

## THE ROLE OF VILLAGE GOVERNMENT IN IMPROVING FARMERS' WELFARE THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN CIWANGI VILLAGE, GARUT REGENCY

### *PERAN PEMERINTAH DESA DALAM MENINGKATKAN KESEJAHTERAAN PETANI MELALUI PEMBANGUNAN INFRASTRUKTUR DI DESA CIWANGI KABUPATEN GARUT*

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#### Abstract

This research studies the role of the Ciwangi Village Government in improving farmers' welfare through infrastructure development. The village faces various challenges in community welfare, with families struggling to meet basic needs and self-actualization, and individuals failing to fully realize their potential. This research aims to analyze the role of the government in achieving such goals. Using a qualitative method with a descriptive approach, this research seeks to understand, analyze, and explain various aspects of the village government's involvement. In addition, in this study, there are 3 stages of qualitative data analysis, namely data condensation, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results show that the Village Government seeks to improve the welfare of farmers by building special roads for agriculture, thus facilitating farmers' access to market their agricultural products. The government adopts a participatory approach in carrying out its role as a problem solver, facilitator, inter-system liaison, motivator, and communicator to improve farmers' welfare.

**Keywords:** Village Government Role, Farmers Welfare, Infrastructure Development

#### Abstrak

*Penelitian ini meneliti tentang peran Pemerintah Desa Ciwangi dalam meningkatkan kesejahteraan petani melalui pembangunan infrastruktur. Desa tersebut menghadapi berbagai tantangan dalam kesejahteraan masyarakat, dengan keluarga yang berjuang untuk memenuhi kebutuhan dasar, aktualisasi diri, dan individu yang gagal untuk sepenuhnya menyadari potensi mereka. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran pemerintah dalam mencapai tujuan tersebut. Metode yang digunakan adalah metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan deskriptif, penelitian ini berusaha untuk memahami, menganalisis, dan menjelaskan berbagai aspek keterlibatan pemerintah desa. Selain itu, dalam penelitian ini terdapat 3 tahap analisis data kualitatif yaitu, kondensasi data, presentasi data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pemerintah desa berupaya meningkatkan kesejahteraan petani dengan membangun jalan khusus untuk pertanian, sehingga memudahkan akses petani untuk memasarkan hasil pertanian mereka. Pemerintah mengadopsi pendekatan partisipatif dalam menjalankan peran sebagai pemecah masalah, fasilitator, penghubung antar sistem, motivator, dan komunikator untuk meningkatkan kesejahteraan petani.*

**Kata Kunci:** Peran Pemerintah Desa, Kesejahteraan Petani, Pembangunan Infrastruktur

## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is currently implementing a decentralization system. In this decentralization system, public services are not only carried out by the central government but also assisted by local governments (Sutiyo and Maharjan, 2017). The role of sustainable villages in development is particularly important as there is currently considerable pressure from various directions to steer development toward globalization (Hariyoko, 2022). Since decentralization in Indonesia, the government has encouraged innovation at the village level with Law No. 6/2014. The focus is on spurring innovation in the utilization of the environment and natural resources, across generations, and the local economy to improve welfare and reduce poverty (Kartiwi et al., 2022). Village governments play a vital role in formulating and implementing public welfare policies, as acknowledged by Law No. 6/2014 on Villages, which recognizes villages' rights to govern local communities based on their origin and traditions (Khoeriyah, 2020; Rahardjo, 2010). This legal framework emphasizes the importance of protecting and empowering villages, fostering a governance and development framework for a just, prosperous, and advanced society (Santoso, 2022).

Ciwangi Village is one of the villages located in Balubur Limbangan Subdistrict, Garut Regency, West Java. This village is strategically located because it is passed by the Regency Road. The majority of the population of Ciwangi Village are farmers and farm laborers, but there are only half of the farmer groups from the whole that can take the initiative to develop their agricultural activities. The development carried out by half of the farmer groups is like developing by raising crickets, sheep, and ducks. Most farmers grow corn, rice, tobacco, and onions. In addition to agriculture, another sector that is starting to be carried out is aquaculture, which has been pioneered in one of the business groups in Cipeujeuh RW 002. The following table shows the number of farmers and farm laborers by age in Ciwangi Village.

