



Direction of Socio-Cultural Transformation Policy Based on Community Empowerment in Realizing Prosperity in Southwest Maluku Indonesia

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Abstract

This research focuses on efforts to improve community welfare in Southwest Maluku Regency (MBD). The poverty level of MBD Regency is much higher compared to the average poverty level in Maluku Province and the national average. Judging from the high potential of natural resources, such as the Masela Block, marine fisheries resources, buffalo, cattle, goat, forest products, regency should have the ability to alleviate poverty. Today we have entered a new decade in Long Term Regional Development, 2025-2045. How can the direction of socio-cultural transformation policies based on community empowerment create prosperity? This research uses a policy analysis approach, which is based on the MBD Regency Initial Long Term Regional Development Plan document. The data analyzed comes from secondary data, which is processed using descriptive statistics. The results of this research show that there is a socio-cultural transformation in overcoming poverty and improving welfare through community empowerment in MBD Regency. The recommendation submitted to the MBD Regency Government is that the direction



of social and cultural transformation policies based on integrative social engineering is important so that an empowered, innovative and prosperous society is created.

[Penelitian ini berfokus pada upaya peningkatan kesejahteraan masyarakat di Kabupaten Maluku Barat Daya (MBD). Tingkat kemiskinan di Kabupaten MBD jauh lebih tinggi dibandingkan dengan rata-rata tingkat kemiskinan di Provinsi Maluku dan rata-rata nasional. Mengingat potensi sumber daya alam yang tinggi, seperti Blok Masela, sumber daya perikanan laut, kerbau, sapi, kambing, serta hasil hutan, kabupaten ini seharusnya memiliki kemampuan untuk mengurangi kemiskinan. Saat ini kita telah memasuki dekade baru dalam Rencana Pembangunan Daerah Jangka Panjang, 2025-2045. Bagaimana arah kebijakan transformasi sosial-budaya yang berbasis pemberdayaan masyarakat dapat menciptakan kemakmuran? Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan analisis kebijakan, yang didasarkan pada dokumen Rencana Pembangunan Daerah Jangka Panjang Awal Kabupaten MBD. Data yang dianalisis berasal dari data sekunder, yang diolah menggunakan statistik deskriptif. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan adanya transformasi sosial-budaya dalam mengatasi kemiskinan dan meningkatkan kesejahteraan melalui pemberdayaan masyarakat di Kabupaten MBD. Rekomendasi yang diajukan kepada Pemerintah Kabupaten MBD adalah agar arah kebijakan transformasi sosial dan budaya yang berbasis sosial integratif teknik Hal ini penting agar tercipta masyarakat yang berdaya, inovatif, dan sejahtera.]

Keywords: Policy Direction, Socio-cultural Transformation, Welfare, Empowerment, Social Engineering

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INTRODUCTION

Public welfare is expected to be a development output that can be achieved by every region. Development implementation encompasses many areas, targeting poverty alleviation efforts. The goal of development is to achieve public welfare and prosperity (Kholik, 2020) Development aims to encourage economic growth, reduce income inequality, and accelerate development in underdeveloped regions (Rindayati & Juanda, 2023) MBD Regency is an underdeveloped region. The poverty rate in MBD Regency has been very high for the past five years. In 2018, the poverty rate in MBD Regency was 30.2%, gradually decreasing to 29.43% in 2019, then to 29.15% in 2020, but rising again to 29.55% in 2021 and again to 27.64% in 2022 (BPS, 2023b) This data shows that the poverty situation in MBD Regency must receive strategic and sustainable solutions.

Top-down government policies that provide charitable assistance actually create dependency, further disempowering the poor. Consumptive assistance, such as Direct Cash Assistance (BLT), the Family Hope Program, and Social Assistance (Bansos), lack the potential to drive socio-cultural transformation because they lack a focus on empowerment. Development should encourage social change, enabling improved economic conditions to spark social transformation. Economic growth is a crucial pillar for addressing various social

problems (Novriyandi et al., 2024) Conversely, social change can drive economic growth. At the national level, the House of Representatives (DPR) must be committed to upholding the people's aspirations, ensuring optimal consultation mechanisms. At the regional level, the relationship between regional heads and the DPRD is well-structured, ensuring that development decisions are committed to poverty alleviation. This is closely related to the budget function.

The poverty situation in MBD Regency is ironic, considering the region's relatively large potential resource wealth. Natural resources, including oil and gas mining in the Masela Block, fisheries, forestry, plantations, agriculture, and livestock, could actually be a source of prosperity for the people. Although MBD possesses abundant resources, their potential benefits are uncertain because they have not been optimally managed. Therefore, it is crucial for the MBD Regency Long-Term Regional Plan (RPJPD) to incorporate them into its gradual transformation policy scheme, so that this poverty problem can be resolved through a clear empowerment process.

Solving poverty through the Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJPD) requires prioritization, by determining the largest percentage of the population employed in specific sectors. The primary sector is the largest source of income for the community. Workers in the primary sector, which includes agriculture, livestock, mining, and quarrying, account for 49.7% of the population (BPS, 2023a) Meanwhile, the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector contributed the highest to GDP over the five-year period 2018-2022, at 41.04%. Efforts to comprehensively address poverty require integrated development planning. Therefore, a more effective approach to addressing this issue must be sought: empowerment that can foster community independence through gradual socio-cultural transformation. Community empowerment is a development approach that has a positive impact on gradually building community independence. The MBD community, whose primary livelihoods include farming, livestock farming, mining, and other mining activities, lives under economic constraints.

