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## Innovative Agriculture Based on Islamic Economics in the Development of Farmer Groups Towards a Green Economy

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### Abstract

This research aims to examine Islamic economics as a driver of creativity among farming groups in response to the green economy era. This is because the link between the agricultural sector and the green economy is relevant to achieving the balance of nature and the environment, which are fundamental values of Islamic economics. Islamic economics is intended to guide every policy and activity in the economic sector. Furthermore, the relationship between the economic sector and agriculture is inextricable when the agricultural sector's primary objective is to generate profit. This research uses a qualitative approach, drawing on primary and secondary data collected from farmer groups in the districts of Tulungagung, Trenggalek and Blitar, to examine their efforts to be creative. The collected data is presented descriptively and analysed using the concept of content analysis through the lens of Islamic economics. The findings of this study indicate that: (1) Strategies to increase the creativity of farmer groups in the Tulungagung, Trenggalek and Blitar regencies when facing green economy policies include implementing various innovative sustainable agricultural practices. (2) Implementing Islamic economic concepts to strengthen the creativity of farmer groups in these districts in the face of green economy policies has led to a significant transformation in agricultural practices. This research suggests the potential integration of Islamic economic principles as a normative basis for formulating sustainable agricultural policies, particularly in enhancing the creative capacity of farming communities to adapt to the challenges of the green economy era.

**Keywords:** *Islamic Economics, Agriculture, Green Economy.*

### Introduction

As an agrarian country, Indonesia relies on its agricultural sector to drive its economy.<sup>1</sup> To promote economic development through agriculture, it is necessary to establish sustainable agricultural

<sup>1</sup> Lihat dalam Mercy Bientri Yunindanova, "Preparing for Indonesian Agricultural Transformation in The Society Era 5.0," *Agrosains : Jurnal Penelitian Agronomi* 24, no. 1 (2022).

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practices. As a result, the agricultural sector holds a crucial position in boosting the national economy.<sup>2</sup> This is evident in the sector's contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP), reaching 20%, and its capacity to employ up to 50% of the labor force in rural areas.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the agricultural sector has the potential to improve rural community well-being and reduce poverty levels. Various programs, such as social assistance, agricultural cooperative development, and SME programs, demonstrate efforts to improve welfare and reduce poverty through the agricultural sector.<sup>4</sup>

Regarding the relationship between agriculture and the economy, the Ministry of Agriculture's strategic plan states that agriculture is one of the most important sectors for national economic development. The agricultural sector plays a crucial role in providing food and industrial raw materials, contributing to GDP, generating foreign exchange, absorbing labor, providing income for rural families, supplying basic commodities, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Ministry of Agriculture also notes that the sector is expected to achieve food sovereignty at the national level. This initiative aims to support the basic needs of the Indonesian people in a self-reliant manner.<sup>5</sup>

In practice, the agricultural sector plays an important role in economic development but faces challenges related to policy and public awareness. Over time, agricultural issues persist, including difficulties accessing agricultural financing, fertilizer shortages,<sup>6</sup> and a lack of public awareness of the agricultural sector.<sup>7</sup> These challenges give rise to problems that hinder the acceleration and sustainability of the agricultural sector within society's broader economic framework.<sup>8</sup>

The agricultural sector faces several fundamental problems, including environmental damage, climate change,<sup>9</sup> a lack of infrastructure and facilities, limited land ownership, insufficient attention to national seedling production, limited access to capital and extension services, and a lack of coordination strategies between sectors in agricultural development.<sup>10</sup> In terms of public awareness, the current millennial generation is not interested in the agricultural sector.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Ibtihal Hidayah, Yulhendri, & Nora Susanti, "Peran Sektor Pertanian Dalam Perekonomian Negara Maju Dan Negara Berkembang: Sebuah Kajian Literatur," *Jurnal Salingka Nagari* 1, no. 1 (2022).

<sup>3</sup> Niko Ramadhani, "Indonesia Sebagai Negara Agraris, Apa Itu Agraris?," *Www.Akseleran.Co.Id*, 08 Juni, 2023, <https://www.akseleran.co.id/blog/agraris-adalah/#:~:text=Sebagai%20salah%20satu%20negara%20agraris%2C%20peran%20sektor%20pertanian,dari%20masyarakat%20pedesaan%20hingga%20lebih%20dari%2050%20persen>.

<sup>4</sup> Press Release, "The World Bank Supports Indonesia's Agriculture Sector to Become More Resilient and Inclusive," *Www.Worldbank.Org*, 09 September, 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/09/09/the-world-bank-supports-indonesia-agriculture-sector-to-become-more-resilient-and-inclusive>.

<sup>5</sup> Lihat dalam Policy Brief, *Permasalahan, Tantangan Dan Kebijakan Pembangunan Pertanian 2020-2024* (Jakarta: Pusat Sosial Ekonomi dan Kebijakan Pertanian, Sekretariat Jenderal Kementerian Pertanian, 2019).

<sup>6</sup> Ujang Maman, "Efektifitas Pupuk Bersubsidi Terhadap Peningkatan Produktivitas Padi Sawah," *Jurnal Agribisnis Terpadu* 14, no. 2 (2021): 176.

<sup>7</sup> Ismi Imania Imania Ikhnsani, Feninda Eka Tasya, Iradhad Taqwa Sihidi, Ali Roziqin, & Ach Apriyanto Romadhan, "Arah Kebijakan Sektor Pertanian Di Indonesia Untuk Menghadapi Era Revolusi Industri 4.0," *Jurnal Administrasi Dan Kebijakan Publik* 5, no. 2 (2020): 134–154.