**Table 1. Workes Groups by Age in Ciwangi Village**

Jobs	Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Farmers	19-23 Years	1	0	1
	23-30 Years	1	0	1
	30-40 Years	17	1	18
	40-56 Years	69	6	75
	56-65 Years	63	9	72
	65-75 Years	59	4	63
	> 75 Years	47	4	51
Farm Laborer	23-30 Years	1	0	1
	30-40 Years	14	3	17
	40-56 Years	36	5	41
	56-65 Years	29	5	34
	65-75 Years	16	2	18
	> 75 Years	12	5	17

Source: *Ciwangi Village Medium-Term Development Plan 2020-2026*

According to BPS, education is one of the welfare indicators and the most important aspect of human life because education is a social means to achieve social goals. This education will be used by a person to help him live a better life (Fadhli and Fahimah, 2021). The level of education affects the level of community welfare (Aini et al., 2018). In Ciwangi Village itself, most of the population only studied up to the elementary school level with a total of 2,430 people. This is still far from the government's expectation that the community should have at least 12 years of education.

**Table 2. Community Education Level in Ciwangi Village**

Education Level	Male	Female	Total
3-6 years old who have not yet entered kindergarten	218	194	412
3-6 years old who is in kindergarten	50	42	92
7-18 years old who never attended school	1	1	2
7-18 years old who are currently attending school	884	789	1.673
18-56 years old who never attended school	8	8	16
18-56 years old have attended elementary school but did not graduate	5	2	7
Graduated from elementary school/equivalent	1.140	1.290	2.430
Junior high school graduate/equivalent	636	594	1.230
High school graduate	573	397	970
Graduated D-1 / Equivalent	2	1	3
Graduated D-2 / Equivalent	3	4	7
Graduated D-3 / Equivalent	7	2	9
Bachelor's Degree	50	48	98

Source: Annual Monographic Report and Ciwangi Village Profile Year 2022

Welfare can also be seen in the unemployment rate, where unemployment is one source of economic problems. Unemployed people will find it difficult to fulfill their needs because they have no income. Therefore, unemployed people will find it difficult to improve their welfare (Arifin and Soesatyo, 2020). In Ciwangi Village, out of a total of 2,263 family heads, 1,566 families are classified as underprivileged families. The poor family group is the largest in Ciwangi Village with 69% of the total families. This illustrates that the majority of families in Ciwangi Village are still unable to fulfill their daily needs, especially basic needs. The following is data on family welfare in Ciwangi Village.

**Table 3. Family Welfare Level in Ciwangi Village**

No.	Tiers	Total
1.	Underprivileged Family	1.566
2.	Prosperous Family 1	393
3.	Prosperous Family 2	239
4.	Prosperous Family 3	58
5.	Prosperous Family 3 Plus	7
Total		2.263

Source: Annual Monographic Report and Ciwangi Village Profile Year 2022

There are several indications of problems based on the results of preliminary research related to the condition of community welfare in Ciwangi Village, Balubur Limbangan Subdistrict, Garut Regency, namely (1) There are many families who have not been able to fulfill their life needs ranging from basic needs to self-actualization needs. This can be seen from the number of families included in the level of underprivileged families in Ciwangi Village. Poor families in Ciwangi Village account for 69% of the total number of families in the village, and (2) In Ciwangi Village, many people have not been able to maximize the potential of the village. This can be seen from the fact that there are only half of the farmer groups that can take the initiative to develop their agricultural activities, where the majority of the population in Ciwangi Village work as farmers and agricultural laborers.