Table 1. Number of individual agricultural businesses (UTP) by subsector in Southwest Maluku Regency in 2023

Subsector	Number of Individual Agricultural Enterprises (UTP)
Food Crops	11.945
Livestock	9.235
Plantations	8.520
Horticulture	4.611
Forestry	2.666
Fisheries	2.601
Agricultural Services	518

Source: Southwest Maluku Regency Agriculture Service in BPS, 2023

The agriculture and livestock sectors are crucial for development. However, these two sectors have not been fully developed. Food crops, particularly corn, have significant potential, with 11,945 food crop businesses, 4,611 horticulture businesses, 518 agricultural service businesses, and 9,235 livestock businesses. Based on the data, agriculture and

livestock are the two largest sectors. Therefore, agriculture and livestock are two sectors with significant potential. Both the agricultural and livestock sectors in MBD Regency are suspected of not being optimally functioning. Livestock owners leave their livestock to roam unsupervised in forests or fields. Consequently, livestock development is unmonitored, data collection is lacking, and the yields are not optimally utilized.

The research problem can be identified as a gap between the potential of available resources and management practices on the ground. Specifically, the main issue lies in the weakness of the livestock management system, characterised by the practice of allowing livestock to roam freely without supervision, a lack of monitoring of livestock development, the absence of an accurate data collection system, and the sub-optimal utilisation of production outputs. These conditions not only result in low productivity but also reflect the weakness of system- and institution-based governance within the agricultural sector.

In the context of previous research, various studies on the development of the agricultural and livestock sectors have generally emphasised the importance of technology-based management, integrated data systems, and capacity building for livestock farmers through extension services and local government policies. Other research has also shown that uncontrolled livestock management can reduce production quality and increase the risk of economic losses. Furthermore, studies on rural development often highlight the importance of government intervention in creating sustainable monitoring and evaluation systems to improve the efficiency of the agricultural sector. However, most of these studies focus on areas with relatively more advanced infrastructure, meaning that the context of remote island regions such as MBD is still rarely discussed in depth.

A research gap can be observed in the scarcity of studies that specifically examine traditional livestock management practices in remote areas with archipelagic geographical characteristics, particularly in relation to institutional aspects, data systems and farmers' behaviour. Furthermore, there has been little research integrating an analysis of the sector's potential with the realities of implementation at the local level, particularly in examining how social, cultural, and policy factors influence the sector's under-optimisation. This gap opens up opportunities for more contextual research, which not only identifies technical issues but also explores the underlying structural and institutional root causes.

In light of this, the objective of this study is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the state of livestock sector management in MBD Regency, to identify the factors contributing to the sub-optimal utilisation of existing potential, and to evaluate the systems for monitoring, data collection, and the utilisation of livestock products. Furthermore, this study also aims to formulate policy recommendations based on local conditions to enhance the effectiveness of livestock and agricultural sector management. Consequently, the research findings are expected to make a contribution, both academically and practically, towards supporting more sustainable and productive agricultural development in the region.

Given the under-management of agriculture and livestock, while still offering ample opportunities for development, there is still potential to address poverty. This article focuses on the question: "What is the direction of socio-cultural transformation policies based on

community empowerment so that the agriculture and livestock sectors can address poverty in MBD Regency?"

LITERATURE REVIEW

Poverty

The definition of poverty often refers to the concept of poverty in economic theory, which is defined as a condition in which an individual lacks access to basic necessities. Economic performance indicators such as a country's GDP per capita are commonly used to assess poverty (Jones, 2016). However, over time, with increasing rates of urbanization and the development of socioeconomic concepts, the definition of poverty has shifted from a simple economic concept to a multidimensional one that also encompasses ecological, social, and environmental factors (Akhtar et al., 2025). A wide range of literature exists explaining various descriptions, strategies, and philosophies for assessing poverty multidimensionally. Environmental deficiencies or limitations, regional geography, traffic conditions, economic status, and resources are other factors contributing to poverty, as are a lack of resources, education, health, welfare, and employment opportunities. Poverty is typically associated with social and environmental problems and limited sustainable development due to unsustainable resource use. Therefore, multidimensional poverty is generally recognized in the literature as a complex social problem related to various human activities (G. Li et al., 2019). Income remains a crucial component of poverty, although other objective and subjective indicators of well-being are also considered. According to (Piot-Lepetit & Nzongang, 2014) this represents a shift from defining poverty from a single economic dimension to a multidimensional one.

Poverty alleviation and sustainable equitable development are crucial tasks that governments must realize (Firdaus, 2014). Poverty as a multidimensional challenge encourages global collaboration as countries worldwide engage in agreements and support declarations such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Ishatono & Raharjo, 2016). The MDGs ended in 2015, and the continued implementation of the SDGs signifies a sustained global effort towards poverty alleviation. This collective movement underscores the pervasive nature of poverty as a challenge affecting all countries worldwide. Collaboration in poverty alleviation efforts is also carried out domestically through collaboration between government organizations, the private sector, communities, and other stakeholders. Without collaboration, existing resources in a region will be difficult to manage properly and there will be no synergy between mutually supportive sectors.

