The forced cultivation system (*cultuurstelsel*) is an interesting policy to study, because the system is always viewed as negative in the history of Indonesia, namely as a form of oppression against the people with a mandatory system to plant certain crops that apply in the International market, especially Europe. But in fact the policy can be reinterpreted as a model in the development of agriculture in Indonesia agrarian country.

This research wanted to analyse the problem of how the policy of forced cultivation during the Dutch East Indies Government in the era of 1930-1970 that can be reinterpreted as a model of today's policy in developing agrarian agriculture with reference to the regional superior policy. As the colonial-era forced cultivation policy has brought positive impacts on improving agricultural / plantation yields and

generating highly profitable trade values for the Dutch East Indies colonial government. It can be seen from the extent of the planting area that must be planted, the growth of intercontinental trade (export activities), and the amount of financial increase of the colonial government contributed from the crops. The magnitude of profit from the cultivation result had an impact on the colonial government which initially suffered a financial deficit due to the war in the Dutch East Indies especially Diponegoro War, as well as the war that occurred in the Netherlands, became a post financial surplus applied to forced cultivation.

The problem was that the benefits were only enjoyed by the Dutch East Indies government and the Netherlands as a state of imperialism, but for the people of the Indies whose status as a colonized state, it became a suffering, as all the energy spent on improving agricultural produce was fully used for the colonial government. For present-day Indonesia which has become an independent state, the model of forced cultivation policy can certainly be reviewed for implementation. The policy model relevant to the forced cultivation model is the regional superior product model, so that each region can be obliged to plant the priority products in its area. As an agrarian country many plants can be planted according to local conditions, so not all regions produce the same product. If the colonial period of the benefits of Cultivation enjoyed by the Dutch East Indies government, then in the present course of profit will be enjoyed by the community owner of the product and by the government that can be used as development capital.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

Research on forced cultivation is a study of past events that have occurred. Therefore the method used is a historical method that includes 1) Heuristics (source search), the main source used as a reference in this study is the work in the form of references generated by experts or historical works. 2) Criticism (test the source), which is to test the credibility of sources that have been obtained by reviewing the credibility of the contents of sources / references that have been obtained to be facts. 3) Interpretation (analyzing facts), namely to seek relationships between facts from various sources so that a series of facts are arranged coherently. 4) Historiography (writing the results of research) in a journal work that is arranged logically and systematically according to academic rules.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Policy Forced Cultivation in the Dutch East Indies

The context of the discussion on Cultivation which in Dutch terms is called "*cultuurstelsel*" applied by the Dutch colonial government starting in 1830[1] will not merely give an understanding, how bad is the application of forced cultivation to the people's economy, but more than that the real impact is declining the dignity of the people for the sake of colonial.

The system of forced cultivation replaced the colonial political system that had been carried out in previous years of the so-called land-rent system or better known as "*landelijk stelsel*"[2] introduced by Raffles applied in the Dutch East Indies in 1811-1830. The forced cultivation system is a system of coercion on the people to work to plant crops that can generate profits for the Dutch East Indies colonial government. Plants that must be planted are the ones sold in the international market. Thus, the resulting product which was originally in the form of tax (money form) withdrawn by the government to the people became not money, but a necessity for the people especially in Java to pay their taxes in the form of goods, that is agricultural products.

The imposition of forced cultivation in the background by several factors, both from the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) and from the parent country (Netherlands) itself. In the land of Egypt, at the same time, it was confronted with the Belgian business that Want to separate from unity with the Netherlands since the success of the French revolution. For that it is certainly required considerable cost and energy by the Netherlands in order to maintain unity. On the other hand, the situation of the Dutch East Indies government in Indonesia was struck by the rebellion led by Prince Diponegoro (1825 - 1830). The war by the Dutch was called the "Java War" and was considered the greatest and most powerful war ever to occur on the island of Java. Due to Java war, the Dutch East Indies government suffered a lot of losses, both morally and materially. About 15,000 more soldiers who were withdrawn from various parts of Indonesia and imported from the Netherlands became victims.[3]

This situation has resulted in the deficit of Dutch and government finances in the Dutch East Indies, because for the cost Diponegoro war spends more than 20 million guilders. Besides it also adds to the stacking of debt burden that needs to be returned immediately. Thus, the system of forced that cultivation no other attempt to close the bankruptcy of Dutch finances through official means of sucking and dredge the wealth of the people of Indonesia for the interests of the mother country.[4]

That fact has led to the impoverishment of the people by means of exploitation as the VOC did, then forced cultivation has brought about a fundamental change, not only the poverty and suffering of the people, but has brought the gap between the people and the traditional leaders. Peasant peoples become poor due to their energy and wealth being drained away. While the role of traditional leaders is increasingly meaningless because they are only as region

paid by the Colonial government, and have no direct control over the people. While the role of colonial supervisor is precisely dominant in order to establish and show the ways of forced cultivation is right.