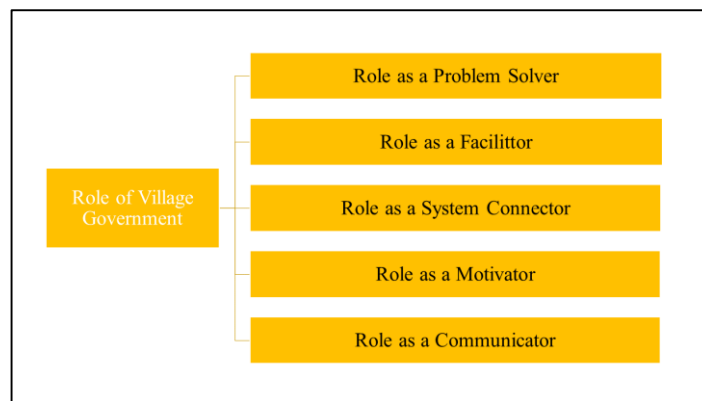
Based on the existing problems, the research question in this article is "What is the role of Ciwangi Village Government as a problem solver to improve the welfare of farmers through development in Ciwangi Village?". The purpose of this research is to find out and analyze the role of the Ciwangi Village Government as a problem solver to improve the welfare of farmers through development in Ciwangi Village.

Roles address one of the most important features of social behavior; the fact that humans behave differently in predictable ways based on their identity and social context

(Biddle, 1986). Torang (2014) in his book entitled *Organization and Management*, explains that a role is a set of behaviors that are expected to be possessed by people who occupy a certain position in society. On the other hand, a role is a behavior that a person displays in an event (Lestari, 2022). The role is a dynamic aspect of status; if a person fulfills the rights and obligations attached to his status, then he is said to be carrying out a role. Everyone has different roles that determine what they do for society and what opportunities society provides when they fulfill their roles (Al Azis, 2022; Soekanto and Sulistyowati, 2017).

According to Sumaryadi (2010), the Government is an organization that has the authority and power to regulate political society, and agencies are government bodies that carry out functions and exercise authority to make regulations, handle disputes, and discuss administrative decisions (Sumaryadi, 2013). Osborne and Plastrik (2000) explain that the Government is a large, complex, and complicated organization. It employs millions of people and spends trillions of dollars each year. It is a multi-layered organization with thousands of overlapping political and public jurisdictions. Governments have politicians, civil servants, and citizens who compete, contend, and collaborate (Larasati and Adhitama, 2018). Government, according to Surianingrat in Faried (2015), refers to a person or group of people who refer to a position, a group of individuals who have certain authority to exercise power or a permanent work environment (Faried, 2015; Mustanir et al., 2020).

Gitosaputro and Rangga (2015) state that village governments are agents of change. Agents of change are professional workers who try to influence or direct the decision-making innovation of others (society) in line with their recommendations. The agent of change in this case is the village government in collaboration with the community to assist it in carrying out its obligations by utilizing existing potential. Gitosaputro and Rangga (2015) suggest that there are several roles that the village government has. These roles are (1) Role as a problem solver, (2) Role as a facilitator, (3) Role as a system connector, (4) Role as a motivator, and (5) Role as a communicator (Gitosaputro and Rangga, 2015).

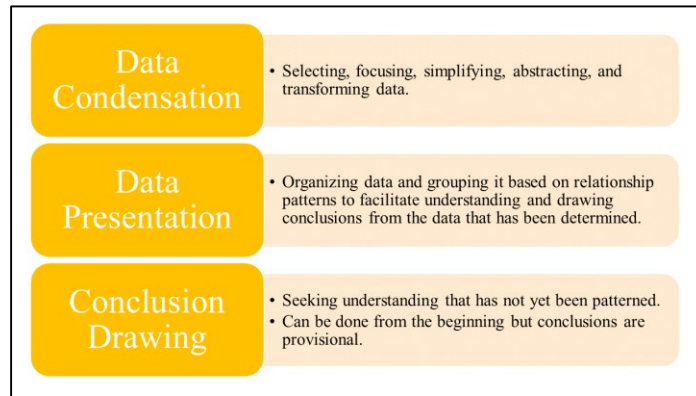


**Figure 1. Role of Village Government**  
*Source: Gitosaputro and Rangga (2015)*

## RESEARCH METHOD

This article is written using a descriptive approach to describe or explain existing phenomena (Nassaji, 2015). This research is designed to obtain information about the state of symptoms that existed at the time the research was conducted. The paper will only describe and explain the role of the village government in improving farmers' welfare through development. This study will apply the qualitative research method. This decision was taken because qualitative methods allow researchers to detail and explain in-depth information obtained from informants, data, and other relationships related to the role of the Ciwangi Village government in efforts to improve farmers' welfare through development (Cresswell, 2018). In this study, the method of collecting information comes

