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## Sustainable Agriculture Development and Food Security: A Systematic Review

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#### **Abstract**

Sustainable agriculture is essential for food security, particularly in regions with significant agricultural potential such as Southeast Sulawesi. This review synthesizes existing research on sustainable agricultural practices in Southeast Sulawesi, focusing on their impact on food security. The review identifies key themes, including the integration of local agricultural practices with modern sustainable methods, the role of local institutions in supporting sustainable agriculture, and the economic and social factors influencing these practices. Financial constraints and labor shortages are highlighted as major barriers to scaling up sustainable agricultural practices. By examining the methodologies employed in the studies and the socio-economic and institutional factors, this review provides a comprehensive understanding of how sustainable agriculture can contribute to a stable food supply in Southeast Sulawesi, offering valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners aiming to implement sustainable agricultural strategies.

Keywords: Food Security; Southeast Sulawesi; Sustainable Agriculture; Systematic Review.

#### Introduction

Sustainable agriculture is essential for food security, particularly in regions with significant agricultural potential such as Southeast Sulawesi (Kelley, 2020; Ma'mun et al., 2021). Sustainable agriculture covers the practices that maintain or enhance the economic viability of agricultural operations, the quality of the environment, and the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole (Gomiero et al., 2011; Pretty, 2008). In an agricultural landscape like Southeast Sulawesi, where agriculture plays a crucial role in the local community and sustenance (Kelley, 2016), sustainable practices implementation is important ensure the establishment of agricultural productivity sustainable improvement (Pandey & Pandey, 2023).

Given its global significance, the issue of sustainable agriculture is increasingly recognized as a critical response to the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and food insecurity (Ericksen et al., 2009; Umesha et al., 2018). The global population is projected to reach nearly 10 billion by 2050, intensifying the demand for food and placing unprecedented pressure on agricultural systems (FAO, 2017). Climate change exacerbates these pressures by altering weather patterns which in turn increases the

frequency of extreme weather events and disrupts water availability. Sustainable agricultural practices, such as crop diversification (Hufnagel et al., 2020), conservation tillage (Kuhn et al., 2016), and integrated pest management (Singh et al., 2020), are vital for building resilient food systems that can adapt to these changes (Worstell & Green, 2017). Additionally, sustainable agriculture supports the preservation of biodiversity, which is crucial for ecosystem health and the resilience of agricultural landscapes (Tahat et al., 2020).

Meanwhile, the national prevalence of agricultural challenges, including land degradation, deforestation, and food insecurity, has prompted researchers to address the issues (Nugroho et al., 2022; Widyati et al, 2022). Indonesia's rapid economic development has often come at the expense of its natural resources, with extensive deforestation for palm oil plantations and other agricultural uses leading to severe environmental degradation (Anderson et al., 2016; Kubitza, 2018; Petrenko et al., 2016). Indonesia's agricultural sector must transition to more sustainable practices to address these issues and ensure long-term food security for its population (Duffy et al., 2021). Policies promoting sustainable land management, reforestation, and the use of organic fertilizers are essential for reversing

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environmental damage and enhancing agricultural productivity (Sanz et al., 2017). Moreover, Indonesia's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), highlights the importance of sustainable agriculture in achieving national food security and nutrition targets (Bappenas, 2019).

Locally, Southeast Sulawesi's agricultural sector faces unique challenges and opportunities (Kelley & Prabowo, 2019). The region's diverse agricultural landscapes, which includes wetland areas for crops like sago palm, offers significant potential for sustainable agriculture (Van Noordwijk et al., 2020). However, farmers in Southeast Sulawesi often encounter financial and labor constraints that limit their ability to adopt sustainable practices (Flor et al., 2016). Studies conducted in Southeast Sulawesi context (such as Ehara, 2009; Hasada, 2015; Rampisela et al., 2018) highlight the potential of sago starch production to enhance food security and rural development, yet also point to the need for better access to capital and labor resources. Additionally, local institutions such as the Parabela play a crucial role in managing land rights and supporting sustainable practices (Husain et al., 2013; Mappa et al., 2018; Nalefo et al., 2013). Despite extensive research on Southeast Sulawesi's agricultural sector, there remains a lack of studies on synthesizing the existing research on sustainable agricultural practices pertaining to food security.