Welfare Social

Welfare is a development goal. It can be seen from increased economic growth and equitable income distribution (Matovu et al., 2024; Sheikh & Hussain, 2024) (Wang et al., 2026). However, social welfare is not solely an economic issue; it also needs to be viewed from a sociological and anthropological perspective. Welfare is also divided into material and non-material welfare (Hukom, 2014). According to the (BPS, 2023b) indicators of social welfare are reviewed across eight areas: population, health and nutrition, education,

employment, consumption levels and patterns, housing and the environment, poverty, and other social factors that serve as benchmarks for efforts to improve quality of life.

The determination of policies in the development process is basically aimed at achieving a just and prosperous welfare in society (Arka & Yasa, 2015) Community welfare shows the measure of the results of community development in achieving a better life which includes: first, increasing the ability and equitable distribution of basic needs such as food, housing, health, and protection second, increasing the standard of living, income levels, better education, and increased attention to culture and human values and third, expanding the economic scale and availability of social choices from individuals and nations (Todaro & Smith, 2009) These results are the hopes of the creation of development policies that aim to improve the level of community welfare. Therefore, community welfare can be a benchmark for the success of development policies in a region.

Community Empowerment

Developing local economies requires capacity building that helps local actors understand the dynamics of local resources and how these resources can be utilized to benefit the local community (Mensah et al., 2021) Community capacity building can be achieved through community empowerment. Community empowerment is a process that requires organization, facilitation, and action, enabling communities to determine ways to create the communities they desire to live in (Matarrita-Cascante & Brennan, 2012) Community empowerment is a process that provides vision, planning, direction, and coordinated action toward desired goals related to promoting efforts aimed at improving the operating conditions of local resources. Community empowerment emphasizes the importance of empowering individuals, encouraging participation, building social capital, and promoting sustainable and inclusive growth. These principles and strategies guide efforts to create stronger, more resilient, and self-reliant communities. From a community development perspective, empowerment strategies are understood as a means for disadvantaged communities to challenge social injustice by exposing mechanisms of control, institutional or structural barriers, cultural norms, and social biases.

Sociocultural Transformation No social change strategy (Hieda, 2026) (Abed et al., 2023) (Kubištová & Stoffelen, 2026) can succeed if it fails to motivate social forces for economic and sociocultural transformation, and fails to convince communities that their participation in the development process is the safest and shortest path to realizing their individual dreams and collective goals (Rabie, 2016) The record of human development, from the hunter-gatherer era to the industrial era and beyond, demonstrates that economic factors play a primary role in facilitating sociocultural transformation and societal progress. Conversely, the experience of Japan and other industrialized Asian countries such as Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and China demonstrates that sociocultural transformation can lead to equally significant economic change when combined with a desire to industrialize and a vision for achieving economic development goals (Rabie, 2016) The process of sociocultural transformation goes through four stages before a society moves from the pre-industrial to the industrial era. These stages are traditionalism, casual change, behavioral change, and institutional change.

Traditionalism represents the starting point for traditional agricultural and semi-agricultural societies that initiated development efforts. The family in these societies is the basic social unit around which society is organized, and its survival and maintenance are the primary goals of life. In the context of traditional change, direct contact between developed and less developed countries intensifies, unconsciously encouraging these countries to imitate the lifestyles of developed nations and borrow some of their technology and consumer habits. Behavioral changes first begin among cultural, educational, business, and political elites before spreading to the broader society. However, traditional leadership and institutions persist in preserving old values, preventing behavioral change from becoming attitudinal and mental shifts. One way to infiltrate sociocultural transformational values is through community empowerment. Community empowerment fosters motivation and encourages internal innovation within the community, enabling it to develop and carry out social transformation. According to (Santosa, 2011) innovations originating from within the community itself (indigenous innovations) are adaptive and therefore face low resistance among its citizens. Thus, they can foster social transformation within the broader society.

Policy Direction Government Regulation Number 6 of 2023 concerning the Preparation of Work Plans and Budgets defines policy direction as the elaboration of government affairs and/or development priorities in accordance with the President's vision and mission. The formulation reflects specific government affairs areas under the responsibility of ministries/institutions, containing one or more programs to achieve strategic government and development objectives with measurable performance indicators. At the regional government level, Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 86 of 2017 concerning Procedures for Planning, Controlling, and Evaluation of Regional Development, Procedures for Evaluating Draft Regional Regulations on Regional Long-Term Development Plans and Regional Medium-Term Development Plans, and Procedures for Amendments to Regional Long-Term Development Plans, Regional Medium-Term Development Plans, and Regional Government Work Plans explains that policy direction is the formulation of a framework for resolving development problems and anticipating strategic issues for the Region/Regional Apparatus, implemented in stages as an elaboration of strategy. From these two definitions, it can be concluded that policy direction in the Indonesian government system generally serves as a framework for implementing governance, which embodies the vision and mission to address public issues. Therefore, in formulating policy direction, it must always align with the objectives and strategies derived from the government's vision and mission at each level or organization. Policy direction should be accompanied by concrete achievement parameters to ensure its practical measurability.

Policy direction serves as a strategic framework that helps determine priorities, establish long-term goals, and guide the allocation of organizational resources. It also serves as a guideline for decision-making at various levels of government or the organization and ensures that decisions are aligned with established overall objectives. A clear policy direction can make policy implementation more consistent and coordinated, and reduce the likelihood of conflict or uncertainty in actions taken. In the policy evaluation process, policy direction can serve as a basis for future policy evaluation and adjustments. Through

evaluations based on policy direction, policy performance can be measured and adjusted as needed to achieve optimal results.