from two sources, namely primary sources, and secondary sources. To collect the data, the researcher used interview techniques with 8 informants, literature studies obtained from books, journals, or articles that can be found on the internet or private ownership, and document studies consisting of the Ciwangi Village Medium-Term Development Plan 2020-2026, the Village Government Work Plan, performance reports, and several government regulations.



**Figure 2. Stages of Qualitative Data Analysis**

*Source: Miles and Huberman (2020)*

Analyzing data from qualitative data is a multi-step process. The first step is data reduction, which involves access to the entirety of field notes, interview transcripts, documents, and empirical material to select, focus, simplify, abstract, and transform data (Lester, Cho, and Lochmiller, 2020). The second stage is data presentation, which is the process of organizing data or information and grouping it based on relationship patterns to make it easier to understand and draw conclusions from the data that has been obtained. Presenting the data here allows for a more in-depth analysis, which helps to understand the context of the research. The final step is conclusion drawing, which is carried out by the researcher from the beginning of data collection, such as looking for unpatterned understanding (Miles and Huberman, 2020; Mishra and Dey, 2022). Concluding qualitative research can be done from the beginning but the conclusions are still provisional (Miles and Huberman, 2020).

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Ciwangi Village Condition

In terms of geography, Ciwangi Village is one of the villages located in Balubur Limbangan District of Garut Regency, West Java Province. Ciwangi Village has a strategic location as a village that is passed by the Regency Road. The average temperature in the village ranges from 27-30 °C. These geographical and climatic characteristics give Ciwangi Village unique features in the context of agriculture and the daily lives of its people. Most of the land in Ciwangi Village has been optimized for agricultural activities and only a small portion is not utilized. This phenomenon reflects the awareness of the community and village government of the importance of utilizing the existing natural potential. The composition of the land area used for agriculture can be described as follows: 334.90 ha of technical rice fields, 48 ha of semi-technical rice fields, and 98 ha of rain-fed rice fields. The total area of paddy fields reaches 480.90 ha.

**Table 4. Land Use in Ciwangi Village**

No.	Area Usage	Area (ha)
1.	Rice Fields	480,90
2.	Dry Land	89,86
3.	Plantation Land	1,047
4.	Public Facilities	15,21
5.	Forest Land	113,13
Total		1.746,10

*Source: Annual Monographic Report and Ciwangi Village Profile Year 2022*

The majority of the population of Ciwangi Village are agricultural laborers and farmers, but not all of them have been productive in empowering them. There are only half of the farmer groups that have just taken the initiative to develop their agriculture into other fields such as raising crickets, sheep, and ducks. The majority of corn, rice, tobacco, onion, and other farmers are residents of Hamlet III as well as aquaculture which has begun to be pioneered in one of the business groups in Cipeujeuh Village RW 002. Judging from the potential that exists in several areas, there is still a lot of land that can still be optimized for its use as agricultural land, plantations, and so on. For this reason, the development of village areas must be developed.

#### **Infrastructure Development in Ciwangi Village**

In Ciwangi Village, infrastructure development is a key factor in driving economic growth and improving farmers' living standards. One of the most significant infrastructure projects in Ciwangi Village is the construction of roads to distribute agricultural products. With a good road, farmers in Ciwangi Village can access potential markets more easily and quickly. The road not only shortens transportation time but also reduces the risk of damage to agricultural products during the distribution process. An example of road construction carried out is the construction located at Pataruman Village RW 009 Ciwangi Village with a height of 12 cm and a width of 3 m with a road length of 300 m. The road constructions were carried out by the Ciwangi Village Government in 2023 with funds from the village fund for the 2023 fiscal year. The road construction activities carried out in Ciwangi Village in 2023 are as follows:

**Table 5. Road Development in Ciwangi Village in 2023**

No.	Location	Length (M)	Area (M)	Height (M)	Funding Source
1.	Poronggol	1.000	3	0,12	Village Fund
2.	Gosali	430	2,5	0,12	Village Fund
3.	Bojong	247	3	0,12	Village Fund
4.	Sindanglengo	60	0,40	0,12	Provincial Assistance

*Source: Local Government Implementation Report End of Fiscal Year 2023*

In 2023, Ciwangi Village implemented a road infrastructure development project using the Village Fund that had been budgeted in the budget ceiling for that year. One of the locations that received attention in this development was Poronggol Village. The budget that has been realized for road infrastructure projects in Poronggol Village reaches Rp. 583,000,000, this amount is by the figures set in the budget ceiling, showing the efficiency and regularity of fund management carried out by the village government. Thus, road infrastructure development in Ciwangi Village that year was successfully carried out by the established budget plan. The following table shows the total budget ceiling and realization of road construction in Ciwangi Village in 2023.



**Table 6. The Budget Ceiling for Road Construction in Ciwangi Village**

No.	Location	Budget Ceiling (Rp)	Realization (Rp)	Remaining (Rp)	Funding Source
1.	Poronggol Village	583.000.000	583.000.000	0	Village Fund
2.	Gosali Village	208.893.600	208.893.600	0	Village Fund
3.	Bojong Village	154.000.000	154.000.000	0	Village Fund

*Source: Local Government Implementation Report End of Fiscal Year 2023*

### **Role of Ciwangi Village Government**

The Ciwangi Village Government in Indonesia plays a crucial role in improving farmers' welfare through infrastructure development. The government's multifaceted approach involves serving as a problem solver, facilitator, system connector, motivator, and communicator to enhance agricultural activities and community well-being. As an organizer, the government takes on responsibilities such as problem-solving, planning, and implementing development projects, focusing on agricultural development. Simultaneously, as a mediator, the government fosters effective cooperation among various stakeholders, including the government, third parties, and the community. By motivating and incentivizing community participation, utilizing effective communication strategies, and acting as a mediator between the community and third parties, the government plays a pivotal role in driving collaborative and participatory approaches to achieve common goals and enhance transparency and engagement. Each role is essential in ensuring the success of agricultural development initiatives and improving farmers' welfare in Ciwangi Village.

Gitosaputro and Rangga emphasize the government's role in problem-solving, highlighting three essential processes: problem identification, problem-solving planning, and plan implementation. Village government representatives revealed that information about agricultural issues is gathered through regular meetings like the Development Plan Deliberation (Musrenbang), where community representatives voice their concerns. Farmers affirmed that the Ciwangi Village Government actively monitors and addresses agricultural problems through such forums. Additionally, the preparation of plan documents, including the RPJMDes and RKPDes, using a participatory planning approach in village development meetings (Musrenbangdes) held annually. This inclusive planning system ensures that all stakeholders contribute their aspirations, fostering a sense of ownership and shared responsibility for the development plans aimed at advancing Ciwangi Village.

In the Ciwangi Village Development Plan Meeting (Musrenbangdes), community engagement was notably high, with 80% of the total population actively participating. The participants included 45% men and 35% women, emphasizing a diverse representation. The primary objective of Musrenbangdes was to gather community aspirations and proposals addressing agricultural development challenges in Ciwangi Village. Remarkably, 40% of the proposed ideas were approved and translated into village programs and work plans, showcasing a tangible impact of community involvement beyond mere input provision. Notably, the majority of approved proposals originated from government levels above the village, with an 80% approval rate for program and activity plans. However, the Musrenbangdes demonstrated a discerning approach, as four activities from upper-level government proposals were rejected, indicating a careful selection of programs deemed most relevant and beneficial for Ciwangi Village's development. This underscores Musrenbangdes as an effective forum for integrating community voices into village development planning, resulting in more accurate and impactful policies.