<sup>8</sup> Nova Ladiansi, "Problematika Pembangunan Ekonomi Indonesia Pada Sektor Pertanian," *Www.Kompasiana.Com*, 24 November, 2021, <https://www.kompasiana.com/nova74069/619de31906310e02a31ce502/problematika-pembangunan-ekonomi-indonesia-pada-sektor-pertanian>.

<sup>9</sup> Tim Editor, "Dampak Perubahan Iklim Pada Pertanian: Tantangan Dan Solusi," *Www.Kompasiana.Com*, 14 September, 2023, <https://www.kompasiana.com/cids0504/6500822ce1a1672ac6085b62/dampak-perubahan-iklim-pada-pertanian-tantangan-dan-solusi>.

<sup>10</sup> Andi Tri Wahyudi, "Upaya Terhadap Permasalahan Lahan, Birokrasi, Dan Infrastruktur Yang Menghambat Masuknya Investasi," *Www.Kompasiana.Com*, 24 Juni, 2021, <https://www.kompasiana.com/anditri wahyudi4386/60d41f3406310e796c368402/upaya-terhadap-permasalahan-lahan-birokrasi-dan-infrastruktur-yang-menghambat-masuknya-investasi-pada-sektor-pertanian-indonesia>.

<sup>11</sup> Marya Yenita Sitohang, Rahmat Saleh, & Irin Oktafiani, "Sulitnya Regenerasi Petani Pada Kelompok Generasi Muda," *Jurnal Studi Pemuda* 10, no. 1 (2021).

In fact, climate change in the contemporary context requires policies that promote environmental restoration. Climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges that must be addressed. The impacts of climate change cause economic losses, such as infrastructure damage and loss of livelihoods. Therefore, effective, sustainable environmental policies are crucial to addressing climate change challenges in Indonesia. Holistic environmental policies aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote the sustainable management of natural resources, and enhance adaptation to climate change.<sup>12</sup>

To address the aforementioned environmental issues, Indonesia, through Bappenas, published a Green Economy Index. The index calculates Indonesia's score based on its economic transformation to assess its progress against minimum values and maximum targets. The report highlights efforts to transition toward a green economy as a means to increase average GDP growth to 6.1–6.5 percent per year by 2050. Regarding greenhouse gas emissions, the report projects that 87–96 billion tons will be avoided between 2021 and 2060. Additionally, gross national income (GNI) is projected to increase by 25–34 percent, equivalent to 13,890–14,975 per capita, by 2045.<sup>13</sup>

Regarding the research location, the following data was found on the size of agricultural land and the number of agricultural business units in Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar Regencies:

Tulungagung <sup>14</sup>	27.516 Ha	172.720 unit
Trenggalek <sup>15</sup>	26.759 Ha	179.259 unit
Blitar <sup>16</sup>	31. 705 Ha	193.327 Unit

Meanwhile, regarding the potential for rice farming on agricultural land in Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar Regencies, the following data can be found:

Tulungagung <sup>17</sup>	302.266 Ton
Trenggalek <sup>18</sup>	160.466 Ton
Blitar <sup>19</sup>	233.522 Ton

Based on the above data, the relationship between agricultural economic development, creativity, and the creation of a green environment is an urgent policy strategy to implement. It is a response to the dynamics of basic commodity needs and environmental protection. This is particularly relevant in regions with significant agricultural potential. Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and

<sup>12</sup> Asti Amelia Novita, "Environmental Governance and Climate Change Adaptation in Indonesia," *Jurnal Ilmiah Administrasi Publik* 7, no. 1 (2021).

<sup>13</sup> Komunikasi LCDI, "Bappenas Luncurkan Indeks Ekonomi Hijau Untuk Mendukung Transformasi Ekonomi Indonesia," *Lcdi-Indonesia.Id*, 25 Agustus, 2022, <https://lcdi-indonesia.id/2022/08/25/bappenas-luncurkan-indeks-ekonomi-hijau-untuk-mendukung-transformasi-ekonomi-indonesia/#:~:text=Laporan%20Indeks%20Ekonomi%20Hijau%20menyebutkan%2C%20upaya%20transisi%20menuju,persen%2C%20setara%20USD%2013.890-14.975%20per%20kapita%20pada%2045.>

<sup>14</sup> Badan Statistik, "Badan Statistik Kabupaten Tulungagung," 2022, <https://tulungagungkab.bps.go.id/statictable/2023/11/22/5673/jenis-tanah-menurut-penggunaannya-di-kabupaten-tulungagung-2022.html>.

<sup>15</sup> Admi, "Data Produksi Pertanian Pagi Kabupaten Trenggalek," *Dinas Pertanian*, 2022, <https://satadata.trenggalekkab.go.id/dataset/127/2022/data-produksi-pertanian-padi>.

<sup>16</sup> Badan Statistik, "Badan Statistik Kabupaten Blitar," 2022, <https://blitarkab.bps.go.id/publication/2022/02/25/9bb576865560d13c1e1125bb/kabupaten-blitar-dalam-angka-2022.html>.

<sup>17</sup> Badan Statistik, "Badan Statistik Kabupaten Tulungagung," n.d., <https://tulungagungkab.bps.go.id/statictable/2021/12/16/5307/produksi-padi-menurut-kecamatan-dan-jenis-padi-di-kabupaten-tulungagung-2020.html>.

<sup>18</sup> BPS Kabupaten Trenggalek, "Data Produksi Pertanian Padi," n.d., <https://satadata.trenggalekkab.go.id/dataset/127/2022/data-produksi-pertanian-padi>.

<sup>19</sup> Badan Pusat Statistik Kabupaten Blitar, "Luas Panen Dan Produksi Padi Kabupaten Blitar 2023 Angka Sementara," n.d., <https://blitarkab.bps.go.id/pressrelease/2024/01/10/128/luas-panen-dan-produksi-padi-kabupaten-blitar-2023--angka-sementara--.html>.