METHOD

This study uses a policy analysis approach based on the Initial Long-Term Development Plan for Southwest Maluku Regency (MBD). The research method employed is secondary data analysis, encompassing source identification, data collection, data evaluation and relevance, data analysis, and interpretation of results. The data analyzed in this study came from various relevant secondary sources. The primary source used is the Initial Long-Term Development Plan for Southwest Maluku Regency (MBD) 2025-2045, supplemented by official government documents, statistical reports from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), reports from local government agencies, as well as academic publications and previous research reports related to the social and economic conditions of MBD Regency. The results of this data analysis are used to interpret how socio-cultural transformation policies based on community empowerment can achieve prosperity in MBD Regency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Poverty in MBD Regency The shackles of poverty hinder progress in a region. High levels of poverty in a region make it difficult for its people to develop. In general, high levels of poverty trigger a chain of other problems (Edobor & Baffoe, 2025; Khan et al., 2026; Kou et al., 2026; Y. Li et al., 2026; Tanaka et al., 2026; Xia et al., 2026) Poverty in a region is accompanied by a lack of access to higher education. Poverty is also accompanied by difficulties in meeting basic food, clothing, and shelter needs. Poverty is also associated with low public health risks. This discussion points to the complexities surrounding the poverty problem. MBD Regency is part of Maluku Province, which has a high poverty rate, compared to both Maluku Province and national data. Poverty in MBD Regency over the five years from 2018 to 2022 has been relatively high, with the highest percentage reaching 30.2% in 2018 and the lowest at 27.64%. Over the five years, poverty has only decreased by 2.56%. Compared to poverty in Maluku Province, there is a significant gap. Maluku Province's poverty data from 2018 to 2022 shows a significant decrease of 12.15%. Meanwhile, the average poverty rate at the national level is far below the average poverty rate in MBD Regency and the provincial average, reaching 9.82% in 2018 and 9.54% in 2022. While the national poverty reduction rate is very small at 0.28%, the poverty rate is significantly lower. This data indicates that development efforts in MBD Regency have not yet had an optimal impact on poverty reduction.

Poverty in MBD Regency can be explained through three indicators. First, poverty is seen from the aspect of the proportion of the poor population, known as P0. Second, poverty is seen from the aspect of the depth of poverty, called P1, which essentially describes the gap between the average expenditure of the poor and the poverty line. From the results of this measurement, it is known that the higher the PI value indicates that the average expenditure of the community is further from the poverty line. Third, poverty is seen from

the aspect of poverty severity, called P2, which essentially assesses the level of expenditure inequality among the poor. This means that a high P2 value indicates a high inequality in expenditure among the poor.

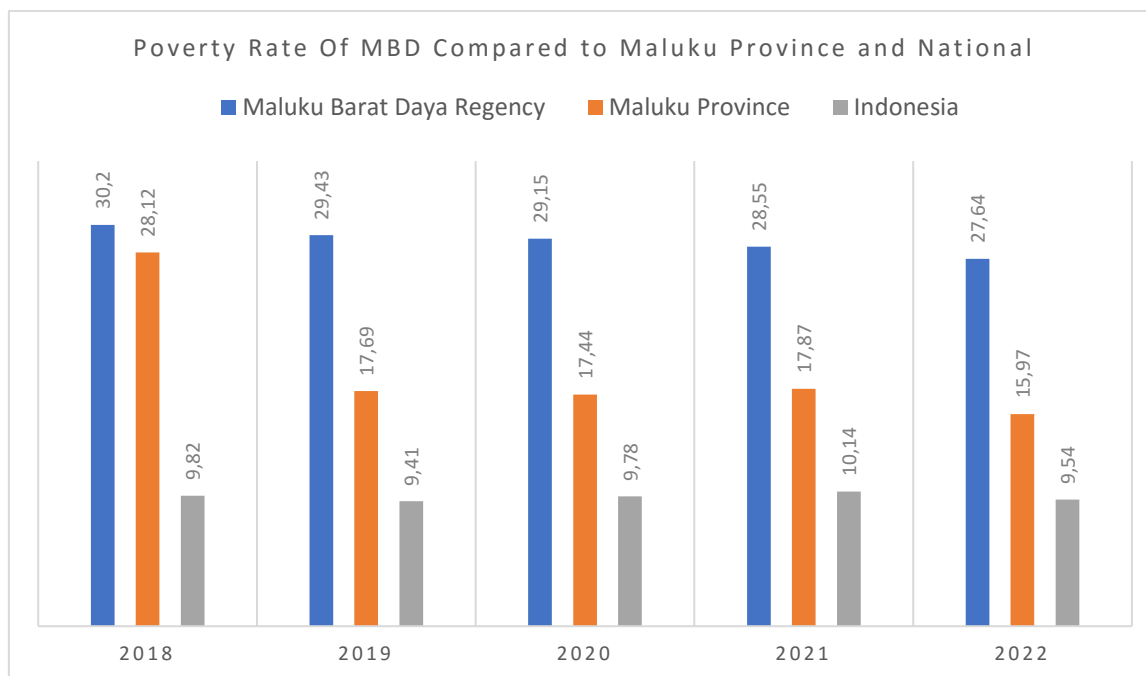


Figure 1. Percentage of Poor Population in Southwest Maluku Regency, Province, and Nationally, 2018-2022

