

A Content Analysis of Communication in Agrarian Conflict Resolution between the Indramayu Farmers' Union and Perum Perhutani

<http://dx.doi.org/10.25008/jkiski.v8i2.904>

**Ballian Siregar^{1*}, Sumardjo²,
Sarwititi Sarwoprasodjo², Ninuk Purnaningsih²**

¹Universitas Esa Unggul

Jl. Arjuna Utara No. 9, Kebon Jeruk, Jakarta 11510 - Indonesia

²IPB University

Jl. Raya Dramaga, Babakan, Bogor 16680 - Indonesia

*Correspondent author: ballian@esaunggul.ac.id

Submitted: October 21, 2023, **Revised:** November 19, 2023, **Accepted:** December 21, 2023

Accredited by Kemristekdikti No. 28/E/KPT/2019

Abstract

Agrarian conflicts in Indramayu between the Indramayu Farmers' Union (STI) and Perum Perhutani are complex issues that involve various parties and different interests related to agricultural land. This research aims to analyze conflict resolution using a communication approach. This study employs a constructive paradigm with a qualitative content analysis method. The research highlights critical strategies, including accurate understanding and effective information dissemination. An in-depth understanding of ownership rights, laws, and regulations is necessary for all parties. Information dissemination through various communication channels, such as open meetings, workshops, and social media, helps reduce misunderstandings and improve transparency. They were second, creating a space for dialogue and active participation of involved parties. Dialogue spaces allow parties to speak openly, listen to perspectives, and seek solutions by involving STI, Perum Perhutani, the government, law enforcement agencies, NGOs, academics, and the community. The creation of dialogue spaces should be inclusive. Furthermore, negotiation and mediation approaches help reach a middle ground. Negotiation allows parties to discuss differences and find mutually beneficial agreements. Mediation, involving a neutral third party, facilitates dialogue and finds solutions acceptable to all parties. This approach focuses on collaboration for sustainable resolution. Finally, a holistic approach involves legal clarification, community empowerment, livelihood diversification, and improved communication. Conflict resolution considers social, cultural, and economic aspects. A combination of conflict resolution strategies can address agrarian conflicts in Indramayu, leading to harmonious agricultural land management and promoting the parties' well-being.

Keywords: Agrarian conflict; inclusive dialogue; mediation; negotiation; participatory communication

Introduction

Agrarian conflicts are complex issues that often involve various parties with different interests in agricultural land utilization (Rachman, 2013; Zuber, 2016). One example of

agrarian land conflict occurred between the Indramayu Farmers' Union (STI) and Perhutani Public Company in Indramayu Regency, West Java, which is from now on referred to as the agrarian conflict. The agrarian conflict involves

conflicting management of agricultural land claimed by STI and the authority held by Perum Perhutani. Agrarian conflict resolution is essential to maintain agricultural sustainability and justice for farming communities (Tarigan & Karuniasa, 2021).

An agrarian land is a resource that can be managed and used to fulfill human life and welfare. However, it could be running better because it is disturbed by social problems, including agrarian conflict such as mutual claims to land ownership, exclusion, and access. This situation is not only detrimental to farmers who use lands as their primary source of livelihood but also inhibits stakeholders from maximizing land management. Natural resources (land) will become increasingly scarce as a result of public demand exceeding available objects due to the rate of population growth. Putnam (2013), citing the studies of Mortensen (1974) and Hocker & Wilmot (1978), explained that the distribution and availability of agrarian land resources an essential means of development an human life became unbalanced. Such conditions have the potential to trigger tensions and clashes (social conflicts) as a result of claim to ownership and use of agrarian land.

Presidential Regulation No.86/2018 on agrarian reform was born to realize justice in the control, ownership, use, and utilization of land, territory, and natural resources. The background of this problems is the reason why agrarian conflicts, especially the STI – Perum Perhutani agrarian conflict, need to be studied from the perspective of development communication which gave birth to agrarian conflict resolution communication as an effort to make people's lives better according to the long-term goals of development communication, namely improving the quality of life, income, welfare, eradicating injustice, land reform, association, and political participation (Melkote, 1991).

Referring to the background of the problem above, this research is formulated as follows: "What is the role of communication in the agrarian conflict resolution process between STI and Perum Perhutani?" The purpose of this research is to identify the communication strategies used by the two conflicting parties, analyse the effectiveness of communication in overcome differences, and evaluate the impact of effective communication on the final outcome of agrarian conflict resolution.

Theoretical Framework

There are several studies related to agrarian conflicts and their resolution. However, only some focus on communication aspects in the context of agrarian conflicts, such as the one between STI and Perum Perhutani. Some previous studies have discussed the importance of effective communication in easing tension and achieving sustainable solution in agrarian conflict. Sholahudin (2017) research with the title *Legal Sociology Approach in Understanding Agrarian Conflict* found that agrarian issues are not a matter of positive law. However, substantial issues are complex issues related to other social issues such as law, economy, and culture.

Adiansah, *et al.* (2019) examined conflict resolution in Genteng Village, Sukasari District, Sumedang Regency, West of Java. The solution offered in handling conflicts in this village is through a new consensus in the community by allowing farmers to carry out agricultural activities on forestry land but with certain types of plants, namely coffee plants.

Although previous research and this research have similar topics, there are differences in the research focus. This research will analyze more deeply the role of communication (content analysis) through messages in the process of resolving agrarian conflict between STI and Perum Perhutani, namely about the communication strategies used by the two conflicting parties, analyzing the effectiveness of communication in overcoming differences and evaluating the impact of effective communication on the outcome of agrarian conflict resolution.

