

## FARMER PROFILING OF JABRES CATTLE AT BREEDING CENTER IN BANTARKAWUNG, BREBES, CENTRAL JAVA PROVINCE, INDONESIA

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### ABSTRACT

*Jabres cattle is one of the Indonesian local cattle clusters which has original geographic distribution in Brebes, Central Java Province. It is local animal genetic wealth resource in Indonesia which need to be protected and preserved by the Ministry of Agriculture through ruling number 2842 / Kpts / LB.430 / 8/2012 on the date of August 13, 2012. Most of its population are in grassroots farmers who raised it based on the knowledge passed down through generations. This paper will be study the profile of Jabres cattle farmer especially in breeding source location of Bantarkawung. This research was conducted in Bantarkawung, one of the area which is planned to be the source region of Jabres cattle. This research collaborates with the Animal Husbandry Department Brebes. The method used in this research is Participating Rural Appraisal (PRA) survey in order to determine the farmer's profile. The parameters are age, education level, occupations, farming experiance, cattle ownership, and estrus detection ability. The result show that most of the farmer have old age, low education level, farmer as their main occupations, low cattle owership. In spite of their weakness, they have good long farming experiance and goog ability of estrus detection.*

Keywords: Farmers Profiling, Jabres Cattle, Bantarkawung

### Introduction

Indonesia is a wide country with many biodiversity, for example Ettawa goat, Garut sheep and Bali cattle. Some places in Indonesia has special living things. One of that place is Brebes. Brebes is located between coordinates 108° 41'37,7" - 109° 11'28,92" east longitude and 6° 44'56'5" - 7° 20'51,48" south latitude which consists of lowland, plateaus, mountains and hills, divided into paddy soil, dry soil, forests, plantations and others. In Brebes, there is special cattle named Brebes cattle which has been cultivated for generations in some districts in Brebes, like Bantarkawung, Ketanggungan, Larangan, Banjarharjo and Salem. Its population in 2015 was 28.936 heads. It has a uniform physical form and a good adaptability in various environments. Bantarkawung is one of the districts in Brebes which has the largest number of Jabres cattle, as many as 7.993 heads in 2015 (according to the data from the Animal Husbandry Department of Brebes). Therefore, this district designated as the source region of Jabres cattle.

Most of the presence of Jabres cattle is in grassroots farmers with low education background, so that the farming activity is based on the knowledge passed down through generations. This type of farming has not been able to optimize the potential of Jabres cattle, so that it is important to do efforts to improve the performance of Jabres cattle. Therefore, the profile of farmers is an important factor that determines the quality of the Jabres cattle, such as education. Education is one of the important indicators in assessing the success of a business because the higher education farmers is expected to adopt science and technology better. This study aims to explore the profile Jabres cattle farmers in breeding sources, Bantarkawung, Brebes. The expected benefits from this research is the presence of the basic data that can be used as a reference for the government in setting policy of farming development, especially in breed sources, Bantarkawung. The method used is the survey Participating Rural Appraisal (PRA) method which conducted from March to August 2016. The subjects used consisted of Jabres cattle farmers who are members of a herd numbered 50 people.

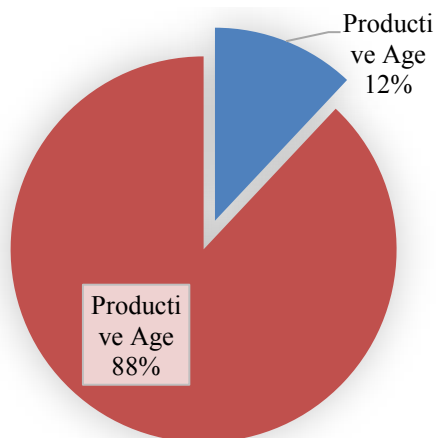
### PROFILING OF JABRES CATTLE FARMERS IN BANTARKAWUNG

#### Farmers Age

Based on profile data farmer in Figure 1, it is known that the age of the breeder cow Jabres are in the productive age, which ranges from 15 to 60 years, amounting to a total of 44 people (88%) and non-productive age, e.g. more than 60 years as many as six people (12 %). Productive age is very valuable time because in this age people spent their time to work. It is one of the good chance for farming development in Bantarkawung.