Blitar regencies have vast agricultural land, for example. Tulungagung Regency demonstrated its agricultural potential through the 2023 Agricultural Product Exhibition, which was initiated by the Tulungagung Regency Agriculture Department. This exhibition showcased premium products from Tulungagung farmers to promote food security. This exhibition also benefits farmers in Tulungagung by providing them with knowledge of agricultural outputs, which has implications for economic growth.<sup>20</sup> In Trenggalek District, the potential of agricultural commodities creates economic activity within the community. The agricultural land in Trenggalek District produces various agricultural products that drive the local economy.<sup>21</sup> The same applies to Blitar District, where most of the population is engaged in agriculture.<sup>22</sup>

As evidenced by the above issues and descriptions, green economy policies are related to creativity in agriculture. Therefore, it is crucial to recognize the importance of the agricultural sector in revitalizing economic development and to foster synergy in this regard. These efforts align with the principles of Islamic economics, which emphasize equity and mutual benefit in the economic sphere. Consequently, creative agricultural initiatives should be based on green economy principles to promote Islamic economic values in Indonesia.

In scientific studies, novelty and in-depth analysis are essential. However, a novel study must be based on previous research or scientific works. Azwar Iskandar and Khaerul Aqbar (2019)<sup>23</sup> found that the green economy is synonymous with Indonesia's characteristics. Philosophically, Islamic eco-ethics implements the values of maqashid syari'ah. Second, Radha R. Sharma (2020)<sup>24</sup> shows that green management involves applying innovation across all sectors to achieve sustainability, waste reduction, social responsibility, and competitive advantage through sustainable development. This approach integrates environmental strategy with economic development goals. Third, Erry Ika Rhofita (2022)<sup>25</sup> demonstrates that agricultural production improves the socioeconomic conditions of communities and supports national resilience. Fourth, Syahrial, Ilham Martadona, and Nurkholiza Harahap (2023)<sup>26</sup> emphasize the importance of government-led agricultural extension programs and technological improvements. These programs aim to enhance agricultural production and commodities to sustain growth and boost farmers' economic well-being.

The research described above suggests that developing the agricultural and green economies has implications for a country's economic development based on environmental wisdom. Therefore, developing an environmentally based economy ensures continuity in the

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<sup>20</sup> Mukhamad Zainul Fikri, "Potensi Pertanian Tulungagung Harus Dikenalkan, Pj Bupati Singgung Harga Beras," *Radartulungagung.Jawapos.Com*, 03 November, 2023, <https://radartulungagung.jawapos.com/tulungagung/763213058/potensi-pertanian-tulungagung-harus-dikenalkan-pj-bupati-singgung-harga-beras>.

<sup>21</sup> Trigus D. Susilo, "Potensi Komoditas Pertanian Di Trenggalek Yang Bagus Untuk Investasi," *KabarTrenggalek.Com*, 16 Januari, 2023, <https://kabarTrenggalek.com/2023/01/potensi-komoditas-pertanian-di-trenggalek-yang-bagus-untuk-investasi.html>.

<sup>22</sup> Admin, "Begini Gambaran Dan Potensi Pertanian Di Kabupaten Blitar," *Serayunusantara.Com*, 23 Mei, 2023, <https://serayunusantara.com/begini-gambaran-dan-potensi-pertanian-di-kabupaten-blitar/>.

<sup>23</sup> Azwar Iskandar & Khaerul Aqbar, "Green Economy Indonesia Dalam Perspektif Maqashid Syari'ah," *AL-MASHRAFIYAH: Jurnal Ekonomi, Keuangan, Dan Perbankan Syariah* 3, no. 2 (2019).

<sup>24</sup> Radha R. Sharma, "Green Management and Circular Economy for Sustainable Development," *Vision: The Journal of Business Perspective* 24, no. 1 (2020).

<sup>25</sup> Erry Ika Rhofita, "Optimalisasi Sumber Daya Pertanian Indonesia Untuk Mendukung Program Ketahanan Pangan Dan Energi Nasional," *Jurnal Ketahanan Nasional* 28, no. 1 (2022).

<sup>26</sup> Syahrial, Ilham Martadona, & Nurkholiza Harahap, "Development and Growth Pattern of Agricultural Sector in Economic Development," *Jurnal Sosial Ekonomi Pertanian* 19, no. 3 (2023).

context of environmental existence, which aligns with the fundamental principles of Islamic economics, such as equity and environmental protection. From an Islamic economic perspective, farming communities' creativity can be directed toward achieving the objectives of Sharia law (maqashid syari'ah), which prioritize welfare and environmental protection. This is consistent with the philosophy of the green economy, which emphasizes sustainability and social responsibility. Thus, Islamic economics' role in driving farmers' group creativity in the context of the green economy is a relevant and strategic step to enhance productivity and protect the environment. This study aims to address these challenges by analyzing the role of Islamic economics in supporting the creativity of farming communities in the green economy era in the districts of Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar. The study is expected to contribute to the development of Islamic economics by strengthening the creativity of farming communities and their economic resilience in the face of green economy policies.

