



The Livelihood Strategies of Farming Families in Airlouw Hamlet, Nusaniwe Village, Nusaniwe District, Ambon City

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is the main sector that supports the livelihoods of rural communities, including farming families in coastal areas. However, limited land, uncertain harvests, and minimal access to technology have encouraged farmers to develop diverse livelihood strategies. This study aims to analyze the livelihood strategies of farming families in Airlouw Hamlet, Nusaniwe Village, Nusaniwe District, Ambon City, as well as their utilization of natural, social, and economic resources to sustain their livelihoods. The results show that the majority of farming families rely on agriculture as their primary source of income, particularly horticultural crops (banana, papaya, pineapple, chili) and perennial crops (coconut and nutmeg). About 93.33% of respondents own their own land, giving them control over productive assets. The livelihood strategies adopted vary between survival, consolidation, and accumulation strategies, depending on income level, land ownership, and job diversification. In addition to farming, the community is also engaged in fishing, livestock raising, small shops, brick-making, and motorcycle taxi services as forms of adaptation to economic risks

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture plays an important role in supporting the livelihoods of Indonesian people, especially in rural areas. According to Statistics Indonesia (BPS, 2021), around 30% of Indonesia's population works in the agricultural sector, most of whom are small-scale farmers highly dependent on land and natural conditions. In archipelagic regions such as Maluku, this sector serves as the backbone of the economy, despite facing challenges such as limited land, fluctuating crop yields, and climate change.

Ambon City, as the economic center of Maluku Province, faces a relatively high unemployment rate and limited employment opportunities. This situation has encouraged the community, especially farming families, to seek alternative sources of income outside the agricultural sector. The phenomenon of livelihood diversification or multiple livelihood strategies has long been an important topic in rural economic studies (Ellis, 1998; Mubyarto, 2011).

Airlouw Hamlet is one of the coastal areas in Nusaniwe Village, Ambon City, characterized by hilly terrain and its direct proximity to the Banda Sea. Most of its residents work as horticultural and perennial crop farmers, while supplementing their income through non-agricultural activities such as fishing, brick-making, and small-scale trading. This study aims to understand how farming families in Airlouw Hamlet develop livelihood strategies to sustain their household economy amid limited resources.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Livelihood Strategy Concept. A livelihood strategy is the way households manage various resources to meet their living needs (Dharmawan, 2007). Ellis (2000) classifies livelihood sources into three main sectors: on-farm (agricultural activities), off-farm (activities related to agriculture), and non-farm (activities outside agriculture).

Strategy Levels. According to Girsang (2011), there are three levels of livelihood strategies: (1) accumulation, which involves efforts to increase assets through investment and diversification; (2) consolidation, which refers to strategies aimed at maintaining economic stability; and (3) survival, which refers to efforts to endure under low economic conditions.

Livelihood Resources. The DFID (2001) framework identifies five main livelihood assets: human, natural, social, physical, and financial capital. The combination of and access to these capitals determine a household's ability to survive and develop.

Previous studies (Pattiselano et al., 2018; Andini, 2020; Teriola, 2019) show that farmers in Maluku's coastal areas tend to adopt livelihood diversification strategies, either by expanding agricultural activities or engaging in non-agricultural work. Such strategies serve as forms of adaptation to ecological and economic risks.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Airlouw Hamlet, Nusaniwe Village, Nusaniwe District, Ambon City, in June 2025. The location was selected purposively because the community relies heavily on agriculture while also being actively involved in non-agricultural sectors. The population consisted of 30 farming families, all of whom were included as respondents (census method). Primary data were obtained through observation, interviews, and questionnaires, while secondary data were collected from village government documents, Statistics Indonesia (BPS), and relevant scientific literature. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative descriptive analyses. Quantitative data were presented in simple tabulations to describe income levels and socioeconomic characteristics, while qualitative analysis was used to explain the types of livelihood strategies adopted by farming households.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents by Age, Education, and Type of Occupation in Airlouw Hamlet, 2025

Category	Sub-Category	Number (People)	Percentage (%)
Age	30-39	4	13
	40-49	8	27
	50-59	8	27
	60-69	6	20
	≥70	4	13
Education	Elementary School	5	16,67
	Junior High School	4	13,3
	Senior High School	19	63,33
	University	2	6,66
Main Occupation	Farmer	24	80,00
	Retired	3	10,00
	Contract Employee	2	6,67
	Service Sector	1	3,33

The majority of respondents are in the productive age group (40-59 years) and have a medium level of education. This supports their ability to diversify work across both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

2. Types of Respondents' Occupations Outside the Agricultural Sector

Table 2. Types of Respondents' Occupations Outside the Agricultural Sector (Non-Farm) in Airlouw Hamlet, 2025

No	Type of Occupation	Number (People)
1	None	11
2	Contract Employee	2
3	Entrepreneur	6
4	Service Sector	8
5	Retired	3
Total		30

These non-agricultural activities play an important role in maintaining household economic stability, especially during the lean season or when crop prices decline. Jobs such as contract work, entrepreneurship, and service-related occupations provide alternative sources of income for productive family members.