Tatipikalawan (2012) said that the farmer age distribution shows the experience and performance of a person so they would be able to work better. In the productive age, a person has better physical condition and the thinking and acting ability. They also have more stable emotional state, which make them easy to accept the arrival of new technology from outside the area. Soekartawi (2006) states that the productive age farmers are able to develop his farm with a level of maturity, a good way of thinking and good emotional level. Based on that statement, the socialization process on new technology in farming field become one of the ways to optimize the farming development with this productive age composition.

Figure 1. Age of farmers in Bantarkawung District, Brebes

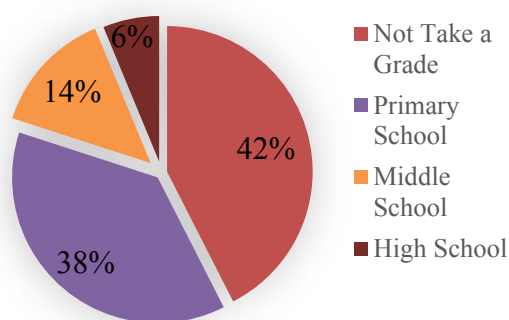


### Education Level

The survey data of Bantarkawung farmers educational level can be seen in Figure 2. Most of the farmers education is not finished primary school, which is about 42%, and only 38% of the farmers became primary school graduates. Their highest education is high school, which is only about 6%. This data showed the lack of farmer awareness about education, so that the formal education is not so valuable for them. It was very regrettable because most of the farmers were in productive age but they did not have good awareness in the education field, so their potential could not be developed optimally.

The farmers education can lead to the lack the ability of farmers to manage their animals. It fits the opinion of Lestari, *et al.*, (2014) that the lower educational levels will affect the management of livestock owned by low education farmers because they will be more difficult to accept new technologies and apply them to business progress. It caused they only do farming based on the knowledge from their parents and the result had not optimal yet.

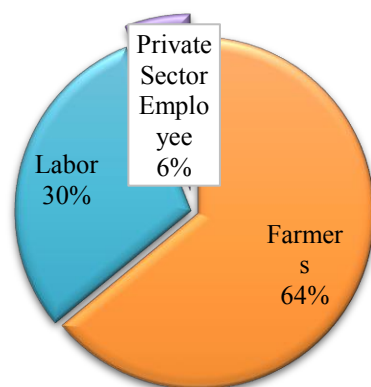
Figure 2. Farmers education levels in Bantarkawung District, Brebes



### The Main Occupations

Based on the survey results to the main job farmers in Bantarkawung (Figure 3), the greatest (64%) farmers put farming as their main occupation, while only a small part (36%) were put farming as a side job. This led to an outpouring of the time allotted. It shows that farmers devote much time to take care of their livestock so that the produced livestock is quite good. This is consistent with Budisatria (2006) which stated that the availability of time is a driving force for the development of ruminants, to the production system, the selection of the types of livestock, livestock, and livestock management. But, although their main occupation was farming, it was not supported by their education level so they could not easily received the new technology in farming field to get optimal result.

Figure 3. The occupations of farmers in Bantarkawung District, Brebes

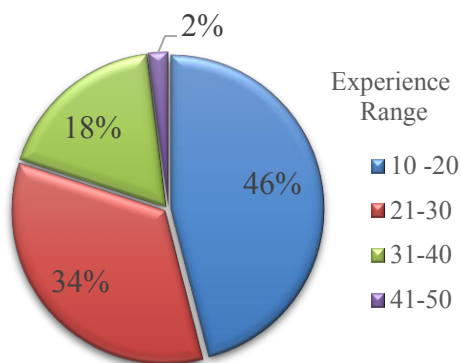


### Farming Experience

The Figure 4 shows that all farmers have farming experience over 10 years. It describes that the farmers has much experience so that they already have tips how to manage their livestock. Farmers in the district of Bantarkawung get guidance of farming business by its self-practice and the experiences derived from their families. So that, they are able to defeat the problem and find a solution of any problems that they face in their livestock business.

Soekartawi (2005) states that the more experienced farmers will become more rapidly absorb technological innovation compared to farmers who have not or less experienced. However, this experience still could not make them optimalize their farming business because of their low education level.