## Method

As part of the effort to conduct scientific research, this study employs a qualitative approach with a case study design because it focuses on natural, in-depth, and contextual processes.<sup>27</sup> From March to May 2024, the researcher conducted direct participatory observations in three districts: Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar. The researcher observed the routine activities of farmer groups, such as meetings, sustainable agricultural practices, and agricultural waste management, to explore the dynamics of creativity and the application of Islamic economic principles. In-depth interviews were conducted with key informants, including farmers' group leaders, active members, agricultural extension officers, religious leaders, and agricultural department officials, who were selected through purposive sampling. Semi-structured techniques and a cultural approach were used to ensure the informants felt comfortable. The aim was to explore their understanding of green economy policies, the creative strategies implemented, and the Islamic values underlying their actions. The documentation includes meeting minutes, activity reports, photos of field activities, assistance proposals, and regional policy documents. These were obtained through collaboration with farmers' groups, the agricultural department, and informants willing to share their personal archives. All the data were analyzed using content analysis techniques based on Islamic economic theory.<sup>28</sup>

This study employs a case study approach, conducted directly with farmer groups in the Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar districts, to reveal the creative strategies employed by these groups in response to green economy policies. This approach is appropriate because the study aims to explore the complex, contextual social phenomenon of the interaction between Islamic economic values, environmental policies, and farmers' creative practices in a specific context.<sup>29</sup> The case study approach allows researchers to capture the complexity of local strategies, the Islamic values embedded in agricultural practices, and farmers' specific responses to the pressures and opportunities arising from green economy policies.

In terms of implementation, the research approach and design were selected based on the potential of several farmer groups in Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar districts in line with the research focus. Based on this focus and the selection of groups, the researcher conducted

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<sup>27</sup> Lexy J. Meleong, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif* (Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya, 1996).

<sup>28</sup> R Yin, *Case Study Research: Design and Method* (London: Sage Publication, 1994).

<sup>29</sup> Jonathan Sarwono, *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif Dan Kualitatif* (Yogyakarta: Graha Ilmu, 2006).

classification and analysis and drew conclusions.<sup>30</sup> The researcher also collected data through the research location based on primary and secondary sources. Based on the classification of the obtained data, the researcher selected and classified it according to the research focus. To obtain accurate data, the researcher used appropriate methods, particularly for gathering primary data. The researcher met directly with government officials overseeing the Agriculture Department, farmer group managers, and members of the public directly involved with green economy policies in an agricultural context.

Furthermore, in addition to primary data, the researchers utilized secondary data, including documents related to the study such as farmer group monographs, agricultural maps and images, and other documentation and literature. After collecting the data, the researcher analyzed it using qualitative methods, including reduction, presentation, and drawing conclusions<sup>31</sup> based on Islamic economic values. The researcher also verified the data's validity, credibility, and reliability through data triangulation techniques, member checking, and peer discussions<sup>32</sup> with academics and researchers at UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung.

## Result and Discussion

### ***Creativity and Green Economy Policies within the Framework of Islamic Economics***

In the context of the creative economy, the concept of the "creative industry" (an industry originating from individual creativity, skills, and talent with the potential to generate wealth and employment through intellectual property creation and exploitation) was introduced by Tony Blair's government in the UK and quickly became an orthodox feature of economic policy. By focusing on the creative economy and industry across various sectors, policymakers have gained a specific understanding of creativity and a new perspective on the economy within society. Notably, the discourse on the creative industry opens up a space where economic actors delegitimized and marginalized by neoliberal public policies can be re-legitimized. In the economy, this discourse can strongly advocate for the value of these actors and call for an increased share of national income. This is because the discourse persuasively highlights that, as a consequence of human labor, creativity determines not only aesthetic and symbolic values, but also economic values. However, the discourse focuses on the cultural sector's unlimited economic output potential and neglects to spark policymakers' interest in creative labor as an input from the industry.<sup>33</sup>

In terms of application, the creative economy emphasises the importance of economic actors being sensitive to the situation and conditions of the labour market.<sup>34</sup> These observations and sensitivities are then applied to determine the direction of a discovery-based economy that meets the community's needs. Demonstrating the existence of economic actors in the context of income and improved well-being requires creativity in determining economic steps. Thus,

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<sup>30</sup> S.K. Bogdan, R.C & Biklen, *Qualitative Research for Education: An Introduction to Theory and Methods. Third Edition* (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1998).

<sup>31</sup> Burhan Bungin, *Analisis Data Penelitian Kualitatif* (Jakarta: Raja Grafindo, 2008).

<sup>32</sup> C. R. Kothari, *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques* (New Delhi: New Age International Ltd. Publisher, 2004).

<sup>33</sup> Hye-Kyung Lee, "Rethinking Creativity: Creative Industries, AI and Everyday Creativity," *Media, Culture & Society* 44, no. 3 (2022).

<sup>34</sup> Fikri Zul Fahmi, Philip McCann, & Sierdjan Koster, "Creative Economy Policy in Developing Countries: The Case of Indonesia," *Urban Studies* 54, no. 6 (2015).

economic creativity determines future direction through a multidimensional approach based on cultural and technological development and circumstances.<sup>35</sup>

Furthermore, to manage Indonesia's agricultural potential, policies are needed to accelerate the growth of the agricultural sector. These policies manage not only the agricultural sector itself but also the output of agricultural potential development to support other sectors of the economy. Agricultural policies are government measures that aim to achieve a higher standard of economic development by developing the agricultural sector. In practice, these policies involve government intervention in production, marketing, and foreign policy, as well as government actions to promote, control, and regulate agricultural development to achieve sustainable development.<sup>36</sup>

Agricultural policy aims to establish instruments and regulations that increase the production and consumption of agricultural commodities in Indonesia. This concept translates the objectives of agricultural policy into concrete measures that are consistently implemented in the regulation of the agricultural sector. The implementation of agricultural policy is expected to positively impact the development and enhancement of creativity among Indonesian farmers. Therefore, formulating agricultural policy is crucial for improving the agricultural sector sustainably. Furthermore, production levels, investment, and the application of agricultural technology must be regulated through policy instruments that provide legal certainty.<sup>37</sup> Agricultural policy regulates aspects that facilitate the proper functioning of the agricultural sector, such as the distribution of fertilizers and agricultural chemicals.