To fill this void, this review aims to synthesize existing research in Southeast Sulawesi, focusing on food security. By navigating, identifying, and mapping findings from various studies in the Southeast Sulawesi context, this review seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of how sustainable agriculture can contribute to a stable and sufficient food supply in this region. The focus of this review will be on understanding the methodologies employed in the studies, the role of local institutions, and the economic and social factors influencing sustainable agricultural practices in Southeast Sulawesi. By addressing these aspects, this review aims to offer a holistic perspective on such factors which in turn will provide valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners aiming to implement sustainable agricultural strategies in enhancing food security in Southeast Sulawesi.

#### **METHODS**

This review employs a systematic approach to publications to ensure empirical research comprehensive, scientific-based, and unbiased understanding of sustainable agricultural development and food security in Southeast Sulawesi. The initial step involved sourcing articles from various reputable academic databases. Each article was meticulously filtered based on several criteria, including relevance to the topic, specific geographic focus on Southeast Sulawesi, and recent publication dates to capture the most current trends and findings. This methodical approach allowed the inclusion of a diverse range of studies, ensuring that the review covers a broad spectrum of perspectives and insights.

To provide a robust analysis, the review includes both qualitative and quantitative studies. Qualitative studies offer in-depth insights into the socio-cultural and institutional dynamics of sustainable agriculture in Southeast Sulawesi, while quantitative studies provide empirical data on economic impacts and agricultural productivity. This dual approach ensures that the review not only addresses the numerical aspects of agricultural development but also understands the underlying human and institutional factors that influence these numbers. By integrating both types of studies, the review achieves a balanced and holistic perspective on the topic.

Key themes identified in the literature include local agricultural practices, institutional roles, and economic impacts. Local agricultural practices focus on the specific methods and crops used by the farmers in Southeast Sulawesi both traditional and modern techniques. Institutional roles encompass the influence of local governance and traditional institutions, such as Parabela in Buton, on agricultural practices and land management (Husain et al., 2013; Nalefo et al., 2013). Meanwhile, economic impacts highlight the financial opportunities challenges and associated sustainable agriculture, such as the constraints faced by sago starch producers due to a lack of capital for machinery (Hasada, 2015; Saediman et al., 2021). These themes were systematically analyzed to draw comprehensive conclusions about the current state and future directions of sustainable agriculture in Southeast Sulawesi.



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# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION Local Agricultural Practices**

Sustainable cocoa farming

Local agricultural practices in Southeast Sulawesi play a crucial role in advancing sustainable agriculture and ensuring food security. This region, characterized by its diverse agricultural landscape and significant rural populations, relies heavily on traditional farming practices and local knowledge (Kelley, 2020). These practices have been crucial in maintaining ecological balance and enhancing agricultural productivity, which are essential for the region's food security. According to Altieri (1999), traditional agriculture systems are often more sustainable due to their reliance on local

resources and ecological processes. Studies have highlighted that integrating local wisdom with modern sustainable practices can lead to improved crop yields and better resource management. For example, Sudirman et al.'s (2021) study emphasizes the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in promoting sustainable development goals (SDGs) through agricultural practices in Southeast Sulawesi. With such a provision of essential financial and technical support, the farmers are aided in adopting sustainable practices that could enhance productivity and food security.