The focus of analysis on the communication aspect of this study provides a richer perspective in understanding the dynamics and factors that influence the outcome of agrarian conflict resolution. This research is expected to contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of communication in agrarian conflict resolution, as well as provide insights for relevant parties in dealing with similar conflicts in the future.

Material and Methodology

This research uses a qualitative approach with content analysis (qualitative). The aim was to explore and analyze the communication phenomenon is resolving the agrarian conflict between STI – Perum Perhutani as part of conflict resolution effort and how the STI

narrative was constructed in the communication process.

Sudira (2017) explained that conflict resolution considers changes, forms, and conflict patterns and offers solutions. The collected data were processed and analyzed using NVivo 12 Pro qualitative research software to identify the communication process, the convergence of understanding, and narratives in achieving conflict resolution. The Results of the analysis illustrate how communication played a role in resolving this agrarian conflict and how the STI narrative influenced the process.

Result and Discussion

Overview of the Conflict in Indramayu

The agrarian conflict between the Indramayu Farmers Union (*Serikat Tani Indramayu/STI*), a group of farmers in Indramayu, West Java, and Perum Perhutani Indramayu, a state-owned company responsible for managing forests and land, presents a complex phenomenon stemming from various factors. Conflicts often arise due to differences in interests, access, land management, and natural resource utilization in agricultural or rural areas. In this case, the agrarian conflict emerged between the STI farmer group and Perum Perhutani over land usage and ownership (Iryana & Lubis, 2018).

The sources of the agrarian conflict between STI and Perum Perhutani include land ownership claims, where differences in perspectives and interests regarding land claims and land use as a source of income exist. STI desires greater access to the land managed by Perum Perhutani for their agricultural endeavours, while Perum Perhutani has interests in managing the forest and land. Land ownership and access issues have become the triggers of this conflict. STI member farmer feel they have traditional rights or claims to the land they have cultivated for years. In contrast, Perhutani claims official ownership of the land based on the history of forest management in Java and Madura, dating back to the issuance of "Bosreglement" and "Dienst Reglement" in 1897, which established forestry office organization rules (Perhutani, 1987).

Differences in approaches and practices in natural resource management, including forests and land, can be a source of tension. Farmers have different views on how these resources should be managed compared to the

policies or practices implemented by Perum Perhutani. This condition provides the background for agrarian conflicts in the Gantar District, Kroya District, Terisi District, and Cikedung District of Indramayu Regency, West Java, which are the subjects of this research. This conflict involves the STI and Perum Perhutani, particularly Division Regional (Divre) III West Java and Banten.

In this context, researchers suspect there are efforts at convergent communication, where the narratives expressed aim to achieve consensus or mutual agreement. The results of these efforts are manifested in the form of collective actions, such as an implementation of conflict resolution, such as the joint management of intercropped land with the eucalyptus trees and rice crops by Perhutani and local farmers, while land with crops of similar types, like rice, is managed by the farmers. "If it's intercropped, like eucalyptus and rice, it's still considered conflict land. But if it's land with crops of the same type, like rice, it's entirely managed by the farmers," says Mujahid, Chairman of STI for the 2017-2020 term.

The conflict between STI and Perhutani, which was the subject of the research, involves 15,000 hectares of agrarian land conflict spread across various villages in Indramayu Regency. Other agrarian conflicts in Indramayu occur between communities and the sugar company PT PG (Pabrik Gula) Rajawali II, between STI and PT PG Rajawali II, and between Pesantren Al Zaitun with the local community in the southwest of Indramayu, related to land ownership claims. The distribution of conflicts can be seen in Figure 1.

Differences in land ownership and agricultural land management typically cause agrarian conflicts. Factors such as conflicting ownership claims, land tenure ambiguities, conflicts between small-scale farmers and large corporations, land conversion for economic or industrial development, and changes in land use detrimental to local communities can trigger agrarian conflicts (Purwanto & Nasution, 2022). Additionally, limited access to information, knowledge about land rights, and participation in decision-making processes can contribute to tension among the parties involved.

The agrarian conflict between the Indramayu Farmers Union and Perum Perhutani reflects the complexity of issues

involving land claims and diverse interests. In order to achieve a resolution to this agrarian conflict, it is essential to identify the underlying root causes and formulate holistic and

sustainable solutions. Based on field findings, the root problems in this conflict are explained in Table 1.

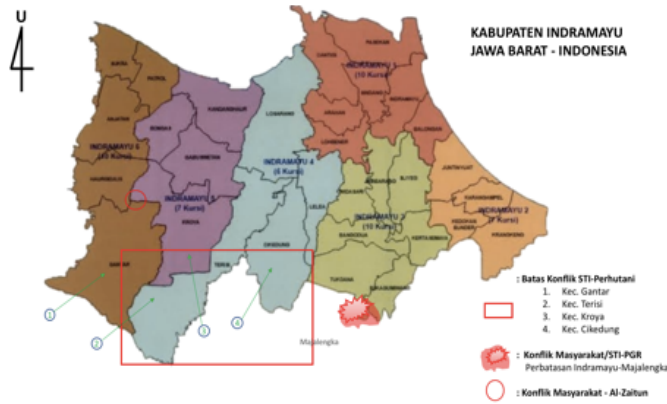


Figure 1. The Distribution of Agrarian Conflicts in Indramayu Regency, West Java
Source: Researcher (2023)

Table 1. Root Problems of the Agrarian Conflict between STI - Perhutani

No.	Root Problems and Issues	Suggested Solutions
1	Legal Ambiguity and Land Claims	Enhance legal ownership clarification and access rights to the land.
2	Unequal Access and Power	Increase community participation in decision-making regarding land use.
3	Economic Dependence	Diversify the livelihoods of the community to reduce economic dependence on conflict land.
4	Lack of Dialogue and Communication	Improve open communication processes between STI and Perum Perhutani through constructive dialogues.