Source: Southwest Maluku Regency data, Statistics Indonesia (BPS), processed in 2023

The poverty line in MBD Regency has tended to increase over the five years from 2018 to 2022. In 2018, MBD Regency was at the poverty line of Rp. 441,211, while in 2022 it rose to Rp. 586,021. Over the five-year period, the poverty line has increased by Rp. 114,810. This increase is not significant. The poverty line at this level remains highly vulnerable to crises and changes in the regional, national, and international economy. Therefore, community income needs to be strengthened to increase socio-economic resilience. The number of poor people in MBD Regency was 21.98% in 2018, and 20.36% in 2022. Over the five-year period, the number of poor people decreased by 1.62%. This is a very small decrease, which is certainly not optimal. This potential, which can be leveraged to improve development achievements, is important and needs to be managed seriously. This relatively high number of poor people requires education and empowerment. Reducing the number of poor people is not achieved through charitable aid, but rather through targeted and programmed socio-cultural transformation. The number of poor people is related to the percentage of poverty. The very small decline in the poverty percentage over the past five years is also due to the relatively large decline in the number of poor people. The problem of poverty is not simply a matter of low income; it also involves socio-cultural factors that are difficult to change. Poverty is not just a matter of limited economic access, but also socio-cultural behaviors that are difficult to transform. Low attitudes, fighting spirit, and low morale will become traps, making it difficult for people to escape the comfort zone of poverty. This requires concrete socio-cultural transformation. The data shows that the

poverty depth index in 2018 was 5.81. In 2022, the poverty depth index was 3.3. This is a relatively significant decrease of 2.51, indicating a trend away from the poverty line. However, this achievement still needs to be continuously improved to achieve gradual poverty alleviation.

Table 2. Poverty Level in Southwest Maluku Regency 2018–2022

No	Description	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	Poverty Line (Rp/Cap/Month)	441.211	468.842	521,899	535,594	586,021
2	Number of Poor Population (people)	21,98	21,49	21,37	21,74	20,36
3	Poverty Percentage (%)	30,2	29,43	29,15	29,55	27,64
4	Poverty Depth Index (P1)	5,81	5,41	5,46	5,70	3,33
5	Poverty Severity Index (P2)	1,51	1,61	1,49	1,72	0,70

Source: BPS Southwest Maluku Regency, 2023

The poverty severity index (PSI) data appears to fluctuate. It rose from 1.51 in 2018 to 1.61 in 2019, then dropped to 1.49 in 2020, then rose again to 1.72 in 2021, then dropped dramatically to 0.70. The decreasing poverty severity index in 2022 indicates a narrowing of inequality among the poor in MBD Regency. In other words, inequality among the poor is narrowing. This means there are similarities among the poor in terms of the amount or magnitude of their expenditures. Considering the relatively high poverty rate in MBD Regency, with a very small percentage decrease over five years, the number of poor remains relatively large, and the poverty line is vulnerable to crisis shocks. This requires programmed development efforts to alleviate this poverty. On the other hand, the poverty depth index has relatively improved with a tendency to move away from poverty and is balanced by the poverty severity rate which tends to decrease, indicating that it is very possible that long-term strategic regional development efforts can carry out gradual transformation to eradicate poverty.

Policy Direction for Socio-Cultural Transformation Based on Community Empowerment

It is known that the majority of the population works in the primary sectors, namely agriculture, animal husbandry, mining, and quarrying. The large percentage of the poor is naturally reflected in these sectors. Interventions targeting this largest population can contribute most strategically to poverty reduction. The productivity of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries fluctuated over the five years from 2018 to 2020, but has since declined (Nilphat et al., 2023)

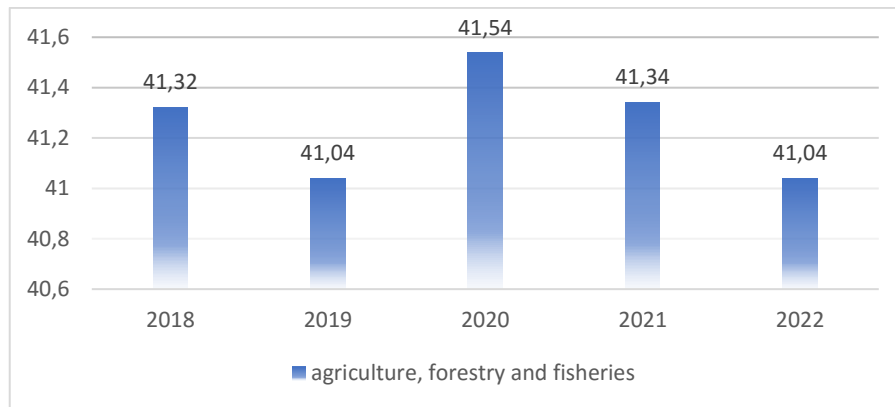


Figure 2. Productivity of the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Sector in MBD Regency, 2018-2022

Source: Compiled from Statistics Indonesia (BPS) of MBD Regency, 2023

In general, the primary sector, including agriculture and livestock, contributes the largest share. Meanwhile, productivity data classifies agriculture as belonging to the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries group. Percentage-wise, its productivity tends to be high, at over 41%. However, this data indicates production stagnation over the past five years, with even a tendency to decline, although by less than 1%. Underdeveloped and unprofessional agricultural land management is a major obstacle. Traditional planting practices and land management, coupled with a relatively limited workforce, also pose challenges. In contrast to agricultural products, livestock, in particular, has seen relative growth in production. Although data indicates an increase in livestock productivity, the community's farming and livestock-raising habits and customs contribute to suboptimal productivity and harvesting.