Table 1. Local agricultural practices		
Crop Cultivation	Livestock Farming	Agroforestry & Integrated Systems
1. Saragih et al. (2003): Influence of	1. Aku et al. (2012): Production	1. Marwah (2013): Feasibility of
transmigration on agriculture	system of Bali cattle	agroforestry systems
2. Ehara (2009): Sago palm as	2. Witjaksono (2013): Bali cattle	2. Darwis et al. (2015): Integrated
carbohydrate resource	farming system	farming system
3. Aslan et al. (2015): Mariculture	3. Saili (2020): Cattle production	3. Mulyoutami et al. (2015): Gender
practices and socio-economic	management	roles in plant species selection
aspects	4. Sulfiar et al. (2020): Semi-	4. Kikuta et al. (2016): Slash-and-
4. Saediman et al. (2015): Cassava	intensive cattle production systems	burn rice farming
processing practices	5. Munadi (2021): Potential	5. Limi et al. (2022): Water resource
5. Karimuna et al. (2016): Use of	development of Bali cattle	management participation
bokashi for marginal soils	6. Munadi et al. (2022): Integrated	6. Hidrawati et al. (2023): Traditional
6. Sadimantara et al. (2018): Local	farmer-livestock business	agricultural techniques
upland rice genotypes	7. Rahadi et al. (2022): Siompu goat	7. Purbaningsih. (2023):
performance	production system	Development model of sago
7. Kandari et al. (2019): Spatio-	8. Sulfiar et al. (2022): Sustainability	agroindustry SMEs
temporal optimization of food	of beef cattle farming	
cropland	9. Dahya et al. (2023): Maize and	
8. Nuryadi et al. (2019):	Beef cattle integrated farming	
Developing seaweed agribusiness	system	
9. Taridala et al. (2019): Potential	10. Silistiyani et al. (2023): Feed	
of upland rice agribusiness	management in broiler farming	
10. Estiningtyas et al. (2020):		
Adaptation strategies for food		
sovereignty		
11. Surni et al. (2020): Small-scale		
tomato production		
12. Ma'mun et al. (2021):		
Sustainable irrigation practices		
13. Maretta et al. (2021): Taro		
utilization for food		
diversification		
14. Saediman et al. (2021b): Crop		
shifting practices		
15. Widayati et al. (2022):		
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- 16. Fitriani et al. (2023): Local sago food for food security
- 17. Syahrun et al. (2023): Use of organic fertilizers

One notable study by Hasada (2015) highlights the potential of sago starch production to contribute to rural development and food security in Southeast Sulawesi. Sago palm is particularly well suited to the region's wetland areas and has a high starch yield, making it a promising crop for enhancing food security. Hasada's research emphasizes that sago starch can provide a stable source of food for rural communities. The production of sago starch involves relatively low input costs and can be managed sustainably with proper practices. Moreover, sago palm's ability to thrive in less fertile soils where other crops might fail further highlights its importance in the local agricultural landscape. However, the full potential of sago starch production is yet to be realized due to several challenges, including financial and labor constraints that need to be addressed to scale up production and fully realize its benefits.

#### Table 2. Institutional roles

### Policy & Governance

- 1. Armitage et al. (2007): Political ecology of sustainable livelihoods
- 2. Nalefo et al. (2013): Institutional sustainable agriculture
- 3. Patulak et al. (2013): Organizational commitment in irrigation management
- 4. Iswandi (2016): Institutional strategies in sustainable agriculture
- 5. Patanda et al. (2017): Sustainability of reef fish resources
- 6. Rahutami (2017): Gender on development and food security
- 7. Limi et al. (2018): Local institutions' roles in food access
- 8. Rampisela et al. (2018): Local community-based sago forest development
- 9. Susanto et al. (2019): Managed access approach for fisheries
- 10. Kilowasid et al. (2020): Sustainability status of watershed management
- 11. Nalefo (2020): Cooperative sustainability for beef cattle
- 12. Sudirman et al. (2021): CSR contribution to SDGs
- 13. Sufrianto (2021): Agribusiness models during Covid-19
- 14. Limi (2022): Water resource management participation
- 15. Adidharma et al. (2023): Impact of nickel mining on vegetation
- 16. Asis et al. (2023): Local community resilience
- 17. Ramadhan et al. (2023): Deforestation and flood events
- 18. Tambunan (2023): MSMEs role in sustainable

#### **Institutional Roles**

Local institutions significantly influence sustainable agriculture in Southeast Sulawesi. They play a pivotal role in shaping agricultural practices and policies that enhance food security and environmental sustainability. Traditional governance structures, such as the Parabela in Buton, are instrumental in managing land rights and resource use, ensuring that agricultural activities are conducted in a manner that aligns with cultural traditions and sustainable principles (Husain et al., 2013; Mappa et al., 2018; Nalefo et al., 2013). These institutions facilitate the integration of local knowledge with modern sustainable practices, thereby fostering agricultural resilience. The Parabela's involvement in communal land management and support for local farmers through various initiatives exemplifies how traditional institutions can effectively contribute to sustainable agriculture.

