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# Implementation of Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021 Concerning The Facilitation, Protection, and Empowerment of Cooperatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (Entrepreneurship Training "Sekabu Cent: Utilization Of Rice Husks And Bagasse Into Bakhoor")

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***Abstract***

*The implementation of Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021 concerning the Facilitation, Protection, and Empowerment of Cooperatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) emphasizes the importance of strengthening community-based entrepreneurship through innovation and the utilization of local resources. One of the strategic efforts to support this objective is the entrepreneurship training program entitled "SEKABU CENT: Utilization of Rice Husks and Bagasse into Bakhoor." This program aims to enhance entrepreneurial capacity, improve environmental awareness, and create value-added products from agricultural waste materials that are often underutilized. The training targeted community members and prospective entrepreneurs by providing knowledge and practical skills in processing rice husks and sugarcane bagasse into bakhoor products with economic value. The method employed included socialization activities, hands-on workshops, mentoring sessions, and product development practices. The results indicate that participants gained a better understanding of waste utilization, entrepreneurial management, and product marketing strategies. Participants were also able to produce innovative bakhoor products with potential market competitiveness while contributing to environmental sustainability through waste reduction. The program demonstrates that entrepreneurship training based on local resource utilization can serve as an effective instrument for implementing Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021 by fostering economic empowerment, encouraging business independence, and supporting the growth of sustainable MSMEs. These findings highlight the significance of integrating entrepreneurship education with local potential development to strengthen community economic resilience and promote inclusive economic growth.*

***Keywords :*** *Agricultural Waste Utilization, Bakhoor, Entrepreneurship Training, Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021, MSMEs.*



## INTRODUCTION

The global discourse on sustainable entrepreneurship has undergone a significant transformation over the past decade, shifting from a narrow focus on business growth toward a broader paradigm that integrates environmental sustainability, circular economy principles, and community-based innovation as essential drivers of inclusive development. This transformation has been reinforced by the growing recognition that micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) constitute the backbone of national economies while simultaneously serving as strategic actors in achieving sustainable development goals through resource efficiency and local value creation (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2025). Contemporary development frameworks increasingly emphasize the integration of innovation ecosystems, environmental stewardship, and entrepreneurial empowerment, particularly in developing countries where agricultural residues remain underutilized despite their substantial economic potential (Carayannis & Campbell, 2025).

Within the Indonesian context, this orientation is reflected in the national commitment to green economic transformation, which prioritizes the optimization of local resources, waste valorization, and community entrepreneurship as mechanisms for strengthening economic resilience and sustainability (Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional, 2025). Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021 emerges within this strategic landscape as a regulatory instrument intended to facilitate, protect, and

empower cooperatives and MSMEs through institutional support and capacity-building initiatives that encourage innovation-based entrepreneurship.

Existing scholarship consistently demonstrates that entrepreneurial empowerment programs generate positive outcomes when they combine skills development, market access, and resource-based innovation. Studies on sustainable entrepreneurship indicate that the utilization of agricultural waste can create new economic opportunities while simultaneously reducing environmental burdens associated with conventional disposal practices. Research on rice husk utilization reveals that rice husks possess substantial potential as a value-added resource due to their carbon content and applicability in various productive sectors, including agriculture, environmental management, and small-scale industries (Husaini, 2022; Listiana, 2021).

Parallel investigations have shown that rice husk-derived materials can be transformed into activated carbon products with significant commercial and environmental value (Sari, 2023). At the same time, the global expansion of niche markets for natural fragrances, incense, and culturally embedded aromatic products has generated new opportunities for entrepreneurial diversification, particularly within Muslim-majority markets where bakhoor products maintain strong cultural and commercial relevance. The increasing economic integration between Indonesia and Middle Eastern countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, has further strengthened the strategic importance of developing export-oriented MSME products capable of leveraging local resources and cultural market preferences (Prayudhia, 2024; Nugraha, 2025).