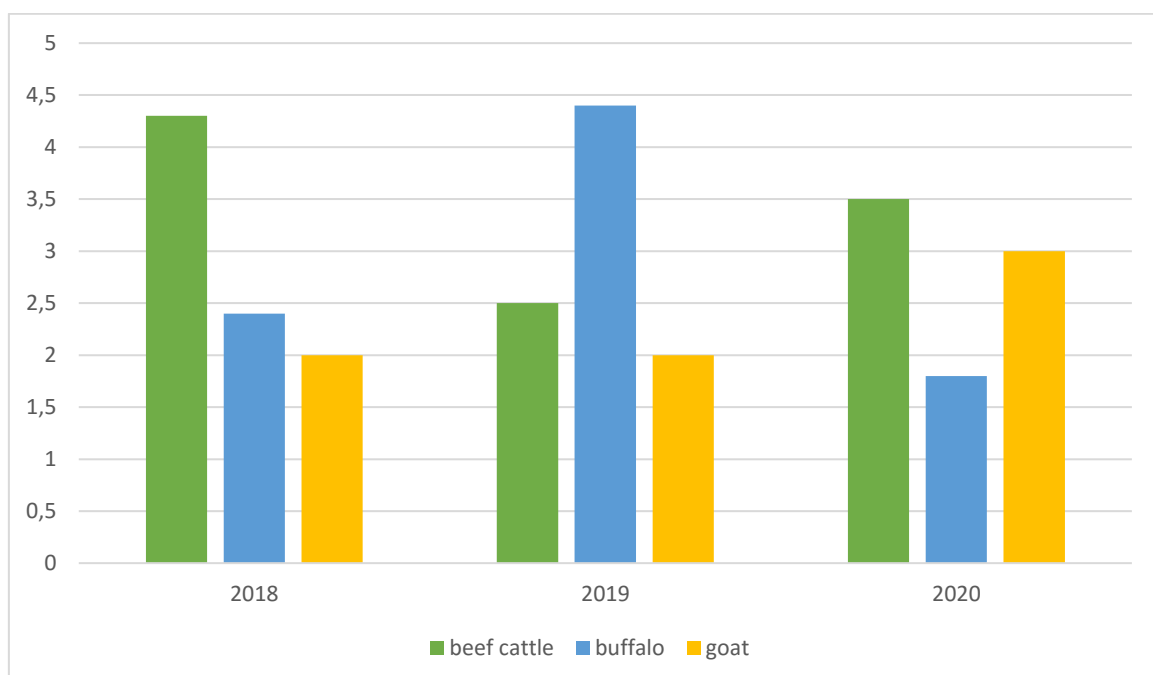


Figure 3. Livestock production in MBD Regency, 2018-2020

Source: Southwest Maluku Regency Agriculture Service, compiled in 2024

Data shows that livestock production is increasing, particularly for beef cattle and goats. Meanwhile, buffalo productivity fluctuates. The potential for this type of livestock farming is substantial and offers room for further development. The problem lies in the fact that livestock farming is still managed illegally, without adequate management and monitoring. Illegal farming carries several risks, including poor monitoring of disease outbreaks, difficulty in managing the impacts of drought, the danger of feed shortages, and limitations in the utilization of produce. Consequently, livestock productivity is suboptimal.

Judging from practices in the agricultural and livestock sectors, signs of a lack of proactivity on the part of farmers and ranchers in management and harvesting are identified. Farmers cultivate land conventionally, lacking innovation and creativity, relying on nature, following cycles and climate, without any effort to add value to the land. As a result, much vacant land remains unused. On the other hand, traditional livestock farmers, who leave their livestock to nature, demonstrate a lack of cultivation. Everything depends on nature, including the provision of feed, water, and space. Therefore, breeding and husbandry are highly dependent on the livestock's own instincts. Suboptimal agricultural and livestock management leads to suboptimal incomes, which impact poverty.

Judging from conventional agricultural and livestock practices that depend on nature, productivity is suboptimal. Therefore, this suboptimal income is caused by the traditions of farming and livestock raising that have been institutionalized for generations (Téoule, 2025)The agricultural and livestock typology, which is highly dependent on nature, has been institutionalized as a socio-cultural behavior of farmers and livestock breeders that is "resigned," not dynamic. This poses a socio-cultural problem that is not progressive. To achieve future change, transformative development is needed.