## **Educational & Extension Services**

- 1. Marwah (2013): Feasibility of agroforestry systems
- 2. Arpai (2019): Institutional innovation strategies for rice farming
- 3. Muthalib et al. (2019): Empowerment model for seaweed farmers
- 4. Baka et al. (2023): Teachers' perceptions of sustainable agriculture
- 5. Hidrawati et al. (2023): Traditional agricultural techniques
- 6. Shelindina et al. (2023): Pineapple farming development strategy
- 7. Syahrun et al. (2023): Use of organic fertilizers



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development

19. Nurniati et al. (2024): Food security status among coastal households

Studies have shown that strengthening local institutions can significantly enhance the effectiveness of sustainable agricultural practices. For instance, Ma'mun et al. (2021) highlight the critical role of local governance in promoting sustainable irrigation practices in Southeast Sulawesi. By supporting infrastructure development and facilitating access to water resources, local institutions help farmers implement more efficient and sustainable irrigation methods. This support not only improves agricultural productivity but also conserves water resources, which are vital for the region's long-term agricultural sustainability. Moreover, local institutions can provide a platform for knowledge sharing and capacity building, enabling farmers to adopt innovative practices that enhance their resilience to environmental challenges.

The economic role of local institutions in sustainable agriculture is also noteworthy. Sudirman et al.'s (2021) study emphasizes the importance of CSR initiatives led by local institutions in achieving SDGs. By channeling resources and support from the corporate sector into sustainable agricultural projects, local institutions can help bridge the financial gaps that often hinder the adoption of sustainable practices. These CSR initiatives can fund the purchase of necessary machinery, support the development of local markets, and provide training for farmers on sustainable practices. This economic support is crucial for overcoming the financial constraints that many smallholder farmers face, thereby enabling them to invest in and sustain more productive environmentally friendly agricultural practices.

Local institutions also play a vital role in addressing social factors that influence sustainable agriculture. Baka et al. (2023) discuss how vocational schools in Southeast Sulawesi incorporate sustainable agriculture into their curricula, guided by local institutional frameworks. This educational approach not only equips students with the knowledge and skills needed for sustainable farming but also fosters a culture of sustainable farming but also fosters a culture of sustainable agriculture through education, local institutions help cultivate a new generation of farmers who are committed to environmental stewardship and food security. This social investment

is essential for ensuring long-term success and sustainability of agricultural practices in Southeast Sulawesi.

Furthermore, local institutions can help mitigate the environmental impacts of agricultural activities. Witjaksono et al. (2020) examine the role of innovation systems supported by local institutions in reducing harvesting losses and promising sustainable agricultural production in Southeast Sulawesi. By encouraging the adoption of advanced technologies and practices, local institutions can help minimize the environmental footprint of agriculture. This includes promoting soil conservation techniques, reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and enhancing biodiversity through agroforestry practices. These environmental initiatives, supported by local institutions, are critical for maintaining the ecological balance and ensuring the sustainability of agricultural systems in Southeast Sulawesi.

### **Economic and Social Factors**

Economic constraints are a major barrier to sustainable agriculture in Southeast Sulawesi. They significantly hinder the region's potential to achieve long-term food security and environmental sustainability. Financial limitations affect farmers' ability to invest in necessary agricultural inputs, such as quality seeds, fertilizers, and modern machinery, which are essential for improving productivity and implementing sustainable practices. According to Hasada (2015), one of the critical challenges faced by farmers in the region is the lack of funds to purchase machinery for sago starch production. This financial barrier prevents farmers from expanding their operations and adopting more efficient, sustainable practices that could enhance both productivity and environmental outcomes.

The lack of access to credit and financial services further exacerbates the economic challenges faced by farmers in Southeast Sulawesi. Studies such as those conducted by Saediman et al. (2015) emphasize that limited financial resources restrict farmers' ability to invest in improved agricultural technologies and infrastructure. This situation is particularly problematic for smallholder farmers who often operate on thin profit margins and cannot afford the upfront costs associated with sustainable agricultural practices.



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Without access to credit, these farmers are unable to make necessary investments to transition to more sustainable farming methods, thereby perpetuating a cycle of low productivity and environmental degradation.

Market access is another significant economic constraint impacting sustainable agriculture in Southeast Sulawesi. The study by Sulfiar et al. (2022) on beef cattle farming highlights that poor market infrastructure and lack of reliable market access reduce farmers' incentives to invest in sustainable practices. When farmers cannot secure fair prices for their produce, they are less likely to adopt practices that might initially reduce yields or require additional labor and financial inputs. Improving market access through better infrastructure, such as roads and market facilities, and establishing cooperative societies can help farmers achieve better prices and more stable

incomes, thus encouraging the adoption of sustainable practices.