Despite the growing body of literature on MSME empowerment, circular economy practices, and agricultural waste utilization, important conceptual and empirical gaps remain insufficiently addressed. A substantial proportion of existing studies focus either on the technical feasibility of agricultural waste processing or on general MSME development policies, while relatively limited attention has been devoted to examining how specific regulatory frameworks are operationalized through entrepreneurship training models that transform local waste resources into market-oriented products. The literature also exhibits a tendency to evaluate entrepreneurship programs primarily through conventional indicators such as income generation or business creation, often overlooking the broader institutional mechanisms through which public policy facilitates innovation diffusion, capacity enhancement, and community participation.

This fragmentation creates a disconnect between policy objectives and implementation realities, particularly in contexts where entrepreneurial initiatives depend on the successful integration of regulatory support, technological adaptation, and market responsiveness. Although Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021 provides a comprehensive framework for MSME facilitation and empowerment, empirical evidence concerning its implementation through locally grounded entrepreneurial innovation programs remains comparatively scarce (Kementerian Koperasi dan Usaha Kecil dan Menengah Republik Indonesia, 2025). The persistence of these knowledge gaps carries significant practical implications given the increasing urgency of strengthening MSME competitiveness in a rapidly changing economic environment.

The acceleration of digital commerce and evolving consumer behavior have intensified market competition, requiring entrepreneurs to develop distinctive products that combine innovation, sustainability, and cultural relevance to maintain market viability (IDN Times, 2022). Simultaneously, Indonesia's commitment to expanding MSME participation in global value chains necessitates the development of entrepreneurial ecosystems capable of generating export-ready products while maximizing local resource utilization (Kementerian Perdagangan Republik Indonesia, 2025).

Regulatory reforms aimed at simplifying business licensing and promoting risk-based governance have created new opportunities for MSMEs to formalize and scale their operations, yet the effectiveness of such reforms ultimately depends on the availability of practical empowerment programs that translate policy provisions into tangible entrepreneurial capabilities (Kementerian Investasi/Badan Koordinasi Penanaman Modal, 2025). These conditions underscore the necessity of examining entrepreneurship training initiatives that not only foster business competencies but also demonstrate how waste-based innovation can contribute to sustainable local economic development. Within this intellectual and policy landscape, the "SEKABU CENT" entrepreneurship training initiative—centered on the utilization of rice husks and bagasse into bakhoor products—represents an important empirical setting for investigating the implementation of Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021.

The program embodies a multidimensional approach that links entrepreneurial capacity building, circular economy principles, local resource optimization, and MSME empowerment within a single intervention framework. Its relevance extends beyond the production of a marketable commodity, encompassing broader questions regarding how public policy facilitates innovation adoption, how local communities convert environmental challenges into economic opportunities, and how entrepreneurial training can function as a mechanism for enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of MSMEs. Examining this initiative offers an opportunity to bridge the existing divide between regulatory intent and practical implementation while contributing empirical evidence concerning the operational dynamics of entrepreneurship-based empowerment strategies.

This study aims to analyze the implementation of Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021 concerning the facilitation, protection, and empowerment of cooperatives and MSMEs through the entrepreneurship training program "SEKABU CENT: Utilization of Rice Husks and Bagasse into Bakhoor." The research seeks to explain how entrepreneurship training functions as an instrument for translating policy objectives into practical empowerment outcomes while simultaneously promoting sustainable resource utilization and community-based economic innovation. The study contributes theoretically by extending discussions on policy implementation, sustainable entrepreneurship, and circular economy-based MSME development within an integrated analytical framework. Methodologically, it contributes by positioning a waste-to-value entrepreneurship training model as an empirical lens for understanding the interaction between regulatory facilitation, local innovation processes, and entrepreneurial capacity development in emerging economies.

## METHODS

This community service program employed anempirical approach because evaluation data were collected to assess participant responses, knowledge improvement, and program outcomes. The target community consisted of local residents, youth groups, and prospective micro-entrepreneurs in the implementation area who had access to rice husks and sugarcane bagasse as abundant agricultural waste resources. The program was designed as an entrepreneurship training initiative entitled "SEKABU CENT: Utilization of Rice Husks and Bagasse into Bakhoor" to support the implementation of Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021 concerning the facilitation, protection, and empowerment of cooperatives and MSMEs. Program implementation was carried out through several stages, namely preliminary observation and needs assessment, coordination with community stakeholders, preparation of training materials and equipment, socialization of entrepreneurship concepts, practical training on processing rice husks and bagasse into bakhoor products, product packaging and branding assistance, and mentoring sessions aimed at strengthening participants' entrepreneurial capacity and business sustainability.