In accordance with the RPJMN (National Medium-Term Development Plan) which emphasizes changes across Indonesia towards a golden Indonesia, MBD Regency has launched a socio-cultural transformation. The agriculture and livestock sectors should transform agricultural land management and livestock management, supported by superior farmer and livestock breeder resources. The long-term development policy directions of MBD Regency related to socio-cultural transformation and relevant to community human resources in the agriculture and livestock sectors are:

Table 3. Direction of Socio-Cultural Transformation Policy

Mission	Period I 2025-2029	Period II 2030-2034	Period III 2035-2039	Period IV 2040-2045	Policy Direction
Mission 1: Realizing Social Transformation	Building a database and capacity of human resources, both ASN and community human resources	Developing superior human resource capacity through database-based education and	Strengthening the capacity of superior, competitive human resources through	Maintaining and improving the sustainability of superior, competitive human	Improving the capacity of superior human resources based on

through education and empowerment towards superior human resource transformation.	empowerment to accelerate transformation	database-based education and empowerment	resource capacity through database-based education and empowerment in realizing the sustainability of the regional vision.	science and technology
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Source: MBD Regency RPJPD Plan 2025-2045, Moa, 2023

Socio-cultural transformation in the context of agriculture and livestock in the first period of 2025-2029 is more focused on building databases and human resource capacity of farming and livestock communities through education and empowerment towards superior human resource transformation. In the second period of 2030-2034, developing superior human resource capacity in the agriculture and livestock sector through database-based education and empowerment to accelerate transformation. In the third period of 2035-2040, strengthening the capacity of superior human resources in the agriculture and livestock sector that are competitive through database-based education and empowerment. In the fourth period of 2040-2045, maintaining and improving the sustainability of superior human resource capacity in the agriculture and livestock sector that are competitive through database-based education and empowerment in realizing the sustainability of the regional vision.

The socio-cultural transformation of farming and livestock farming, supported by superior community human resources, requires targeted and programmed empowerment. Empowerment has at least three stages Ambar Teguh Sulistiyani, Kemitraan Dan Model-Model Pemberdayaan (Gava Media, 2019).awareness-raising, transformation, and independence, as a form of social engineering. The empowerment process carried out in the first stage, namely raising awareness among farmers and livestock farmers, should start from the existing condition of agriculture and livestock farming, which has a large dependence on nature and is very weak:

Food crops are seasonal and cannot be cultivated year-round. b. Limited knowledge, skills, and technology. c. Due to natural conditions and limitations, crop varieties are lacking, so farmers are less able to freely develop a variety of food and horticultural crops, resulting in a lack of diversification. d. Limited facilities and supporting resources. e. Much land remains uncultivated. f. Limited human resource capacity, both in quantity and quality. g. Low agricultural ratio.

The livestock sector also faces many limitations in existing livestock management, particularly in the management of wild livestock farms: a. Wild livestock farms lack designated boundaries, resulting in excessive animal movement, which results in suboptimal fattening. b. Livestock farms are scattered, resulting in poorly identified livestock ownership. c. Reliance on the availability of water and feed from nature. d. There are no efforts to grow feed, which would help ensure a stable feed supply. e. During the dry season, water and feed

sources dwindle, leaving livestock at risk of water and feed shortages, leading to thinning. f. If livestock owners need livestock for sale or consumption, they must search among the hundreds or thousands of livestock in the forest or fields, making this ineffective. g. There is a risk of unknown illness or death. h. There is a risk of livestock being mixed up. i. There is no updated monthly or annual data, so livestock development is uncertain.

Empowering farming and livestock communities through a process of raising awareness of the weaknesses of conventional agricultural and livestock management, which relies heavily on nature. The awareness-raising process is carried out collaboratively between the Department of Agriculture, village heads, farmer groups, and Field Extension Officers who provide intensive mentoring to produce social engineering. Socialization relates to the importance of farmer groups and livestock groups in improving their management and administration. Everything begins with a livestock database for cattle, buffalo, and goats, each with its location and growth conditions, estimated age, and calculated harvest time. This data collection requires ear-tagging of livestock to avoid disputes. Similarly, in the agricultural sector, data collection on farmer groups, planted land, and types of food crops and horticulture is necessary. This socio-cultural change is a form of social engineering.

The socio-cultural transformation of farmers and livestock breeders is carried out through several training programs, demonstration plots (demplots) or pilot projects, and field practice. Human resource empowerment for farmers and livestock breeders can actually be carried out in a single series, because essentially the personnel are relatively the same. Training needs to be carried out in an integrated manner between agriculture and livestock, by optimizing land for agriculture that supports livestock, utilizing agricultural waste for animal feed, enriching naturally available forage crops by planting productive grasses, and maintaining raw water sources for agriculture and livestock in an integrated manner. Thus, the culture and traditions of conventional agriculture and livestock gradually transition to more professional management. The integration of agriculture and livestock, which substitute each other, is a form of social engineering.

The third stage of empowerment is the development of farmer and livestock farmer independence, followed by a more organized and professional development of management and administration skills. At this stage, farmers and livestock farmers have established institutionalized systems, from livestock and crop management to marketing. The integrated social engineering model for agriculture and livestock farming encompasses mutual substitution of feed and fertilizer, monitoring livestock development and vaccination, establishing marketing institutions, and organizing periodic marketing campaigns to optimize production and improve the welfare of farmers and livestock farmers.

Socio-Cultural Welfare in Southwest Maluku Regency The welfare of farmers and livestock breeders can be achieved through socio-cultural transformation based on community empowerment, which culminates in social engineering. Community empowerment is based on data on the percentage of the working population by employment status.