Source: Researcher (2023)

Based on Table 1, the agrarian conflict originates from the ambiguity within the legal system regarding land ownership and claims in dispute. Appropriate clarification regarding land ownership rights and access creates a dispute gap. Conflicts arise due to disagreements over land rights boundaries between STI and Perum Perhutani, which can escalate tensions. The proposed solution is to enhance legal clarity regarding land ownership and access rights.

Furthermore, there is an issue of unequal access and power, involving disparities in access to natural resources and decision-making authority between STI and Perum Perhutani, which is another root problem. STI farmers perceive unequal access to natural resources and decisions affecting land use. This inequality can lead to dissatisfaction and resistance. The proposed resolution is to increase the community’s participation in expressing their feelings and thoughts in efforts

to make decisions on collective land use through sustainable collective actions.

Agrarian conflicts are also tied to the economic dependence of the community, particularly STI member farmers, on the agricultural produce from the disputed land. Uncertainty about land access and use can threaten the farmers' economic sustainability. This economic dimension significantly contributes to the conflict. The proposed solution is to diversify the community's livelihoods to reduce economic dependency on the disputed land, as the land serves as a means of production and income source. Communication studies offer a perspective where dialogue between conflicting parties is essential. One of the root issues is the need for more effective dialogue and open communication between STI and Perum Perhutani. The inability to communicate constructively about each party's interests and concerns hinders the achievement of mutually acceptable solutions. Limited participatory

communication obstructs deep understanding and sustainable resolutions. The proposed solution is to enhance open communication through constructive, participatory dialogues between both parties.

Mediation involving formal institutions such as the Indramayu Regency Police, Indramayu Regency Government, and the Indramayu Regency Legislatives Council (DPRD) failed to foster a dialogic communication atmosphere because both STI and Perhutani remained steadfast in their land ownership claims. Perhutani operated under the premise of forest management assigned by the state. At the same time, farmers stuck to the principle of agrarian reform, advocating land distribution to farmers since, historically, the land was distributed to the community and not granted as concessions to Perhutani.

The data in Table 1 above is confirmed in data analysis using NVivo 12 Pro, with communication playing a crucial role in conflict resolution, as recorded in field findings analyzed using NVivo 12 Pro software. The confirmed data within the NVivo mind map illustrates that communication is one of the

critical aspects influencing conflict dynamics and its resolution process.

The importance of communication in conflict resolution lies in its ability to connect involved parties, facilitate information exchange, and enable them to seek standard solutions. In this context, effective communication can help alleviate tension, improve understanding among parties, and identify areas of agreement. Thus, effective communication makes conflict resolution more likely achievable.

Furthermore, through the analysis of field findings presented in the confirmed table in NVivo 12 Pro, various successful communication strategies used in conflict resolution can be observed. These include diplomatic approaches, negotiation, open dialogue, and mediation approaches. A deep understanding of how communication influences conflict resolution is a key to designing effective strategies for handling conflicts in various contexts, whether in interpersonal relationships or organizational conflicts.

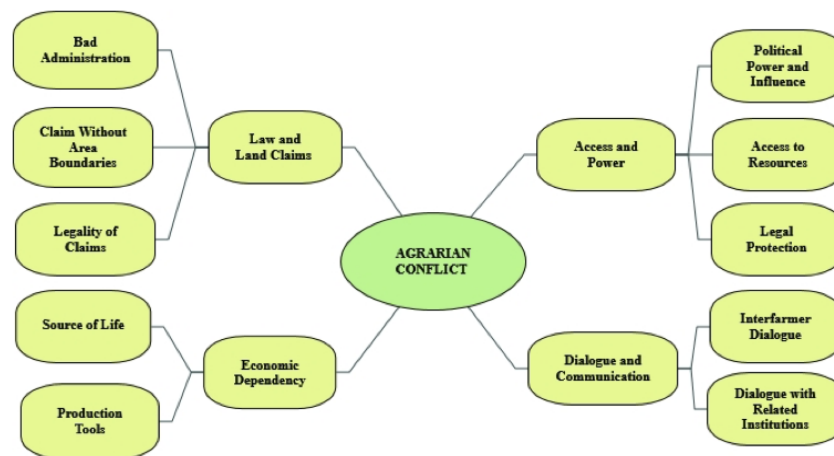


Figure 2. The root of the agrarian conflict problem is confirmed in the NVivo 12 Pro
Source: Researcher (2023)

In the mind map, all relevant stakeholders are reflected to be engaged in the dialectics of conflict communication. The related stakeholders include STI, Agrarian Renewal Consortium, students, Indramayu Regency Government, tenant farmers, as well as NGOs. Conflict Resolution Communication Agrarian conflict refers to disputes arising from issues of land ownership claims and natural

resource conflicts in agricultural or rural areas. Such conflicts may emerge due to competition among landowners, farmers, developers, government entities, and local communities with different interests regarding land use and natural resource allocation.