In Ciwangi Village, the Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMDes) and Village Government Work Plan (RKPDes) serve as the exclusive planning documents, necessitating a comprehensive examination of village problems and potentials, particularly in agriculture, to inform the development plan. A thorough study is crucial to crafting a well-informed and relevant plan that outlines the direction, objectives, and policies for agricultural development within the RPJMDes and RKPDes documents. The village adheres to democratic principles, emphasizing togetherness, justice, sustainability, environmental insight, and independence in the development planning process, aiming to uphold progress and unity.

The Ciwangi Village Government has shown a serious commitment to implementing village development affairs, especially in the aspect of agricultural development. The implementation of agricultural development policies in Ciwangi Village is based on a well-thought-out and directed plan. The existence of village development planning is the main foundation, ensuring that every step taken has clear and measurable objectives. This step is taken with the intention that the implementation of agricultural development can be carried out effectively, efficiently, and on target. By referring to good planning, the Ciwangi Village Government can identify key needs, set priorities, and allocate resources wisely. As a result, agricultural development programs can have a significant positive impact on farmers and the community.

The Ciwangi Village government actively engages in overseeing development projects by visiting the project sites and providing guidance to the community on the progress of ongoing developments. The village government is typically aware of developments carried out by third parties. In 2023, the funding for village development comes from various sources, including the Allocation Fund for Village (*Anggaran Dana Desa* or ADD), Village Fund (*Dana Desa* or DD), and Provincial Assistance. To effectively implement and monitor these development activities, Ciwangi Village established a Village Activity Implementation Team (*Tim Pelaksana Kegiatan Desa* or TPKD). The monitoring and evaluation practices involve a direct engagement approach, where the village government conducts on-site visits to development locations. This approach prioritizes face-to-face interaction with the communities engaged in agricultural development, enabling the government to gain a profound understanding of project dynamics, identify potential issues, and provide immediate guidance to the involved communities.

**Table 7. Ciwangi Village Development Implementation Team**

No.	Nama	Position on Government	Position on Team
1.	Solihin	Head of Welfare Section	Chairman
2.	Amin Fadli	Head of Service Section	Secretary
3.	Meta Riyanti	Head of Financial Affairs	Treasurer
4.	Wahyu	Head of Planning Affairs	Member
5.	Ahmad Aripin	Head of Hamlet 1	Member
6.	Ahmad Hidayat	Head of Hamlet 2	Member
7.	Ipin Aripin	Head of Hamlet 3	Member
8.	Usep Kosasih	Head of Community Empowerment Organization	Member

Source: *Local Government Implementation Report End of Fiscal Year 2023*

The role of the government as a facilitator here means that the government must be able to facilitate activities or meetings that lead to efforts to solve problems that occur in the community. Village hall is the main facility for conducting community meetings. The village hall is not just a physical space but functions as an ideal gathering place. In this context, the village government acts as the manager of this facility to create a conducive environment for discussion, planning, and collaboration between the village government and its residents. The village hall in Ciwangi Village is a strategic and versatile facility in



supports interactions between the village government, the community, and third parties related to agricultural development activities. Ciwangi village government actively utilizes the village hall to hold various meetings that are inclusive, involving broad participation from the community. These meetings include dialog sessions between the village government and villagers, which aim to listen to aspirations, convey the latest information, and formulate participatory policies. The existence of the village hall as a meeting center symbolizes the village government's commitment to creating a participatory space for the community to make decisions related to village development.



**Figure 3. Facilities at Ciwangi Village Hall**

*Source: Author (2023)*

The condition of the village hall in Ciwangi Village is considered to have been well maintained and can create a comfortable and functional environment for meeting activities. With a capacity of 118 seats, the village hall can accommodate a sizable number of participants, making it an ideal venue for large-scale meetings involving the village government, community, and related parties. In addition to its adequate capacity, the existing facilities in the village hall are also considered sufficient to support the smooth running of meeting activities. The availability of supporting lights ensures adequate lighting so that the meeting atmosphere remains comfortable and focused. The availability of a projector is an added value, allowing the use of presentation media to visualize information, data, or development plans more clearly and effectively. Furthermore, the loudspeaker system in the village hall is an important aspect, especially when the meeting involves many participants. This system helps convey information more clearly and evenly, ensuring that every participant can hear properly. Thus, interactions between the village government and the community or third parties can take place more efficiently and effectively.