In terms of benefits, agricultural policy regulates both agricultural output and human resource management in agriculture. This aligns with Article 42 of Law No. 19 of 2013, which concerns the protection and empowerment of farmers. The article outlines the government's obligation to provide farmers with education and training. These programs aim to enhance human resources in the agricultural sector. These programs are supported by agricultural extension officers in each region. It is hoped that these programs will foster creativity among Indonesian farmers, thereby promoting the development of the agricultural sector and improving their economic well-being.<sup>38</sup>

In the context of policy, agricultural policy refers to the measures taken by the government to achieve objectives in the agricultural sector. The main objective of agricultural policy is to increase productivity and production and improve the efficiency, livelihoods, and welfare of farmers. To achieve these objectives, central and regional governments issue various regulatory policies aimed at realizing justice and equity.

One example of a regulatory policy is the fertilizer distribution and trade regulation for the agricultural sector. A regulatory policy aimed at achieving income equality for farmers determines a minimum copra price. This policy has been in effect since 1969 in the copra-producing areas of Sulawesi. In the agricultural sector, various types of policies exist, including price policy, marketing policy, agrarian policy, industrial policy, and rural and urban income policy. Price policy is an effort aimed at achieving price stability (see economic policy). Price policy involves supporting

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<sup>35</sup> Herry A Pradana, "Peranan Sektor Ekonomi Kreatif Pada Pertumbuhan Ekonomi Dan Ketenagakerjaan Di Kalimantan Selatan," *Jurnal Kebijakan Pembangunan* 13, no. 1 (2018).

<sup>36</sup> Juli Panglima Saragih, "Tantangan Kebijakan Pengembangan Sektor Pertanian Di Masa Datang," *Kajian* 21, no. 2 (2016).

<sup>37</sup> Ismi Imania Ikhsani, Feninda Eka Tasya, Ul Inati, Iradhad Taqwa Sihidi, Ali Roziqin, & Ach. Apriyanto Romadhan, "Arah Kebijakan Sektor Pertanian Di Indonesia Untuk Menghadapi Era Revolusi Industri 4.0," *Jurnal Administrasi Dan Kebijakan Publik* V, no. 2 (2020): 138.

<sup>38</sup> Undang-Undang Nomor 19 Tahun 2013 tentang Perlindungan dan Pemberdayaan Petani.

agricultural product prices to protect farmers from detrimental prices. Price policy therefore includes elements such as regulating the stability of agricultural product prices, increasing farmers' income through improved terms of trade, and providing guidance on agrarian production volumes.<sup>39</sup>

In terms of marketing policy, the government protects agricultural producers. A central marketing board strengthens the competitiveness of farmers and reduces the impact of fluctuating world market prices on their incomes. Marketing policies for export-oriented agricultural products also include regulations on the distribution of production inputs to farmers. These efforts foster healthy competition among traders and address farmers' needs for production inputs, such as fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides. The goal is to enable farmers to purchase these inputs at affordable prices and effectively develop their agricultural activities.<sup>40</sup>

In terms of structural policy, this policy aims to improve the production structure of the agricultural sector. It is implemented through close cooperation between government agencies and actors in the agricultural sector, such as farmer groups. Therefore, this policy represents economic measures that encourage structural change. These measures are implemented through an intensive extension process to create an economic structure that protects the interests of these groups. Furthermore, agricultural and industrial policies focus on strengthening the sectors to complement each other. The goal is to develop these sectors in a balanced and complementary manner. Finally, income distribution policies between rural and urban populations aim to regulate expenditure and consumption patterns for economic actors and rural and urban communities. The hope is that there will be no imbalance between production and consumption at the village or city level.<sup>41</sup>

In relation to the government's efforts to implement policies in the agricultural sector, it appears that the government aims to promote equity, development, processing, and the marketing of agricultural products. Therefore, increasing capacity and empowering human resources in farmer groups is very important through policies in the agricultural sector. The government aims to provide extension services and institutional development to farmer groups to help them keep pace with the developments and challenges of the Indonesian economy, particularly in the agricultural sector. Additionally, innovation and technology dissemination are key factors in enhancing agricultural processing productivity. These efforts improve efficiency in the agricultural sector through technological revitalization, production development, and maximizing agricultural potential. This ensures quality management of farmer groups, institutional development within the sector, and provides facilities for entrepreneurship and partnerships. By empowering farmer groups with relevant policies, the government hopes to play a significant role in developing agriculture in Indonesia.<sup>42</sup>

The green economy is a highly complex theoretical construct that integrates economic, environmental, and social interests, as well as the governance necessary for its implementation. In relation to this concept, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) aims to support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The concept also provides opportunities to utilize the

<sup>39</sup> R. N. A. Prasetyo, R., & Saksono, "Pengaruh Subsidi Input Terhadap Nilai Tukar Petani Padi Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Good Governance* 15, no. 2 (2019).

<sup>40</sup> Ashari, "Optimalisasi Kebijakan Kredit Program Sektor Pertanian Di Indonesia," *Analisis Kebijakan Pertanian* 7, no. 1 (2009): 21–42.

<sup>41</sup> Endro Gunawan, "Persepsi Petani Dalam Implementasi Program Kartu Tani Untuk Mendukung Distribusi Pupuk Bersubsidi," *Jurnal Ekonomi Dan Pembangunan* 28, no. 2 (2020).