The architect of the forced cultivation system was Johannes Van den Bosch, who was appointed Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies and was tasked with restoring the war-torn economy. The appointment of Van den Bosch in the Dutch East Indies was not without reason, but based on Van den Bosch's experience and knowledge of Indonesia. Van den Bosch was assigned in Indonesia as an employee in the late 18th century (1797). For then he returned to the Netherlands and became counselor of King Willem-1. Therefore he was appointed as Governor-General in the Indies in 1830 is an unquestionable task.

According to Van den Bosch's idea of recovery with a mandatory delivery system is necessary, to obtain the merchandise that can be exported abroad. Types of plants that include coffee, tea, sugar, tilapia and cinnamon. The main provisions on the system of forced cultivation are in fact only listed in the *Staatblad* (State Gazette) of 1834, No. 22, in only four years after the system of forced cultivation was declared since 1830. In practice in the field the main provisions of forced cultivation are not just the opposite of what has been determined.

The system of forced cultivation monitoring was submitted to the heads of their villages, but in practice the Dutch "controllers" were more instrumental in overseeing the forced cultivation. Instead, its role over the role of traditional leaders[5]. To ensure that Dutch officials and Village Chiefs perform their duties well, they are given a financial incentive, known as "*Cultuur Procenten*". The existence of *procenten cultuur* which in practice is more based on the desire to pursue personal interests, resulting in the proliferation of massive corruption. This further burdens the people for being forced to produce beyond the crop production targets from those charged to each village[2].

The powers of the indigenous rulers (Regents and Village Chiefs) as well as colonial officials against the people, who are required to raise production, are not merely achieving the production targets (contingent) charged by each village, but far from that because the system has brought the Natives Leader became a tool of the Colonial Government in enforcing forced cultivation. Leader of village has left his duty as a leader of the people, but instead participate suck the people who are very poor.

If in the years before the 1800s the nobles (indigenous rulers) were still revered by the people. From that time of cultivation, the more civilized guardian Europeans controlled the people than the native rulers who were no more than symbols. This system is further strengthened from the system that has been done by Raffles, who disarm them from all political influence, and put them only as police officers[5].

B. People's Suffering due to Cultivation

For the greater part of the population the *cultuurstelsel* is less beneficial, G.R. Van Soest, a liberal who strongly opposed the system, claimed that forced cultivation was not the cultivation of the welfare of the Javanese, but instead it

continually caused their misery[6]. Even asserted after the system was carried out for twenty years, making the beautiful island of Java presents a scene of unfathomable distress and misery. due to the burden of the people who must produce plants that exceed the target (contingent). While many of his employees cheated by doing massive corruption, it makes people like living in hell.

In port cities and in sugar factories wages began to emerge, previously unknown. They work in the factories, the necessities of life instead of getting better, but totally unbalanced between work and the wages it receives. Working in the factory itself is not a desire to seek a better life simply, but more due to the obligation of labor force in the period of forced cultivation. Suffering of the people during the forced cultivation as well as tasks directly related to the forced cultivation, the government still requires the forced labor of the peasants, with little reward or no reward.

Such as the refinement of ports, the construction of office buildings and the residence of officials, as well as building strongholds of defense. Besides the power handover in the form of tax levy as it is, people are still taxable in the form of cash, property tax also be imposed on land used for the cultivation of cultivation, even less land was taxed higher than other land.

It has become clear that the system was becoming a fertile source for acts of corruption in a way that is very detrimental to farmers, both by Dutch officials and the heads of the native village of the colonial government appointed as supervisor. Not infrequently they also hold the money that should be given to farmers as payment of cultivation.

C. The Result of Cultivation Policy

As a visible result of the system of forced cultivation is what the Kingdom of the Netherlands enjoys. Forcible cultivation has given so much to the Dutch colonial. Between 1831 and 1877 from Java alone the result of coffee, sugar and indigo of the Dutch colonial side benefited 823 million guilders. The result of forced cultivation system (Java island) each year an average of 40 Million Guilders.