According to Gitosaputro & Rangga (2015), the community, as a subsystem, is inevitably entangled in conflicts or less harmonious relationships with other subsystems or parties. In this context, the village government acts as a mediator between these systems and plays a crucial role in sustaining relationships between the community and other stakeholders, particularly during the development process. The parties involved in agricultural infrastructure development in Ciwangi Village include the village government, the community, and third parties. The community typically participates in developments around their location, often being beneficiaries of third-party-led projects. In such cases, the community's role is generally limited to providing the land for development, while the village government serves as a mediator between the third party and the community. The existing relationships between government and third parties were already strong. The direct community involvement in development projects initiated by the village government, without coercion, and the lack of community participation in third-party-led developments were cited as indicators of the generally positive relationships among the involved parties.



**Figure 4. Meetings Conducted Between Village Government, Community, and Third Parties**  
*Source: Ciwangi Village Archives (2023)*

The Ciwangi Village Government plays a dual role in agricultural development, serving as both an organizer and a mediator, fostering effective cooperation among the government, third parties, and the community. In its capacity as an organizer, the village government takes charge of implementing and managing agricultural development programs aimed at enhancing the local agricultural sector. While not directly engaged in physical development, the government ensures that program planning aligns with the village's vision and needs. As a mediator, the village government becomes pivotal when third parties, such as government agencies or non-government organizations, express interest in undertaking development projects in Ciwangi Village. Although not directly involved in implementation, the government facilitates communication and coordination between third parties and the community, ensuring transparency and managing communication to sustain a balanced development. The dual role of the Ciwangi Village Government creates a balanced model for agricultural development, emphasizing sustainability and community participation. This approach strengthens synergies between the village government, third parties, and the community, laying a robust foundation for efficient and sustainable village development.

The Ciwangi Village Government assumes a motivational role by directing community actions towards predetermined development goals, aiming to ensure that individual and group efforts contribute positively to overall village development and welfare. Beyond being mere policy implementers, the village government serves as a motivator, guiding and inspiring the community to work collaboratively towards shared objectives. The motivating role is evident in how the government encourages community participation in agricultural development. Interestingly, the village government acts as an accommodator, recognizing the community's intrinsic drive to contribute and supporting their spirit and desire to engage in agricultural development. Government motivates the community by providing direction and briefings on the necessary development, fostering a sense of need for change. The village government often incentivizes community participation by providing rewards. This motivational strategy contributes to active community involvement at every stage of the agricultural development process, highlighting the effectiveness of the Ciwangi Village Government in cultivating a collaborative and participatory approach to achieve common goals.



**Figure 5. Community Participation in The Development Process**  
 Source: Ciwangi Village Archives (2023)

The form of community involvement itself includes contributions in the form of labor, where the community actively participates directly in development activities. This participation reflects the community's sense of ownership of their village development. Thus, the community is not only an object but also an active subject in designing and implementing agricultural programs. In addition, the role of the community is also manifested in the form of social solidarity. Some Ciwangi villagers are willing to provide food for fellow villagers involved in agricultural development activities. This action reflects the spirit of *gotong-royong* and togetherness, which strengthens the social fabric among villagers. The village government can reinforce these values through the promotion and appreciation of community contributions, ensuring that each individual feels valued and motivated to continue participating.