<sup>42</sup> Dahir, "Analisis Kritis Terhadap Kinerja Sektor Pertanian Subsektor Tanaman Pangan," *Jurnal Budget* 3, no. 2 (2020): 137–149.

green economy to support sustainable ecosystem development. Essentially, the green economy refers to economic activities that generate outputs related to greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>43</sup>

The green economy aims to create an economic model that considers both macroeconomic factors and investments in environmentally friendly products. Additionally, the green economy aims to establish green investment guidelines that can alleviate poverty in communities.<sup>44</sup> The objectives of the green economy align with global efforts to find solutions to the various challenges of globalization in the contemporary era. Environmental economics theory is another solution that addresses environmental issues, particularly those tied to economic policies with a vision for environmental conservation.<sup>45</sup>

In the contemporary context, the green economy emphasizes aspects of discussion that restrict environmentally friendly economic behavior. In terms of implementation, the green economy emphasizes economic policy and serves as a means of assessing economic activity and sanctioning environmentally damaging behavior. Furthermore, the green economy encourages economic actors to produce, trade, and consume environmentally friendly goods.<sup>46</sup> Thus, the income and jobs generated by green economy policies are expected to motivate environmentally friendly activities. This highlights the long-term investment value of economic infrastructure, such as technological innovation and economic institutions, which collectively create environmentally friendly structures within all economic activities.<sup>47</sup>

One strategy for implementing a green economy in society is the evolution of its meaning from policy efforts to a focus on development and job creation. This strategy aims to raise public awareness and encourage collaboration in meeting the market demand for environmentally friendly products. Green economy policies have three key outcomes: First, they create new income sources and job opportunities focused on environmental sustainability. Second, they reduce economic activities that rely on natural resources and threaten environmental sustainability. Third, they contribute to social development by implementing sustainable environmental development initiatives.<sup>48</sup>

In the context of Islamic economic values, equity and sustainability are essential to a just economy. A just economy is a fundamental principle of Islamic economics. Islamic economics emphasizes public awareness and government policies that prioritize justice. In this context, public awareness involves putting essential values into practice in the economy.<sup>49</sup> In terms of government policies, Islamic economics can be represented through policies that prioritize equity, justice, and sustainability.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Dean Stroud, Peter Fairbrother, & Joanne Blake, "Skill Development in the Transition to a 'Green Economy': A 'Varieties of Capitalism' Analysis," *The Economic and Labour Relations Review* 25, no. 1 (2014).

<sup>44</sup> David Michael M. San Juan, "Transitioning to a Progressive Green Economy in the Philippines," *Journal of Developing Societies* 36, no. 2 (2020).

<sup>45</sup> Ihnji Jon, "Reassembling the Politics of 'Green' Urban Redevelopment in East Garfield Park: A Polanyian Approach," *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X231221019>.

<sup>46</sup> M. S. Cato, *Green Economics: An Introduction to Theory, Policy and Practice* (London: Earthscan, 2012), 27.

<sup>47</sup> Azwar Iskandar & Khaerul Aqbar, "Green Economy Indonesia Dalam Perspektif Maqashid Syari'ah.", 86.

<sup>48</sup> Ian Bailey & Federico Caprotti, "The Green Economy: Functional Domains and Theoretical Directions of Enquiry," *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space* 46, no. 8 (2014).

<sup>49</sup> Abdurrohman Kasdi, "Actualizations Of Maqasid Al-Shariah In Modern Life: Maqasid Al-Shariah Theory As A Method Of The Development Of Islamic Laws And Shariah Economics," *Justicia Islamica: Jurnal Kajian Hukum Dan Sosial* 16, no. 2 (2019).

<sup>50</sup> Daud A. Mustafa, Hashir A. Abdulsalam, & Jibrail B. Yusuf, "Islamic Economics and the Relevance of Al-Qawa'id Al-Fiqhiyyah," *SAGE Open*, 2016, <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440166713>.

## ***Strategies for Enhancing the Creativity of Farmer Groups in Responding to Green Economy Policies***

In the contemporary context, green economy policies have become an important issue for managing natural resources and promoting sustainable development in Indonesian society.<sup>51</sup> Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar are among the regencies with extensive agricultural sectors. This naturally presents various dynamics and challenges when implementing green economy principles in agricultural activities. One approach is to enhance the creativity of farming communities through green economy initiatives, demonstrating the agricultural sector's success as a livelihood for the community while contributing to sustainable development in contemporary society.

The green economy is a development concept that prioritises environmental sustainability in order to foster an inclusive way of life for communities.<sup>52</sup> In agriculture, it emphasises practices that use green technology and are environmentally friendly to improve farmers' welfare. This approach aims to reduce negative environmental impacts while improving productivity and quality of life for communities through agricultural income and environmental conditions that support public health.

In the context of farmer groups, green economy policies require integrating environmentally friendly agricultural practices with an emphasis on sustainable development.<sup>53</sup> To manifest themselves in relevant agricultural patterns and processes and respond to the realization of a green economy, farmer groups must innovate and adapt. In practice, farmer groups in the districts of Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar have identified challenges and opportunities in order to formulate effective strategies for environmentally friendly agriculture. These challenges include limited access to environmentally friendly technology, a lack of knowledge about green economy practices, and insufficient capital. Therefore, government support for the potential of organic products and farmers' adaptive capacity is key to realising agriculture based on the core values of the green economy.<sup>54</sup>

Data on millennial farmers in East Java proves the acceleration of creativity among farmers in the province. This demonstrates significant progress in the agricultural system in East Java.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Eleonore Loiseau, et al, "Green Economy and Related Concepts: An Overview," *Journal of Cleaner Production* 139, no. 15 (2016), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.08.024>.

<sup>52</sup> Ayesha Afzal, Ehsan Rasoulinezhad, & Zaki Malik, "Green Finance and Sustainable Development in Europe," *Economic Research-Ekonomska Istraživanja* 35, no. 1 (2022).

<sup>53</sup> Jihad Lukis Panjawa, Budi Rahardjo, & Amelia Cyntia Kusuma Wardhani, "Upaya Implementasi Sistem Pertanian Terintegrasi Bagi Kelompok Tani Desa Pogalan Kabupaten Magelang," *Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat* 3, no. 3 (2023).