In this context, the role of communication significantly impacts the dynamics, escalation, and resolution of agrarian

conflicts. The role of communication in agrarian conflict resolution is explained in Table 2.

Table 2. The role of communication in agrarian conflict resolution

No.	Communication Role	Explanation
1	Understanding and Information Dissemination	Effective communication allows mutual understanding of issues in conflict. Accurate information reduces misunderstandings.
2	Creating a Space for Dialogue	Communication opens pathways for discussion, helps find common ground, and formulates solutions together.
3	Negotiation and Mediation	Communication forms the basis for negotiation and mediation processes, avoiding confrontational actions and seeking solutions.
4	Community Empowerment	Open communication enables community participation in decisions, increasing support and ownership.
5	Alleviating Conflict	Wise communication eases tensions, acknowledges the feelings of others, and paves the way for solutions.
6	Conflict Escalation Prevention	Inadequate communication exacerbates conflict. Harsh language or accusations trigger defensive reactions and gaps.
7	Introducing New Perspectives	Communication opens new understandings, helps break deadlocks, and explores alternative solutions.
8	Addressing Distrust	Consistent and transparent communication addresses distrust, builds cooperation through honest information.

Source: Researcher (2023)

Humans, as social beings, are inevitably intertwined with the vital role of communication in daily life. Communication allows individuals to convey their thoughts to achieve their motives and communication goals, as well as facilitates the exchange of ideas among humans. According to Anying dan Gausset (2017), communication plays an essential role as a mechanism of resolution. Vulnerabilities in conflict contexts often arise due to a lack of attention or disregard for existing communication patterns. Adequate communication must have channels in conflict resolution efforts to prevent the conflict from escalating into a social conflict (Katz et al., 2020). Similarly, Muldi *et al.* (2019) refer to Kapelus *et al.* (2011) to emphasize the urgency of communication in preventing conflict escalation or expansion, both at the outset of potential conflict and when conflict occurs. Without communication, achieving peace among conflicting parties is challenging (Eisenkopf, 2018). Communication, involving issue formation, perception arrangement, emotion expression, signaling conflict resolution intentions, and information exchange, is essential (Solihin, 2018).

The definition and implementation of development communication vary, depending on the background of the individuals or groups

involved. In the view of Servaes (Lie & Servaes, 2015), development communication has different interpretations and applications among various organizations, from theoretical perspectives to research, policy implementation, and planning. Waisbord (2019) explains that the understanding and application of development communication are explored within theoretical and paradigmatic frameworks, both modern and participatory. In the context of the participatory approach used in this research, attention to cultural diversity and specific contexts becomes crucial, as well as recognition of the significance of local wisdom and the interaction between local culture and new ideas. Waisbord (2019) asserts that communication is more meaningful as a process to create and advance understanding, as a basis for development, rather than merely transmitting information as reflected in the modern paradigm. The participatory approach leads to the encouragement of individuals to adopt new things, not by coercion, but by promoting participation in the implementation of new ideas or innovations (Muldi et al., 2019).

The long-term goal of development communication is to improve the quality of life, income, welfare, eliminate injustice, land reform, participation in political life, and collective efforts (Isnaini et al. 2019). The role

of communication in conflict management prevents conflicts from escalating into damaging violence. The contribution of communication to transforming conflicts and building peace is significant. Muldi *et al.* (2019) research demonstrates the urgency of communication in addressing conflicts related to the utilization of coastal resources in North Coast Beach, Serang Regency, Banten. The ineffectiveness of communication between the government and companies in managing conflict, which did not involve the conflicting parties in the resolution process, led to the coastal community's negative view of offshore sand mining.

As a result, demonstrations, anarchism, intergroup conflicts, and human rights violations emerged as forms of advocacy. It must be acknowledged that conflict, according to Viso (2014), is an essential element in human social relations, and for some, it serves as a driver and opportunity for social change. For the development of social change, interactions that allow the exchange of information or ideas, as illustrated by Fahrimal dan Safpuriyadi (2018) citing Carvahlo and Judy (2014), are crucial. Information exchange is considered vital in communication, involving individuals and groups that ultimately receive feedback. Viso (2014b) views peace communication as a bridge to social transformation, peace, and conflict resolution. Development cannot be achieved without peace, and sustainable peace is difficult to attain without development. Therefore, development communication and social change, as resolutions, must be based on communication that reflects peace and conflict transformation. Social change requires elements of trust, a balance of information flow, and recognition of local wisdom reflected in cultural communities.

Implementation of Communication in Agrarian Conflict Resolution

As outlined above, communication is crucial in resolving the complex agrarian conflicts in the Indramayu Regency. In this section, the researcher will analyze Communication in Agrarian Conflict Resolution. The communication approach is the primary foundation for alleviating tensions, building shared understanding, and achieving sustainable solutions. Accurate understanding and effective information dissemination are critical initial steps. Disseminating information

about land ownership rights, laws, and regulations to all parties helps reduce misunderstandings and increase transparency.

Furthermore, the creation of inclusive dialogue spaces is crucial to conflict resolution. Dialogue spaces allow conflicting parties to speak openly, listen to each other's perspectives, and find shared solutions. In this implementation, negotiation and mediation approaches are crucial in reaching a mutually beneficial middle ground. A holistic approach that includes legal clarification, community empowerment, livelihood diversification, and enhanced communication is also essential in resolving agrarian conflicts in Indramayu. By integrating these strategies, implementing communication can bring peace, harmony, and prosperity to all parties involved in agrarian conflicts in Indramayu Regency.