**Table 8. Number of Community Participation in Development Activities**

No.	Development Location	Participants
1.	Poronggol Village	557 people
2.	Gosali Village	198 people
3.	Bojong Village	123 People

Source: Reports of Ciwangi Village Development Program 2023

The agricultural development initiated by the Ciwangi Village Government shows a proactive and sustainable approach, involving maximum community participation. This self-sufficient development program reflects efforts to create self-reliance and direct involvement of villagers in the development process. In this context, the Ciwangi Village Government acts not only as an organizer but also as a facilitator and motivator for the community. To encourage community participation, the Ciwangi Village Government provides incentives to residents who contribute to the community self-sufficiency program. These incentives can be in the form of financial assistance. Providing incentives is an effective strategy to motivate the community, creating a reciprocal bond between their contribution and the benefits obtained. In addition to providing incentives, the village government also sees the community self-sufficiency program as an opportunity to create local jobs. As agricultural activities increase, various labor needs such as planting, crop maintenance, and harvesting become increasingly necessary. This local job creation not only provides an economic contribution to the community but also strengthens the sense of responsibility and ownership of development outcomes.

Village governments play a pivotal role as communicators in development, influencing community perceptions and participation. Effective communication involves not only transmitting information but also motivating and raising awareness. Key aspects include formulating messages in a community-friendly language, choosing suitable communication media, and establishing effective two-way channels. Village governments

must encourage active community participation to gain valuable feedback and adapt communication strategies to changing needs, ensuring informed engagement in development initiatives.

Ciwangi Village Government's effective communication strategy in conveying information about agricultural development. The government holds direct meetings with the community, fostering a dialogue that allows them to provide explanations, share details, and understand the community's needs and aspirations. To enhance the communication process, the village government utilizes loudspeakers and projectors as primary media during these meetings. This technology ensures the clear and effective delivery of information to the entire community. As a crucial communicator, the Ciwangi Village Government employs direct meetings as a strategic approach, facilitating interaction between the government and the community or other relevant parties. The use of loudspeakers ensures that information is heard, especially in large areas, while projectors aid in visualizing data, graphs, or presentations, enhancing the understanding of meeting participants. This communication approach reflects the village government's commitment to transparency and engagement, promoting effective information dissemination and understanding within the community and related stakeholders.

The use of Sundanese as a medium of communication is a very appropriate approach, given that the majority of Ciwangi villagers communicate in this language. The Ciwangi village government recognizes the importance of using a language that can be understood by the entire community, creating a sense of inclusivity, and ensuring that messages are conveyed clearly and effectively. The importance of language adaptation in communication also reflects the village government's responsiveness to the cultural and linguistic characteristics of the local community. By using familiar and understandable language, the village government builds stronger relationships with the community, creating an environment of open communication and mutual understanding. Thus, the Ciwangi Village Government's role as a communicator focuses not only on conveying information but also on delivering it in a way that is effective and welcoming to the cultural and linguistic diversity of the village. This approach creates a solid foundation for better communication, increases community participation, and strengthens trust between the village government and its residents.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Conclusion**

Based on the research conducted on the role of the Ciwangi Village Government in improving farmers' welfare through infrastructure development, it is evident that the government plays a multifaceted role in enhancing the well-being of farmers. Through initiatives such as building dedicated farming roads, the government acts as a problem solver, facilitator, system connector, motivator, and communicator to achieve its objective. The village government's active engagement with the community through meetings and the utilization of the well-equipped village hall as a meeting center demonstrate its commitment to fostering effective cooperation among stakeholders. By serving as both an organizer and a mediator in agricultural development, the government effectively motivates and incentivizes community participation, creating a collaborative and participatory approach to development. The emphasis on effective communication strategies, including the use of the local language, enhances transparency and engagement, further strengthening community involvement in the development planning process. Overall, the research highlights the importance of the Ciwangi Village Government's dual role in agricultural development and provides recommendations for further improvement, such as increasing community participation and utilizing incentives for enhanced collaboration.



## Recommendations

Increasing the number of meetings with the community in the development planning process, as the Ciwangi Village Government only involves the community in the village deliberation process to determine the RPJMDes. The Ciwangi Village Government, as a proactive measure, should not only rely on community participation in village meetings to determine the RPJMDes. Instead, it should follow up by increasing the number of meetings or forums that involve the community in the preparation stage of the Village Government Work Plan (RKPDes) and Village Budget (APBDes).

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