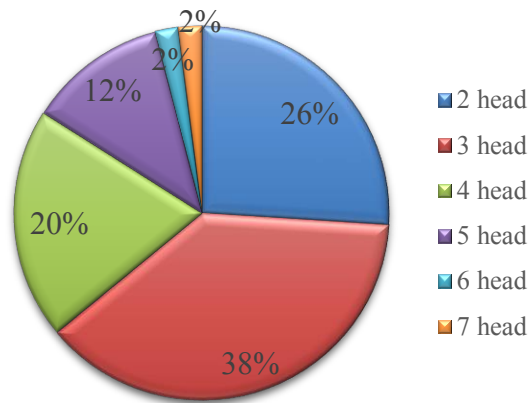
Figure 4. Farming experience in Bantarkawung District, Brebes



### Ownership of Livestock

The livestock ownership data of Bantarkawung farmers can be seen in Figure 5. Most farmers have two to three head of cattle each person. This conditions is similar with the opinion of Widiati (2003) that almost all ruminants in Indonesia maintained by farmers on a small scale. The little livestock ownership can be caused by several problems faced by the farmers, such as limited land resources, capital, labor, and business management. It also can be caused by their low education so their skill in farming business management was not good enough to increase their livestock ownersip.

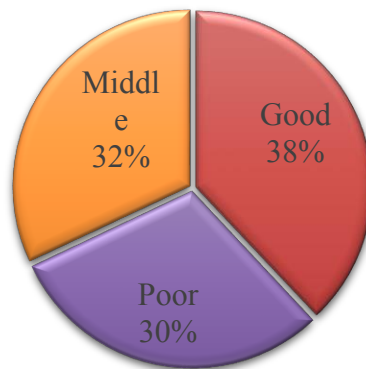
Figure 5. The ownership of livestock in Bantarkawung District, Brebes



**Estrus Detection Ability**

Estrus detection ability is an important competence for farmers so that they can know the right time to breed their livestock. Farmers have varied knowledge of the detection of cattle estrus signs. It includes the knowledge about the appearance of the vulva which colored translucent liquid and the behavior of cattle that tried to mount other cattle. As shown in Figure 6, the majority of farmers in Bantarkawung did not understand the signs of the estrus detection thoroughly. Therefore, cattle production in this place is not good enough. This poor competency can be caused by their low level of education and also by the lack of socialization about farming management from the government.

Figure 6. Estrus detection ability in Bantarkawung District, Brebes

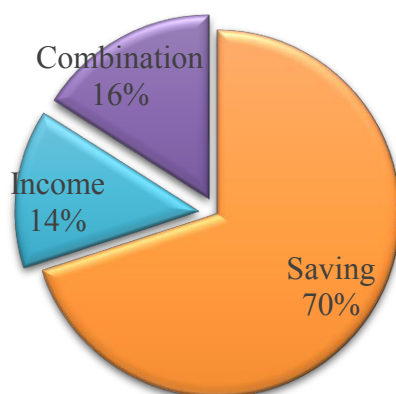


**Farming Motivation**

Motivation is the drive towards someone to carry something. Motivation is the real goal which first became basic human needs (Atkinson, 2001). According to Winardi (2004), low or high motivation of a person will has an impact on small or large scale business he was doing. Most (70%) of the Jabres cattle farmers in the district of Bantarkawung using livestock as savings, not as a source of main income. As savings, cattle can be sold easily at any time at higher price than other farm animals such as poultry. The role as a producer of meat is not so prominent because of the income from the meat is less significant. It also make the farmers prefer to breed heifer than bulls in order to earn cash from the production of calves.

Farming motivation determine how the farmers manage their livestock. If their motivation only for saving, they only do farming as habitual action to fulfill their daily needs and they would not consider their farming business prospect for the future. It will make their farming business become difficult to develop.

Figure 7. Farming Motivation in Bantarkawung District, Brebes



## CONCLUSION

Farmers profile in Bantarkawung, Brebes, Central Java Province, Indonesia, has been explored in this research. It can be concluded that most of the farmers are in productive age, but they has low education level. The majority of the farmers do farming as their main occupation with middle farming experience (10-20 years) and their motivation of farming is for saving. But, they only has small livestock ownership and their estrous detection ability is low. Based on the obtained data, it can be suggested that the farmers in Bantarkawung need many improvement in the skill for livestock management and government need to be more active in giving socialization about it. Further study needed to explore the relationship between the farmers profile with the Jabres cattle productivity.

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