The economic viability of sustainable agriculture is also influenced by external financial support and subsidies. According to Nuryadi et al. (2019), the development of seaweed agribusiness in South Konawe has been significantly aided by government subsidies and financial support programs. These programs help alleviate the financial burden on farmers, making it more feasible for them to adopt sustainable practices. By providing subsidies for sustainable agricultural inputs and practices, governments and local institutions can lower the economic barriers that prevent farmers from transitioning to more sustainable farming methods. Such financial incentives are crucial for promoting sustainable agriculture and ensuring that farmers can afford to make the necessary changes to their practices.

Table 3. Economic impacts

farming development strategy

#### Market Dynamics & Household Profitability & Economic Environmental & Resource Management Performance **Economics** 1. Saediman (2015): Profitability and 1. Armitage et al. (2007): 1. Ido (2015) - Impact of gold mining on value addition in cassava Political ecology of sustainable water quality processing livelihoods 2. Musaruddin M. et al. (2016) -2. Saediman (2015): Prioritizing 2. Pilgrim et al. (2007): Local Greenhouse gas emission reduction commodities using AHP resource use in remote region strategy 3. Leomo et al. (2019): Amelioration 3. Montagnini et al. (2017): 3. Rahutami A. I. (2017) - Gender on on ex-nickel mine soil Agroforestry and sustainable development and food security 4. Saediman et al. (2019): Food development 4. Leomo et al. (2019) - Amelioration on security status in cassava-growing 4. Rahim et al. (2019) ex-nickel mine soil Livelihood features of seaweed village 5. Alam et al. (2020) - Land cover types 5. Effendy et al. (2020): Nutrition farming households on soil quality and carbon storage education impact 5. Zani et al. (2019) - Household 6. Adidharma et al. (2023) - Impact of 6. Saediman et al. (2020): food expenditure in cassavanickel mining on vegetation Comparative profitability of growing village 7. Kilowasidet al. (2023) - Quality of acid 6. McWilliam et al. (2021): melon and watermelon production soils treated with biochar 7. Surni et al. (2020): Profitability Poverty and prosperity among and constraints of small-scale fishing communities tomato production 8. Saediman et al. (2021): Comparative profitability of rice and horticultural farming 9. Stacey et al. (2021): Sustainable small-scale fisheries livelihoods 10. Tamburaka (2021): Organic rice farming income 11. Fitriani et al. (2023): Local sago food for food security 12. Shelindina et al. (2023): Pineapple

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Lastly, economic constraints are not only a matter of immediate financial resources but also of long-term economic planning and stability. Saediman et al. (2021) discuss how shifting from rice to horticultural production in Landono Sub-regency has been driven by economic considerations. Farmers in the region are increasingly turning to crops that promise higher economic returns despite the challenges of sustainable farming practices. This shift indicates that economic incentives play a crucial role in farmers' decision-making processes. Sustainable agriculture initiatives need to consider these economic realities and provide long-term economic benefits to encourage widespread adoption among farmers.

#### CONCLUSION

This review synthesizes existing research on sustainable agricultural practices and their impact on food security in Southeast Sulawesi. Integrating traditional practices with modern sustainable methods can enhance productivity, maintain ecological balance, and improve farmers' quality of life. This review highlights the potential of crops like sago palm, wellsuited to the local environment, significantly contributing to food security and rural development. However, financial and labor constraints hinder the scaling up of these practices. Addressing these challenges through improved access to credit, financial services, and market infrastructure is essential for farmers to adopt and sustain efficient land rights, facilitating resource access, and providing knowledgesharing platforms, strengthening these institutions and integrating them with modern policies can enhance their effectiveness in promoting sustainable practices. Collaboration between local institutions government agencies is vital for overcoming financial and labor challenges faced by farmers. Economic and social factors significantly influence the adoption and success of sustainable agricultural practices. Ensuring reliable market access, financial support, and community engagement in sustainable initiatives are critical for long-term agricultural sustainability. These efforts will help build resilient food systems capable of adapting to environmental and economic challenges, in conclusion, sustainable agriculture holds great promise for enhancing food security and environmental sustainability in Southeast Sulawesi. By addressing the identified barriers and leveraging local institutions and practices, policymakers and practitioners can develop effective strategies to promote sustainable agricultural development in the region. Future research should continue exploring the integration of traditional and modern practices, the role of local institutions, and the socio-economic factors influencing sustainable agriculture to provide deeper insights and practical solutions for achieving food security in Southeast Sulawesi.

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