Data collection was conducted through direct observation, participant attendance records, documentation, questionnaires, and interviews administered before and after the training activities. Program evaluation employed a descriptive approach by comparing participants' levels of understanding, skills, and entrepreneurial interest before and after participation in the training. The indicators of success included increased knowledge regarding waste utilization, improved technical skills in producing bakhoor, enhanced understanding of entrepreneurship and product marketing, active participant involvement during training activities, and the successful production of marketable bakhoor products. Evaluation results were analyzed to identify the effectiveness of the training program and to formulate recommendations for future community empowerment initiatives based on local resource utilization. Community participation was encouraged throughout the process to ensure program relevance, strengthen local ownership, and support the long-term sustainability of entrepreneurial activities generated through the SEKABU CENT program.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Implementation of Entrepreneurship Training as a Form of MSME Empowerment under Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021

Results The entrepreneurship training program entitled "SEKABU CENT: Utilization of Rice Husks and Bagasse into Bakhoor" was implemented as a community empowerment initiative aligned with the mandate of Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021. The program focused on strengthening entrepreneurial capacity through the utilization of locally available agricultural waste resources. Initial

observations indicated that rice husks and bagasse were generally treated as low-value waste despite their potential economic benefits. This condition reflects a common challenge in MSME development where resource availability is not always accompanied by innovation capability (Ilyas & Ramadani, 2022).

The implementation process began with community mapping and identification of local economic potential. Interviews conducted with participants revealed limited knowledge regarding value-added processing of agricultural by-products. Most participants were familiar with the disposal or direct combustion of rice husks and bagasse rather than their conversion into commercial products. Similar conditions have been documented in MSME empowerment programs that emphasize the importance of entrepreneurial knowledge transfer in rural communities (Sulistyono et al., 2022).

Training activities combined entrepreneurship education with practical product development sessions. Participants received instruction regarding product formulation, processing techniques, packaging strategies, and marketing concepts. This integrated approach was designed to ensure that knowledge acquisition was accompanied by practical skill enhancement. Capacity-building models that combine technical and entrepreneurial competencies are considered more effective in fostering sustainable microenterprise growth (Kusumastuti, 2022).

Participant engagement throughout the program demonstrated a high level of interest in resource-based entrepreneurship. Discussions during mentoring sessions indicated that many participants viewed agricultural waste as an untapped economic opportunity. Changes in perception were evident from participant responses before and after the training activities. The emergence of entrepreneurial awareness represents an important indicator of empowerment success within community development programs (Rwekaza & Anania, 2021).

Empirical observations also revealed improvements in participants' understanding of business feasibility and product differentiation. Many participants acknowledged that innovation could increase the market value of materials previously considered economically insignificant. The training process encouraged participants to identify potential customer segments and market opportunities. Such entrepreneurial orientation is increasingly important in the contemporary MSME ecosystem characterized by rapid market changes (World Bank, 2025).

The effectiveness of the training can be observed through the changes in participant knowledge levels presented in Table 1. The data were obtained from pre-training and post-training assessments administered to participants. The increase in scores reflects measurable improvements in entrepreneurial understanding and product development competence. These findings indicate that the intervention generated meaningful learning outcomes among community members.

**Table 1. Changes in Participant Knowledge Levels**

| Indicator | Before Training (%) | After Training (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Understanding of Waste Utilization | 41 | 87 |
| Knowledge of Bakhoor Production | 29 | 85 |
| Entrepreneurship Concepts | 46 | 89 |
| Product Marketing Knowledge | 38 | 83 |

The results presented in Table 1 suggest substantial growth across all measured indicators. Knowledge regarding bakhoor production recorded the largest increase, indicating that practical demonstrations effectively facilitated skill acquisition. Improvements in marketing knowledge also suggest that participants developed a broader understanding of business sustainability. Similar outcomes have been identified in empowerment programs that combine technical training with entrepreneurial mentoring (Riananda et al., 2022).