Understanding and Information Dissemination

The agrarian conflict in Indramayu, West Java, is a real-life example of the complexity of land ownership and use issues between the Indramayu Farmers Union (STI) and the State-owned Company Perhutani. In resolving such conflicts, accurate understanding and effective information dissemination are crucial in reducing tensions, building trust, and achieving sustainable agreements. Based on in-depth interviews with Mujahid, one of the informants, it was found that STI member farmers have tried to understand and disseminate information to address agrarian conflicts. One of these efforts is the explanation that state land would be better managed by the people rather than Perhutani, as implementation of Article 33, poin 3 of the 1945 Constitution of Indonesia. Perhutani maintains that the land claimed by the farmer community is Perhutani's asset. According to the informant, an accurate understanding of land ownership rights and access is crucial foundation for resolving disputes. Ambiguities in the legal system governing land claims often become the root cause of agrarian conflicts. In the context of the Indramayu case, a deep understanding of legal regulation and land ownership is vital to eliminating misunderstandings and clarifying claims. Involved parties, including STI and Perhutani, must have a deep understanding of rights, obligation, and applicable regulation.

Furthermore, effective information dissemination to all involved parties in the conflict is a strategic step in addressing

uncertainty and evoding misunderstandings. Communication media such as open meetings, workshops, and social media can convey accurate and comprehensive information. This information dissemination should involve representation from all conflicting parties, ensuring that all perspectives and claim can be heard. In this context, the role of local government, non-government organization, and academics in educating the community about legal aspects and regulations becomes crucial.

Considering the cultural and social diversity of the Indramayu community, a participatory approach to information dissemination can help avoid further conflict. Actively involving the community in discussions and decision-making ensures that all parties receive information in a context-appropriate and acceptable manner. Especially in agrarian societies like in Indramayu, where local and traditional values have a significant impact, an approach that respects and considers the cultural heritage of the community will strengthen the legitimacy of the information conveyed. Indramayu's culture itself is a blend of various ethnicities, such as Sundanese, Javanese, Arab, and others (Ramdhani, 2018).

It is essential to evaluate the effectiveness of information dissemination in reducing tension and building shared understanding. The involvement of a neutral third party or mediator can assist in this process, avoiding bias and enhancing trust among conflicting parties. Additionally, based on previous experience and research, sustained efforts in information dissemination can also include the use of local mass media to continuously educate and inform the broader community about conflict resolution developments (Biwot & Mberia, 2019).

In agrarian conflict resolution, accurate understanding and effective information

dissemination have a significant impact on reducing tension, building trust, and achieving sustainable resolutions. Through participatory, transparent, and sustainable approaches to information dissemination, the opportunity to achieve peace in the context of agrarian conflicts can be enhanced (Apriyana et al., 2021).

Dialogue Space

The agrarian conflict in Indramayu is tangible proof of the complexity of land and natural resource issues that can create tensions among various parties. To resolve this conflict, creating a dialogue space becomes a crucial strategy to achieve mutual understanding, minimize tensions, and seek solutions acceptable to all parties involved. Field information indicates that the agrarian conflict in Indramayu began due to the ambiguity in the legal system and competing land claims. The needs for more adequate clarification of land ownership and access has created room for disuptess. In this regard, creating a dialogue space allows conflicting, parties to discuss land ownership, boundaries, and access rights. These dialogue meetings serve as a platform for farmers from the Indramayu Farmers Union (STI) and representatives from the State Forestry Corporation (Perum Perhutani) to express their views and interests.

STI farmers feel they have unequal access to natural resources and land use decisions. The dialogue space enables the parties to listen to each other and acknowledge difference in access and power. Consequently, a deeper understanding of each other's perspectives can be established, reducing dissatisfaction and promoting collaborative solution. Therefore, dialogues are held among the involved parties, as illustrated in Figure 3.



Figure 3. Dialogue Activities Conducted by STI and Tenant Farmers
Source: STI documentation(2023)

The creation of a dialogue space also encompasses an understanding of economic interdependence. This conflict is linked to the economic dependence of the community, especially STI farmers, on the agricultural output from the disputed land. The dialogue space allows involved parties to openly discuss the economic impact of the conflict and the potential losses that may occur if the issue remains unresolved. Mutual understanding of the urgency of resolving the conflict for livelihood sustainability is the basis for formulating sustainable solution.

Establishing a dialogue space is crucial and should involve various relevant parties, including representatives from STI farmers, Perum Perhutani, local governments, and the broader community. Dialogue meetings can create an inclusive framework for accommodating diverse perspectives and interests. Open and fair discussions ensure mutual understanding of the issues and proposed solutions.

Creating a dialogue space is pivotal in achieving mutual understanding and sustainable resolution in agrarian conflicts. Through dialogues, involved parties can address the underlying issues, overcome differences in opinions, and seek solutions beneficial to all parties (Morales-Munõz et al., 2021). Creating a dialogue space involves active listening, building trust, resolving misunderstandings, and designing follow-up plans. With this approach, agrarian conflicts can be peacefully and sustainably resolved, creating an environment conducive to agricultural sustainability and community welfare (Susanti & Maryudi, 2016).

Agrarian conflicts are complex issues involving land and natural resource problems that can generate tensions among various parties. In resolving these conflicts, creating a dialogue space becomes crucial to achieve mutual understanding, minimize tensions, and seek solution acceptable to all parties involved (Dhiaulhaq et al., 2018).