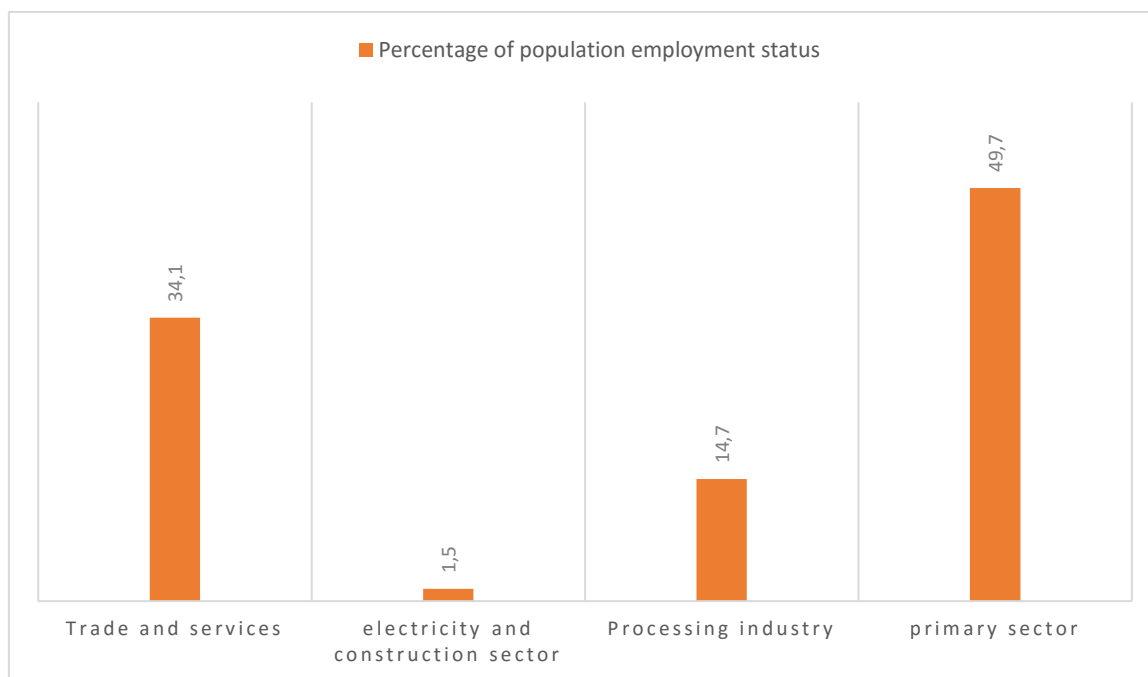


Figure 4. Percentage of the Employed Population by Employment Status in Southwest Maluku Regency and Maluku Province, 2022

Source: Southwest Maluku Regency data, processed by Statistics Indonesia (BPS), 2022

Employment in the primary sector in MBD Regency reached 49.7%, a higher figure than in other sectors. Essentially, the primary sector is essential for stimulating the economy, which benefits the wider community. This primary sector includes agriculture and livestock, which are the primary commodities of MBD Regency. In addition to food crops and horticulture, the agricultural sector also offers local commodities such as palm sugar, oranges, and cassava, which have the potential to boost public welfare. Empowerment to integrate agricultural and livestock management with socio-cultural engineering allows for investment. The suitability of land for corn production is one rationale for integration in livestock management. Corn agricultural waste is an effective livestock feed ingredient. The availability of extensive land on several islands allows for increased corn production. This ensures a more adequate supply of local feed at affordable prices. One measure of community welfare is the fulfillment of food needs. Furthermore, corn production can increase investment competitiveness.

Another investment in the agricultural sector is the processing of agricultural products, namely corn, palm sugar, and cashew nuts. The processing industry is a solution for effectively adding value to agricultural products. This also has a multiplier effect in absorbing local labor. Logically, this increases the number of people working in the primary sector. This means that the more people working, the more prosperous the community. A new form of empowerment involves engineering the agricultural product chain into the world of trade, industry, and tourism. This can generate unique competitiveness. Investment in livestock farming is a form of social engineering that can generate subsistence businesses on one side and complementary businesses on the other. There is an unbroken chain when the two are juxtaposed and collaborated. Farmers are empowered to cultivate crops by

providing animal feed supplies, and livestock farmers by providing organic fertilizer. It is hoped that agricultural and livestock yields will be optimized, thereby improving the welfare of both farmers and livestock farmers. Empowerment serves as an educational tool for successful socio-cultural transformation in agriculture and livestock farming, resulting in social engineering of wild livestock farming facilitated by feed products, water resources, and livestock health, synergistically optimizing food agriculture. One of the livestock varieties in the form of buffalo in Leti, Moa and Lakor remains a cultural symbol with transformation and social engineering.

CONCLUSION

Socio-cultural transformation in the agriculture and livestock sectors is crucial for optimizing production and achieving community welfare. MBD Regency has a socio-cultural transformation policy direction in line with its mission, which emphasizes the importance of databases, education, and empowerment of community human resources to achieve superior and competitive human resources. To realize this policy direction, empowerment is required, encompassing awareness, transformation, and independence for farmers and livestock breeders. Social engineering can be realized by integrating subsistence and complementary agricultural and livestock systems.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENT

AT, contributed to the introduction, literature review, research methods, findings and discussion, AE, contributed to the writing of the findings, the discussion and the conclusion. NA, contributed to the writing of the introduction and the literature review. NS, contributed to the writing and development of the article. KH, contributed to the development of the text and the conclusion.

AI USAGE STATEMENT

The author declares that the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in the preparation of this work was limited solely to assisting with language editing, grammar checking, and improving the clarity and readability of the text. AI was not used to generate main ideas, conduct analysis, interpret data, or draw scientific conclusions. The author bears full responsibility for the originality, accuracy, and academic integrity of the entire content of this article. AI is not listed as an author or contributor to this work.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest with any party in relation to the research process.

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