From a policy perspective, the implementation of SEKABU CENT illustrates how regulatory frameworks can be translated into concrete community-level interventions. Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021 emphasizes facilitation and empowerment mechanisms that encourage MSME development through innovation and capacity building. The training activities provided evidence that policy objectives can be operationalized through localized programs adapted to community resources.

Policy implementation studies have emphasized the importance of translating legal frameworks into practical empowerment initiatives that directly address local needs (Ernita et al., 2025).

The program also demonstrated the relevance of sustainable resource utilization in entrepreneurship development. Rice husks and bagasse represent renewable resources that can be transformed into products with commercial value while simultaneously reducing environmental waste. This dual economic and environmental benefit aligns with global discussions on sustainable resource management and circular economy practices. Resource-based entrepreneurship has increasingly been recognized as an important pathway toward sustainable local economic development (United Nations Environment Programme, 2025).

Observations throughout the implementation phase indicate that entrepreneurship training can function as an effective mechanism for strengthening MSME competitiveness. Participants not only acquired technical production skills but also developed confidence in pursuing business opportunities derived from local resources. The outcomes suggest that empowerment programs become more impactful when they integrate innovation, sustainability, and community participation within a single framework. Evidence from recent MSME policy studies similarly highlights the importance of community-centered empowerment strategies in enhancing economic resilience and business competitiveness (Saykarua et al., 2026).

**Development of Value-Added Products Through the Utilization of Rice Husks and Bagasse**

The core innovation introduced through the SEKABU CENT program was the transformation of rice husks and bagasse into bakhoor products with economic value. Prior to the training, most participants perceived these materials as agricultural residues with limited utility. Field observations revealed that rice husks were commonly burned or discarded, while bagasse was often left unused after sugarcane processing activities. This pattern reflects the persistent challenge of converting local resources into productive economic assets within the MSME sector (Simamora & Agusta, 2025).

The training process emphasized the concept of value addition by demonstrating how waste materials can be transformed into marketable products. Participants were introduced to production techniques that combined locally available materials with simple processing methods. The approach was designed to ensure accessibility and replicability among community members with varying educational and economic backgrounds. Community-based innovation initiatives are generally more sustainable when production methods remain adaptable to local conditions (Rwekaza & Anania, 2021).

Product development activities generated notable changes in participants' perceptions regarding entrepreneurship opportunities. Interviews conducted after the practical sessions indicated that participants increasingly viewed agricultural waste as a source of potential income rather than merely a disposal problem. This shift in perception is significant because entrepreneurial behavior often begins with the recognition of opportunities embedded within local environments. Research on MSME development emphasizes opportunity recognition as a fundamental determinant of entrepreneurial growth (Sulistyono et al., 2022).

The production of bakhoor also introduced participants to concepts of product differentiation and market positioning. Unlike conventional agricultural products, bakhoor possesses distinctive cultural and commercial characteristics that can attract niche consumer segments. Participants learned to identify product uniqueness through aroma composition, packaging design, and branding strategies. Such differentiation is important because market competitiveness increasingly depends on the ability of small businesses to create distinctive value propositions (World Bank, 2025).

Practical sessions revealed that participants were capable of independently producing bakhoor after receiving technical guidance. Product quality assessments conducted during mentoring activities demonstrated improvements in consistency, appearance, and packaging quality. These outcomes indicate that skill transfer occurred effectively throughout the training process. The development of production competencies is frequently identified as a critical factor influencing the sustainability of community-based enterprises (Kusumastuti, 2022).

An overview of participant production outcomes is presented in Table 2. The table summarizes the number of participants who successfully completed each stage of the production process during the implementation period. The results provide empirical evidence regarding the effectiveness of practical training activities. The progression observed across production indicators reflects increasing technical mastery among participants.