<sup>54</sup> Temuan Penelitian di Kelompok Tani Kabupaten Tulungagung, Trenggalek, dan Blitar, Juni-Juli 2024

<sup>55</sup> Admin, "Petani Milenial Jatim Terbanyak Se-Indonesia," *Radio.Pasuruankab.Go.Id*, 24 Desember, 2023, <https://radio.pasuruankab.go.id/berita/petani-milenial-jatim-terbanyak-se-indonesia>.



Source: [radio.pasuruan.go.id](http://radio.pasuruan.go.id)

The image above shows that East Java Province has the largest population of millennial farmers in Indonesia. This represents the region's success in promoting agricultural sector regeneration through the active participation of the younger generation. This data is concrete evidence of the acceleration of creativity among East Java farmers, who not only continue agricultural traditions, but also introduce innovations in cultivation systems, marketing, and the use of modern agricultural technology. The dominance of millennial farmers reflects the younger generation's collective awareness of the agricultural sector's importance as a pillar of food security and a promising economic opportunity. It also indicates progressive policy support from local governments in promoting technology-based agriculture and entrepreneurship. Therefore, East Java deserves to be recognized as a barometer of national agricultural progress that adapts to changing times. It serves as an example that agriculture is no longer a neglected sector, but rather a space where young people can flourish creatively.

Meanwhile, farmers in the Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar districts have innovated products and diversified crops to promote the development of high-value organic products, responding to market demand. This strategy has enhanced the efficiency and productivity of farmers' groups in Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar districts by cultivating high-value crops in an economic context aligned with green economy principles. Innovating organic products is a crucial step taken by these groups to increase the value of agricultural products in their regions. By adopting organic farming techniques, farmers can produce healthier, more environmentally friendly products that are in high demand. For instance, these groups have developed organic fruits and vegetables free of chemical pesticides, meeting the quality standards of health- and environmentally conscious consumers. Additionally, organic certification enhances consumer trust and market value.<sup>56</sup>

In a creative move, farmer groups in the districts of Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar have partnered with various parties to implement the principles of green economy-based agriculture. These groups have formed partnerships with the government and related institutions to provide technical and financial support for agricultural programs. In this context, these groups are implementing various improvements in terms of training and social assistance to adopt

<sup>56</sup> Temuan Penelitian di Kelompok Tani Kabupaten Tulungagung, Trenggalek, dan Blitar, Juni-Juli 2024

advancements in the agricultural sector, such as technological innovations and product development.<sup>57</sup>

In practice, farmer groups use agricultural technology and develop environmentally inclusive agricultural products in response to green economy policies. Their commitment to environmental sustainability is evident through their innovative strategies to enhance creativity and competitiveness in the face of green economy challenges. In Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Gitapura districts, farmers' groups focus on implementing environmentally friendly agricultural technologies to optimize production while preserving environmental sustainability. Effective strategies include the use of organic fertilizers, drip irrigation, and agricultural waste processing. The hope is that water and chemical fertilizer use can be significantly reduced to lower production costs and, most importantly, preserve the environment.

The innovations implemented by the farmers' groups are realized through agricultural product diversification. In practice, environmentally friendly organic products have a higher market value locally. Consequently, farmers are shifting away from relying on a single staple commodity and toward developing horticultural systems and herbal products. This diversification effort strengthens the economic resilience of farmer groups in the face of market changes and unpredictable natural conditions. Another effort undertaken by farmer groups is adopting integrated farming systems. These systems integrate various elements of agricultural production into a mutually supportive ecosystem.

In Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar districts, another form of creativity among farmer groups is the use of rainwater management technology to overcome drought. Technologies such as rainwater harvesting and river water management for optimal irrigation have reduced dependence on the rainy season. Farmer groups have also begun using organic fertilizers and plant-based pesticides to minimize negative impacts on soil and water while promoting long-term agricultural land health.<sup>58</sup>

In addition, these groups collaborate with local governments and community-based organizations focused on agriculture and environmental issues. These collaborations aim to build partnerships and access the latest technology and knowledge on more efficient and sustainable land management. Furthermore, farmer groups focus on increasing human resource capacity through training and extension programs. This capacity building is important so farmers can keep up with technological developments and manage their agricultural businesses more effectively and professionally in line with the demands of the green economy.

In response to green economy policies, farmer groups have formed cooperatives to strengthen their networks and sense of solidarity. These cooperatives provide a platform for knowledge sharing, capital management, and better price negotiation with the market. Through these organizations, farmers have stronger bargaining power and easier access to government assistance programs. The cooperatives also provide access to microcredit programs offered by government and private financial institutions. Microcredit helps farmers meet their working capital needs, particularly for purchasing agricultural tools and developing agricultural product processing businesses. With this financial support, farmers can more easily innovate and increase their businesses' productivity.

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<sup>57</sup> Temuan Penelitian di Kelompok Tani Kabupaten Tulungagung, Trenggalek, dan Blitar, Juni-Juli 2024

<sup>58</sup> Temuan Penelitian di Kelompok Tani Kabupaten Tulungagung, Trenggalek, dan Blitar, Juni-Juli 2024

Overall, farmer groups in the Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar districts have adapted their creative strategies to align with green economy policies. Practically speaking, these groups have transitioned from conventional farming practices to modern farming methods that prioritize environmental conservation.<sup>59</sup> Additionally, these groups have adopted agroforestry concepts to maintain ecosystem balance, enhance land productivity, and strengthen local food security. These efforts demonstrate the groups' awareness of and commitment to the sustainability principles promoted in green economy policies.

