Seaweed Production and Supply Chain in Indonesia

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Government of Indonesia has developed seaweed cultivation as alternative livelihood for fishermen. Several project such as Marine Resources Evaluation and Planning (MREP), Sagara Anakan Concervation and Development Project (SACDP), Coastal Resources Management Project (MCRMP), Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project (COREMAP), and Marine Coastal Resources and Management Project (MCRMP) had implemented in recent 10 years, which aimed to improved economic of poor fishermen. Seaweed cultivation is one activities that it was concerned by all those projects. The research was conducted in Laikang Village, South Sulawesi-Indonesia in 2011. The objective of this research is to explore seaweed production and supply chain system for supporting alternative livelihood development.

The result of this study show that seaweed farming, mainly *Euchema cottonii* species has become the main livelihood for fishermen. Mostly, seaweed farmer used long line floating method to cultivate *E. cottonii*. As consequence, fishermen income increased 50% after they involve and develop seaweed cultivation especially after SNRM Project. This survey also figure out that 46% of fishing community conducted single seaweed farming and 37% combined seaweed farming and fishing activities. Another finding that middleman has an important role in supply chain system. The middlemen supply some production cost such as seed for seaweed farming, as well as they buy the seaweed product after harvesting. The majority of fishermen expected that the sustain seaweed farming should be supported by good quality environment and marketing chain.

As a conclusion, improvement of livelihood activities for fishermen in Laikang Bay is need to be attention some factors which are supported seaweed farming development, such as change of monsoon, marketing channel, quality of seaweed, farm ownership and commercial price. High demand of raw materials from domestic and export market, and national policy can be opportunities for future development of seaweed farming and can be expect to improve livelihood of fishermen in Indonesia.