The agrarian conflict in Indramayu began due to the ambiguity in the legal system and competing land claims. The need for more adequate clarification of land ownership, boundaries, and access rights. These dialogue meetings serve as a platform for farmers from the Indramayu Farmers Union (STI) and

representatives from Perhutani to express their views and interests. Agrarian conflicts also require an understanding of differences in resource access and power distribution among involved parties.

STI farmers may need equal access to natural resources and land use decisions. The dialogue space enables these parties to listen to each other and acknowledge differences in access and power. Consequently, a deeper understanding of each other's perspectives can be established, reducing dissatisfaction and promoting collaborative solution (Dhiaulhaq et al., 2018). In the agrarian conflict in Indramayu, creating a dialogue space also involves understanding economic interdependence.

This conflict is linked to the economic dependence of the community, especially STI farmers, on the agricultural output from the disputed land. The space for dialogue enables the concerned parties to openly engage in discuss regarding the economic repercussions of the conflict and potential losses that may ensue if the issue remains unresolved. A shared comprehension of the critical need to address the conflict promptly for the sustainability of livelihoods forms the foundation for crafting enduring solutions.

Negotiation and Mediation

The resolution of agrarian conflicts in Indramayu involves various approaches, including negotiation and mediation, as efforts to ease tension and achieve mutually beneficial solutions for all parties involved. Based on the provided data let us explain how these two approaches can be applied in the context of agrarian conflicts in Indramayu. Negotiation is a bargaining process between conflicting parties to reach mutually beneficial agreements. In the context of agrarian conflicts in Indramayu, negotiation can be interpreted as the efforts of both parties, the Indramayu Farmers Union (STI) and Perum Perhutani, to reach a middle ground in the land ownership and management debate. Both parties can openly discuss and consider each other's interests and concerns. They can identify common areas and potential agreements through the negotiation process, such as land boundary re-mapping or joint management.

Effective negotiation allows them to reach mutually acceptable solutions and avoid

conflict escalation. Mediation is an approach that involves a neutral third party to facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties. In the case of agrarian conflict in Indramayu, a mediator can act as an intermediary between STI and Perum Perhutani. The mediator helps open more constructive communication channels, facilitates the exchange of views, and assists parties in finding solutions that meet common interests. Mediation creates a safe space where all parties can speak without fear of prolonged arguments. Mediators can also help identify core issue and find compromise points that make both parties feel heard and valued. Both negotiation and mediation are highly relevant in agrarian conflict resolution. Negotiation enables the involved parties to interact directly and discuss their differences, while mediation provides oversight from a neutral third party, facilitating more effective communication. Both approaches aim to achieve agreements that consider the interests of all parties, minimize tension, and prevent potential harm to the surrounding community (Nugroho & Kav, 2018).

Negotiation and mediation involve structured processes, agreement on rules of engagement, and a strong desire from the conflicting parties to reach solutions (Leeuwis, 2013). This process may also include re-mapping ambiguous land boundaries, fair agricultural yield distribution, or even partnerships in land and resource management (Granovsky-Larsen, 2013). Thus, negotiation and mediation are practical tools in addressing agrarian conflicts in Indramayu, ultimately creating harmonious relationships among farmers, company stakeholders, and the government (Wahyuni & Susilo, 2023).

Conflict Mitigation

The next steps the Indramayu Farmers Union (STI) and Perum Perhutani take in this effort include building an inclusive and open communication platform where both parties can openly discuss existing issues. Data indicates that the lack of effective dialogue is one of the primary root problems. By encouraging more open communication, it is hoped that all parties can understand each other's views and interests and have the opportunity to express their concerns. Through more effective communication, the involved parties can seek joint solutions that meet the interests of all parties. In addressing legal ambiguities and

land claims, communication can focus on clear legal clarification of land ownership and access rights. Thus, data shows that legal ambiguity is the source of conflict, and communication-based solutions will help address this issue. Furthermore, communication can also address inequalities in access and power between STI and Perhutani.

Through open dialogue, STI can convey their interests and needs for equal access to natural resources. At the same time, Perhutani can explain their policies and considerations. Thus, solutions that consider the interests of all parties can be found. In facing economic dependence, effective communication can help address the perceived uncertainties of STI farmers. Through communication, Perhutani can provide transparent information about land use and ensure that the economic sustainability of farmers is considered in the policies adopted. These steps align with the principles of development communication discussed in the data. Transparent, inclusive, and culturally respectful communication will help build trust among all involved parties. Additionally, through communication, all parties can participate in decision-making processes and plan joint solutions (Waisbord, 2019).

Communication serves as a tool to ease tensions and achieve solutions and as a foundation for building sustainable peace and conflict transformation. Drawing lessons from the existing data, involving all parties in open dialogue, clarifying information, and creating inclusive solutions, the hope for sustainable conflict resolution and peace amid agrarian conflict between STI and Perhutani in Indramayu can be realized.

Introducing New Perspectives

The resolution of agrarian conflicts between the Indramayu Farmers Union and Perum Perhutani in Indramayu Regency, West Java. To respond to this challenge, a new and holistic approach is needed to address the underlying issues that fuel the conflict and promote sustainable peace. Conventional approaches to agrarian conflict resolution often focus solely on legal and regulatory aspects without considering the complexity of social and cultural dynamics. However, introducing new perspectives in resolving agrarian conflict in Indramayu includes several elements from existing data. It is in line with resolving

conflicts at their roots that it is essential to understand that legal ambiguity and land claims often serve as the root issues. Conflicts begin when there is a misunderstanding or disagreement regarding land ownership and access rights. Therefore, the new perspective should prioritize legal clarification and harmonization, providing all parties with clear rights. This will pave the way for sustainable conflict resolution (Hrabrin, 2016).