3. Forms of Livelihood Strategies of Farming Families

The determination of household livelihood strategies was carried out by comparing the family's total annual income with the minimum living needs based on Ambon City's poverty line in 2025, which was Rp 783,697 per capita per month (BPS, 2025). The ratio was calculated by dividing the total income (main and supplementary) by the number of dependents and the number of months in a year. Based on this ratio, livelihood strategies were classified into three categories: Survival Strategy: ratio < Rp 783,000. Household income is insufficient to meet minimum living needs. Consolidation Strategy: ratio Rp 784,000–999,000. Households are in the stage of stabilizing and reorganizing their livelihood sources. Accumulation Strategy: ratio ≥ Rp 1,000,000. Households can meet minimum living needs and have the potential for asset accumulation or investment.

Table 3. Agricultural Survival Strategy

No Resp	Agriculture (Rp)	Non-Agriculture (Rp)	Total (Rp)	Total Ratio
1	5.338.175	-	5.338.175	222.424
10	9.687.376	18.000.000	27.687.376	769.094
11	7.580.417	-	7.580.417	126.340
14	10.919.321	-	10.919.321	151.657
19	15.804.595	24.000.000	39.804.595	663.410
21	10.291.238	3.000.000	13.291.238	553.802
24	3.721.292	1.400.000	5.121.292	106.694
25	4.255.790	21.900.000	26.155.790	726.550
27	13.474.906	-	13.474.906	374.303
28	13.716.146	-	13.716.146	285.753

Table 4. Non-Agricultural Survival Strategy

No Resp	Agriculture (Rp)	Non-Agriculture (Rp)	Total (Rp)	Total Ratio
3	8.893.060	10.800.000	19.693.060	410.272
15	21.600.000	4.039.471	25.639.471	712.208

Tabel 5. Agricultural Consolidation Strategy

No Resp	Agriculture (Rp)	Non-Agriculture (Rp)	Total (Rp)	Total Ratio
2	28.651.291	-	28.651.291	795.869
7	14.622.692	6.600.000	21.222.692	884.279
12	25.220.696	27.375.000	52.595.696	876.595
17	10.936.945	22.000.000	32.936.945	914.915
20	15.064.167	35.000.000	50.064.167	834.403
29	19.081.575	-	19.081.575	795.066
30	7.550.238	25.550.000	33.100.238	919.451

Tabel 6. Agricultural Accumulation Strategy

No Resp	Agriculture (Rp)	Non-Agriculture (Rp)	Total (Rp)	Total Ratio
4	14.652.952	29.200.000	43.852.952	3.654.413
5	69.517.949	15.600.000	85.117.949	1.418.632
6	8.696.368	10.950.000	19.646.368	1.637.197
8	8.545.871	25.550.000	34.095.871	2.841.323
9	76.971.191	36.500.000	113.471.191	1.575.989
22	14.950.481	17.000.000	31.950.481	2.662.540
26	35.451.702	3.600.000	39.051.702	3.254.309

Tabel 7. Non-Agricultural Accumulation Strategy

No Resp	Agriculture (Rp)	Non-Agriculture (Rp)	Total (Rp)	Total Ratio
13	57.850.000	25.656.436	83.506.436	3.479.435
16	43.200.000	13.500.000	56.700.000	1.575.000
18	42.000.000	9.549.405	51.549.405	1.431.928
23	24.000.000	22.802.187	46.802.187	1.950.091

The research results indicate a relationship between asset ownership and a household's ability to choose livelihood strategies. Families with larger productive assets tend to adopt accumulation strategies oriented toward investment and expansion. In contrast, households with limited land and low income prioritize survival strategies through simple diversification and reliance on social assistance.

Diversification into non-agricultural activities, such as running small shops and providing transportation services, serves as a key source of supplementary income. This finding aligns with Andini (2020) and Rahmawati (2023), who noted that multiple livelihood strategies are adaptive responses to economic uncertainty, particularly in coastal areas that are vulnerable to climate change.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Farming families in Airlouw Hamlet adopt three types of livelihood strategies: survival, consolidation, and accumulation. The most influential factors in determining these strategies are land ownership, income level, and access to capital. Diversification of activities outside the agricultural sector has been proven to enhance household economic resilience and serves as an adaptive mechanism to environmental and economic changes.

FUTHER STUDY

This research still has delays, so it is necessary to conduct further research related to the topic The Livelihood Strategies of Farming Families in Airlouw Hamlet, Nusaniwe Village, Nusaniwe District, Ambon City in order to improve this research and add insight for readers.

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