**Table 2. Participant Achievement in Bakhoor Production Activities**

| Production Indicator | Percentage of Participants (%) |
|---|---|
| Successfully Processing Raw Materials | 88 |
| Producing Marketable Bakhoor | 84 |
| Completing Product Packaging | 81 |
| Demonstrating Independent Production Skills | 79 |

The data in Table 2 indicate that the majority of participants successfully mastered the production process. The highest achievement was recorded in raw material processing activities, suggesting that the technical procedures were relatively easy to understand and implement. Independent production skills also reached a substantial level, reflecting participants' readiness to continue production activities beyond the training period. These findings support the argument that practical entrepreneurship education can generate tangible capability improvements within local communities (Ilyas & Ramadani, 2022).

The development of bakhoor products also has broader implications for sustainable resource management. Agricultural waste utilization contributes to waste reduction while creating new economic opportunities for rural households. This dual benefit corresponds with international recommendations that encourage productive and environmentally responsible resource utilization. Sustainable resource transformation has become a central component of contemporary community empowerment strategies (United Nations Environment Programme, 2025).

Another notable outcome concerns the emergence of entrepreneurial confidence among participants. Several participants expressed intentions to develop small-scale production activities and explore local market opportunities following the completion of the training. Increased confidence is particularly important because psychological readiness often influences business initiation and long-term entrepreneurial persistence. Studies on MSME empowerment indicate that confidence and self-efficacy significantly affect entrepreneurial decision-making processes (Hetharie et al., 2025).

The findings demonstrate that value-added product development can serve as a practical mechanism for translating empowerment policies into measurable community outcomes. The combination of innovation, local resource utilization, and entrepreneurship training generated benefits that extended beyond technical skill acquisition. Participants gained knowledge, practical competencies, and business awareness that may support future income-generating activities. Evidence from recent policy implementation studies similarly suggests that successful MSME empowerment requires a balance between resource optimization, entrepreneurial learning, and market-oriented innovation (Ernita et al., 2025).

**Implications of MSME Empowerment and Sustainability of the SEKABU CENT Program**

The implementation of the SEKABU CENT program generated implications that extended beyond the immediate outcomes of entrepreneurship training activities. Community members not only acquired technical knowledge regarding bakhoor production but also developed a broader understanding of business sustainability and local economic development. The integration of resource utilization and entrepreneurship education created opportunities for participants to diversify household income sources. Such outcomes align with the objectives of MSME empowerment policies that emphasize economic independence and community resilience (Ilyas & Ramadani, 2022).

One important finding concerns the relationship between empowerment activities and community participation. Observations conducted during mentoring sessions revealed that participant engagement increased as individuals became more involved in practical production processes. Active participation encouraged collaborative learning and facilitated the exchange of ideas among community members. Participatory approaches are frequently associated with stronger program ownership and higher levels of sustainability in community development initiatives (Sulistyono et al., 2022).

The program also contributed to strengthening awareness regarding the economic value of local resources. Participants increasingly recognized that agricultural by-products could be transformed into products capable of generating commercial returns. This awareness is important because entrepreneurial

opportunities often emerge from the ability to reinterpret existing resources through innovation. Recent discussions on local economic development emphasize the strategic role of resource-based entrepreneurship in enhancing community competitiveness (Simamora & Agusta, 2025).

Digitalization emerged as another relevant dimension of sustainability. During discussions on product marketing, participants demonstrated considerable interest in utilizing social media and digital platforms to promote bakhoor products. The growing role of digital technology creates opportunities for micro-enterprises to reach broader consumer markets with relatively low operational costs. Studies on MSME transformation have highlighted digital adoption as a critical determinant of business growth in developing economies (World Bank, 2025).

Institutional support also appeared to influence the long-term prospects of entrepreneurship initiatives. Participants indicated that continued mentoring, market access facilitation, and networking opportunities would strengthen their capacity to sustain business activities. Community empowerment programs tend to achieve more durable outcomes when supported by institutional partnerships and policy frameworks. This perspective is consistent with arguments regarding the importance of institutional strengthening in MSME development strategies (Kusumastuti, 2022).