Furthermore, it is crucial to understand that differences in access and power are significant sources of conflict. In the context of the conflict between STI and Perum Perhutani, differences in access to natural resources and decision-making serve as catalysts for conflict. The new perspective should encourage the empowerment of farmers by ensuring fair and equal access to resources and integrating them into land management decision-making process (Hrabrin, 2016).

The introduction of the new perspective should address the community's economic dependence on the disputed land. In many cases, agrarian land is farmers' primary livelihood source. If access to land is unclear, it can threaten their economic sustainability. In this context, diversification of livelihoods needs to be part of the solution. The new approach should embrace education and training programs to help farmers adapt to changes and create sustainable alternative livelihoods. The new perspective should also pursue improved communication and open dialogue among all parties involved. Lack of effective communication is a significant barrier to conflict resolution. Therefore, the new approach should encourage the establishment of sustainable dialogue mechanisms, such as community forums or working groups, where conflicting parties can openly discuss issues and seek joint solutions (Jaggi et al., 2015).

Introducing a new perspective in resolving agrarian conflict incorporates vital elements such as legal clarification, community empowerment, livelihood diversification, and improved communication. This approach views agrarian conflict as a challenge requiring a holistic approach that accommodates various social, cultural, and economic dimensions. By integrating these strategies, there may be opportunities to end agrarian conflicts and achieve peace and prosperity for all parties involved (Zakie, 2017).

Conclusions

The resolution of agrarian conflicts in Indramayu, based on a communication approach, can be summarized as follows: Accurate understanding and effective information dissemination are considered crucial initial steps. In this context, it is essential to ensure that all involved parties deeply understand property rights, laws, and regulations. The dissemination of information through various communication channels, including open meetings, workshops, and social media, can help address misunderstandings and enhance transparency.

Creating a dialogue space and active participation of all parties is essential in addressing the conflict. Dialogue spaces provide a platform where conflicting parties can speak openly, listen to each other's perspectives, and seek joint solutions. This involves STI and Perum Perhutani, local governments, academics, and the wider community. Creating a dialogue space should ensure equitable and inclusive participation, enabling sustainable solutions to be found.

Furthermore, negotiation and mediation approaches can help reach a middle ground among the conflicting parties. Negotiation allows both parties to discuss their differences directly and find mutually beneficial agreements. Mediation, with the assistance of a neutral third party, facilitates dialogue and helps find mutually acceptable solutions (convergence). These approaches focus on collaboration and compromise to achieve sustainable resolutions.

Finally, introducing a new perspective in resolving agrarian conflict in Indramayu involves elements such as legal clarification, community empowerment, livelihood diversification, and enhanced communication. This approach recognizes that the solution should address legal issues and consider the social, cultural, and economic aspects of agrarian conflicts. Introducing a new perspective offers hope for creating peace and prosperity for all parties involved in the conflict.

References

- Adiansah, W., Apsari, N. C., & Raharjo, S. T. (2019). Resolusi Konflik Agraria Di Desa Genteng Kecamatan Sukasari Kabupaten Sumedang. *Jurnal Kolaborasi Resolusi Konflik*, 1(1), 1-10.

- <https://doi.org/10.24198/jkrk.v1i1.20887>
- Anying, I. W., & Gausset, Q. (2017). Gender and forum shopping in land conflict resolution in Northern Uganda. *Journal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law*, 49(3), 353–372. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07329113.2017.1383023>
- Apriyana, Y., Surmaini, E., Estiningtyas, W., Pramudia, A., Ramadhani, F., Suciantini, S., Susanti, E., Purnamayani, R., & Syahbuddin, H. (2021). The integrated cropping calendar information system: A coping mechanism to climate variability for sustainable agriculture in Indonesia. *Sustainability (Switzerland)*, 13(11), 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13116495>
- Biwot, E. C., & Mberia, H. (2019). Role of Radio in Conflict Management among Pastoral Communities in West Pokot County: Kenya Case of Kalya Fm. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Information Technology*.
- Dhiaulhaq, A., McCarthy, J. F., & Yasmi, Y. (2018). Resolving industrial plantation conflicts in Indonesia: Can mediation deliver? *Forest Policy and Economics*, 91(December), 64–72. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2017.12.006>
- Dutta, M. J., & Thaker, J. (2019). ‘Communication sovereignty’ as resistance: strategies adopted by women farmers amid the agrarian crisis in India. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 47(1), 24–46. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00909882.2018.1547917>
- Eisenkopf, G. (2018). The long-run effects of communication as a conflict resolution mechanism. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 154, 121–136. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2018.08.002>
- Fahrimal, Y., & Safpuriyadi, S. (2018). Komunikasi Strategik Dalam Penyelesaian Konflik Agraria Di Indonesia. *Jurnal Riset Komunikasi*, 1(1), 109–127. <https://doi.org/10.24329/jurkom.v1i1.18>
- Granovsky-Larsen, S. (2013). Between the bullet and the bank: agrarian conflict and access to land in neoliberal Guatemala. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 40(2), 325–350.
- Hrabrin, B. (2016). On Defining, Assessing and Governing of Agrarian Sustainability. *Journal of Advances in Economics and Finance*, 1(1), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.22606/jaef.2016.11001>
- Iryana, W., & Lubis, N. H. (2018). Perjuangan Rakyat Cirebon-Indramayu Melawan Imperialisme. *Al-Tsaqafa: Jurnal Ilmiah Peradaban Islam*, 15(1), 89–98. <https://doi.org/10.15575/al-tsaqafa.v15i1.3038>
- Isnaini, M., Sarwoprasodjo, S., Kinseng, R. A., & Kholil, K. (2020). Role of Communication Networks In Intergroup Conflicts. *Profetik: Jurnal Komunikasi*, 13(2), 260–275.
- Jaggi, C. K., Sharma, A., & Tiwari, S. (2015). Credit financing in economic ordering policies for non-instantaneous deteriorating items with price dependent demand under permissible delay in payments: A new approach. *International Journal of Industrial Engineering Computations*, 6(4), 481–502. <https://doi.org/10.5267/j.ijiec.2015.5.003>
- Kapelus, P., Richards, E., & Sherwin, H. (2011). 17. Conflict-sensitive impact assessment. *New Directions in Social Impact Assessment: Conceptual and Methodological Advances*, 288.
- Katz, N. H., Lawyer, J. W., Sosa, K. J., Sweedler, M., & Tokar, P. (2020). *Communication and conflict resolution skills*. Kendall Hunt Publishing.
- Leeuwis, C. (2013). *Communication for rural innovation: rethinking agricultural extension*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Lie, R., & Servaes, J. (2015). Disciplines in the Field of Communication for Development and Social Change. *Communication Theory*, 25(2), 244–258.