Besides, the success of forced cultivation system has also resulted in the peasants' status as leased porters rather than as tenants or landowners. On the other side of the Netherlands where samula had a financial bankruptcy, his cash had turned into a surplus. The road network The railways, ports and buildings in the Netherlands, which still exist today are the result of energy, sweat and blood from the Indonesian people from the Cultivation system.

D. Overview of Forced Cultivation for Agrarian

Agricultural Policy of the Past The model of forced cultivation policy when viewed as a policy model is mandatory for cultivating crops prevailing in the European market, the present model can be used as a mandatory planting policy to be a requirement of both local and export markets. The policy can be applied to agricultural model of agriculture in Indonesia, because each region has different weather and plant type. If the colonial period of this type of plant is still very limited, namely the annual crops such as sugar cane, tilapia, tobacco, and perennials such as coffee, tea, pepper, quinine, and cinnamon, then in the present can

be done various types of plants and products according to the characteristics of the region and market needs.

The forced cultivation era relies heavily on the role of the Dutch East Indies government in introducing export crops to farmers in Java, so that in the implementation of the forced cultivation, the village is used as an organism: the land, work and leadership, which are inseparable entities. These three factors can give high export output. The policy can be reinterpreted with the current policy in which the government makes policy and performs a role to develop current crops as products of domestic demand and export needs.

The basic pattern of development that can be used as a reference today can refer to a model that is known Regional Superior Product (PUD) or a typical product area. In this case of course, regional superior products include agricultural products, plantations, farms, handicrafts, or other community works.

Conceptually, the superior product of the region is a product of goods and services with uniqueness / characteristic at the village / village level, sub-district, district, or province level. Business actors seek to utilize and optimize the potential of natural resources, human resources, and local cultural potential. To develop its products to be easily recognizable, easy to obtain, and highly competitive. In terms of super products area must certainly refer to the potential of the region, so that each region can have advantages that can be used as a product that is not owned other areas as a mainstay.

The criteria of superior products are commodities that meet the requirements of the adequacy of local resources, commodity linkages, competitive position and potential to be developed. In this case can be developed model: Incubator, Cluster, or One Village One Product (OVOP). With the application of local superior product policy which system become compulsory program by involving the role of government as forced cultivation period, it will gain profit in obtaining financial input (Local Original Income), and can be selected product developed is that have global competitive quality competitively and also comparative.

To support the policy it is necessary to review some requirements to be a superior product with criteria 1) Potential commodities are regional commodities that have the potential to develop due to comparative advantage. Comparative advantages occur for example because of the adequacy of resource availability, such as local raw materials, local resource skills, local production technology and other local facilities and infrastructure; 2) Leading commodities are potential commodities considered to be competed with similar products in other regions, because besides having comparative advantage also has high business efficiency. The efficiency of the business is reflected in the efficiency of production, worker productivity, profitability and others; 3) Superior commodities are commodities that have a competitive advantage, because it has won the competition with similar products in other areas. Such competitive advantage can occur because of its high production efficiency due to its high bargaining position both to suppliers, buyers, and high competitiveness to competitors, newcomers, and substitutes.

IV. CONCLUSION

The policy of forced cultivation in the Netherlands Indies as a policy that brings the suffering of the people because the system of forced labor and compulsory plants is the result of the people do not enjoy. But the policy had brought enormous profits to the Dutch and Dutch governments, as it increased export production, and resulted in the finance of the Dutch Indies government, which had previously been minus surplus, while for the Netherlands it was able to build various transportation and building facilities. The profit of the Cultivation result was only enjoyed by the power of the Dutch East Indies colonial government and the Dutch government, because the status of the Dutch East Indies was a Dutch colony, so that all the results were fully to the welfare of the colonists and the mother country of the Netherlands.

In an era after Indonesia's independence, policies such as forced cultivation may be re-interpreted as a model of policy with mandatory planting models using a new concept called regional superior products with reference to the development of agricultural agriculture. In making regional superior policy with forced cultivation model, it takes the role of government as policy maker and also its supervision. If the superior product of the region by referring to the model of the forced cultivation policy can run, then the

result will be enjoyed by the community as a superior producer of the region, as well as the regional financial input as the original income. The national economy if the product is an export product, it can be a source of foreign exchange that can be used as development capital of the state of Indonesia.

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