Program sustainability indicators identified during the evaluation process are presented in Table 3. These indicators were measured based on participant responses collected after the completion of training activities. The data provide insight into participants' intentions and readiness to continue entrepreneurial activities independently. The findings offer a useful basis for assessing the long-term impact potential of the program.

**Table 3. Sustainability Indicators Following Program Implementation**

| Sustainability Indicator | Percentage of Participants (%) |
|---|---|
| Intention to Continue Production | 86 |
| Interest in Product Commercialization | 82 |
| Readiness to Apply Digital Marketing | 78 |
| Willingness to Train Other Community Members | 75 |

The results in Table 3 demonstrate that a substantial proportion of participants expressed intentions to continue entrepreneurial activities after the program ended. Interest in commercialization suggests that participants perceived bakhoor production as a viable business opportunity rather than merely a training exercise. The willingness to transfer knowledge to other community members also indicates the potential for broader social diffusion of entrepreneurial skills. Similar patterns have been observed in empowerment initiatives that prioritize community participation and local capacity building (Riananda et al., 2022).

The findings further indicate that the SEKABU CENT program supports the broader objectives of Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021. The regulation emphasizes facilitation, protection, and empowerment mechanisms designed to strengthen the competitiveness of cooperatives and MSMEs. Through entrepreneurship training and innovation-based resource utilization, the program translated policy objectives into practical community-level outcomes. Evidence from recent policy studies suggests that empowerment programs become more effective when legal frameworks are accompanied by targeted capacity-building interventions (Ernita et al., 2025).

From an environmental perspective, the utilization of rice husks and bagasse contributes to more sustainable patterns of resource management. The conversion of agricultural waste into commercially valuable products reduces disposal-related environmental impacts while generating economic benefits. This approach reflects the principles of sustainable production and circular resource utilization promoted in contemporary development agendas. International assessments have increasingly emphasized the need to integrate environmental sustainability into local economic empowerment programs (United Nations Environment Programme, 2025).

The overall results indicate that entrepreneurship training based on local resource innovation can function as an effective instrument for MSME empowerment. The combination of technical skills development, entrepreneurial education, community participation, and sustainability-oriented practices generated outcomes that support both economic and social development objectives. Participants

demonstrated improvements in knowledge, skills, confidence, and business readiness that may contribute to future entrepreneurial activities. Findings from recent governance and empowerment studies similarly emphasize that sustainable MSME development requires continuous collaboration among communities, institutions, and policy actors to strengthen long-term business competitiveness (Saykarua et al., 2026; Hetharie et al., 2025).

## CONCLUSION

The implementation of the SEKABU CENT entrepreneurship training program demonstrates that Government Regulation Number 7 of 2021 concerning the Facilitation, Protection, and Empowerment of Cooperatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises can be translated into practical community empowerment initiatives through the utilization of local resources. The program successfully increased participants' knowledge and skills in transforming rice husks and bagasse into bakhoor products with economic value. Evaluation results indicate improvements in participants' understanding of entrepreneurship, waste utilization, product development, and marketing strategies.

These outcomes suggest that entrepreneurship training based on local resource innovation can strengthen community capacity while creating alternative opportunities for income generation. The findings also reveal that the integration of technical training, mentoring activities, and entrepreneurial education contributes to the development of business awareness and self-confidence among participants. The ability of participants to independently produce bakhoor products and their interest in continuing production activities indicate that the program generated tangible empowerment outcomes. The utilization of agricultural waste not only supports economic objectives but also promotes environmentally sustainable practices through the reduction of unused biomass waste. Such conditions illustrate the potential of community-based innovation to simultaneously address economic and environmental challenges at the local level.

The sustainability prospects of the SEKABU CENT program are reflected in participants' willingness to commercialize products, adopt digital marketing practices, and disseminate acquired knowledge within their communities. Continued support through mentoring, institutional collaboration, and market access facilitation is expected to strengthen the long-term impact of the initiative. The experience of this program highlights the importance of combining policy implementation, entrepreneurship development, and resource optimization in empowering MSMEs. Future community service programs may further expand this model by incorporating broader stakeholder involvement and more comprehensive business development assistance to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of local enterprises.

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