- <https://doi.org/10.1111/comt.12065>
- Morales-Munõz, H., Löhr, K., Bonatti, M., Eufemia, L., & Sieber, S. (2021). Assessing impacts of environmental peacebuilding in Caquetá, Colombia: A multistakeholder perspective. *International Affairs*, 97(1), 179–199. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iiaa175>
- Muldi, A., Sumardjo, S., Kinseng, R. A., & Sugihen, B. G. (2019). Communication and Conflict of North Coast Resources Utilization in Serang Regency. *Komunitas: International Journal of Indonesian Society and Culture*, 11(1), 85–98. <https://doi.org/10.15294/komunitas.v11i1.18051>
- Nugroho, O. C., & Kav, J. H. R. R. S. (2018). Konflik Agraria di Maluku Ditinjau dari Perspektif Hak Asasi Manusia. *Jurnal HAM*, 9(1), 87–101.
- Perhutani. (1897). *Sejarah Perusahaan Perhutani*. <https://www.perhutani.co.id/tentang-kami/sejarah-perusahaan/>
- Purwanto, H., & Nasution, F. A. (2022). Indonesian Peasants' Union in the Struggle of Agrarian Reform in Indonesia, Period 1998-2011. *Journal of Peasants' Rights*, 1(1), 7–19. <https://doi.org/10.32734/jpr.v1i1.8252>
- Rachman, N. F. (2013). Rantai Penjelaras Konflik-konflik Agraria yang Kronis, Sistemik, dan Meluas di Indonesia. *Bhumi*, 12(37), 1–14.
- Ramdhani, S. (2018). Konstruksi Nilai Multikulturalisme Pada Masyarakat Haurgeulis Kabupaten Indramayu. *Patanjala: Jurnal Penelitian Sejarah Dan Budaya*, 10(1), 1. <https://doi.org/10.30959/patanjala.v10i1.326>
- Sholahudin, U. (2017). Pendekatan Sosiologi Hukum Dalam Memahami Konflik Agraria. *Dimensi*, 10(2), 49–59.
- Solihin, O. (2018). *Make Moral Judgment of Political Figures In The Election of The Governor of West Java BT - Proceedings of the International Conference on Business, Economic, Social Science and Humanities (ICOBEST 2018)*. 372–377. <https://doi.org/10.2991/icobest-18.2018.82>
- Sudira, I. N. (2017). Resolusi Konflik dalam Perubahan Dunia. *Global: Jurnal Politik Internasional*, 19(2), 156. <https://doi.org/10.7454/global.v19i2.301>
- Susanti, A., & Maryudi, A. (2016). Development narratives, notions of forest crisis, and boom of oil palm plantations in Indonesia. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 73, 130–139. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2016.09.009>
- Tarigan, A. P. P., & Karuniasa, M. (2021). Analysis of agrarian conflict resolution through social forestry scheme. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 716(1). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/716/1/012082>
- Viso, A. F. (2014). Peace Communication for Social Change Dealing with Violent Conflict. In K. G. Wilkins, T. Tufte, & R. Obregon (Eds.), *The Handbook of Development Communication and Social Change*. SPi Publisher Services.
- Wahyuni, N., & Susilo, R. K. D. (2023). Mediasi dalam Dinamika Konflik Agraria antara Korporasi dengan Masyarakat: Studi di Segendis Bontang Lestari. *Prosiding Konferensi Nasional Sosiologi (PKNS)*, 1(1), 394–404.
- Waisbord, S. (2019). *Communication: A post-discipline*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Zakie, M. (2017). Konflik Agraria Yang Tak Pernah Reda. *Jurnal Ilmiah Hukum Legality*, 24(1), 40. <https://doi.org/10.22219/jihl.v24i1.4256>
- Zuber, A. (2016). Konflik Agraria di Indonesia. *Sosiologi Reflektif*, 8(1), 147–158.