### ***Islamic Economics as a Driver of Creativity Among Farmers in Response to the Green Economy***

Successful implementation is defined by its manifestation within the context of expectations. The manifestation of basic values is an aspect of expectations within the framework of ideal values for achieving fundamental values. In Islamic economics, fundamental values are the core values that ensure justice and equity in economic matters.<sup>60</sup> In agriculture, these values can be seen through the relevance of the sector in achieving community welfare in economic and health aspects. This is because the agricultural sector is a pillar of the community's economy and influences community health stability.

The agricultural sector is an important factor in achieving stability in people's lives, in terms of both the economy and public health. Initially, agriculture was a free enterprise, but today it is an economic enterprise that strongly impacts environmental stability. From an Islamic perspective, the agricultural sector has always been viewed as a means of achieving common goals through cooperation. Islam emphasizes the importance of maintaining ecological balance and providing benefits to society as a whole. In this context, the agricultural sector is seen as an effort to support the principle of achieving the common good, including meeting basic needs and maintaining environmental balance.

Islamic economics is based on an approach rooted in justice and sustainable social welfare.<sup>61</sup> In the context of agriculture, implementing Islamic economic values can strengthen farming communities in Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar.<sup>62</sup> Islamic economic concepts and values are relevant to farming communities through green economy policies that focus on agricultural activities with a positive environmental impact. Innovation and creativity in managing natural resources are core values of Islamic economics, demonstrating environmentally friendly economic behavior.

The green economy is an effort to develop an environmentally sustainable economy. This concept aligns with Islamic economics, which emphasizes the wise use of natural resources without causing harm. It provides opportunities and perspectives for farmer groups to implement sustainable agricultural practices. The basic principles of Islamic economics aim to maintain balance and prevent environmental damage.

The practices of farmer groups in the Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar districts are important in supporting the local economy. These groups focus not only on food production, but

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<sup>59</sup> Temuan Penelitian di Kelompok Tani Kabupaten Tulungagung, Trenggalek, dan Blitar, Juni-Juli 2024

<sup>60</sup> Jikon Lai, "Financialised Ethics, Economic Security and the Promise of Islamic Finance," *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics* 7, no. 1 (2021).

<sup>61</sup> A. Demirguc-Kunt & O. Merrouche T. Beck, "Islamic VS Conventional Banking: Business Model, Efficiency and Stability," *Journal of Banking and Finance* 37, no. 2 (2013): 433.

<sup>62</sup> Temuan Penelitian di Kelompok Tani Kabupaten Tulungagung, Trenggalek, dan Blitar, Juni-Juli 2024

also on maintaining the sustainability of the agricultural ecosystem. This helps uphold the benefits of the economic concept and strengthen green economy policies for environmental sustainability. One of the basic principles of Islamic economics is achieving justice in the distribution of agricultural resources. Islamic economics addresses the challenges farmer groups face in accessing land, capital, and agricultural technology to ensure fair access to the necessary resources.

By applying the principle of justice, farmer groups are expected to have fairer access to resources, which will enhance their creativity and innovation in running sustainable farming businesses. In Islamic economics, economic creativity refers to partnership cooperation that encourages collaboration to achieve common goals. In practice, partnerships and cooperation among farmer groups, in the form of syirkah, strengthen group member cooperation. This enhances the creativity and innovation of these groups when addressing the challenges of the green economy.

According to Islamic economic principles, farmer groups can achieve creativity through the *qardhul hasan* scheme.<sup>63</sup> Agricultural financing schemes provide a solution to capital problems by offering capital and business development. Through this scheme, farmer groups obtain the necessary capital without heavy interest rates, enabling them to increase productivity and creativity. Government support is crucial for facilitating access to interest-free financing for farmer groups within the context of Islamic economic principles. Policies supporting access to interest-free capital, facilitating the distribution of halal agricultural products, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices create opportunities for farmer groups to address the challenges of the green economy with creativity and innovation.

According to Islamic economic principles,<sup>64</sup> natural resource management is legitimate when it emphasizes the principle of prudence in agricultural resource management. To address green economy policies, farmer groups in the Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar regencies have adopted environmentally friendly agricultural practices. These include the use of organic materials, efficient irrigation management, and environmentally friendly agricultural technologies. The Islamic economic concept of sustainability encourages farmers to innovate agricultural practices such as agroforestry, crop rotation, and using renewable energy in production processes.<sup>65</sup>

The implementation of basic Islamic economic principles among farmer groups can be achieved through the halal marketing of agricultural products.<sup>66</sup> This is an important aspect of Islamic economic concepts and values in production activities and understanding agricultural products. In practice, farmer groups expand their markets to promote naturally produced agricultural products that meet health standards and environmentally friendly guidelines. Additionally, the core values of Islamic economics are implemented in agricultural strategies through the practice of zakat.<sup>67</sup> Zakat is one of the economic instruments of Islamic economics for social payments through zakat funds. Agricultural zakat can be allocated to support poor farmers,

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<sup>63</sup> Putri Rizka Citaningati, Kamaluddin, & Ilham Dwitama Haeba, "Implementation of the Qardhul Hasan Agreement at Indonesian Islamic Financial Institutions," *Fitrab: Jurnal Kajian Ilmu-Ilmu Keislaman* 8, no. 2 (2022).

<sup>64</sup> Nurul Syazwani Mohd Noor, Abdul Ghafar Ismail, & Muhammad Hakimi Mohd. Shafai, "Shariah Risk: Its Origin, Definition, and Application in Islamic Finance," *SAGE Open*, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440187702>.

<sup>65</sup> Temuan Penelitian di Kelompok Tani Kabupaten Tulungagung, Trenggalek, dan Blitar, Juni-Juli 2024

<sup>66</sup> Lihat dalam Sulistyo Prabowo & Azmawani Abd Rahman, "Halal Certificate in the Agricultural Products Processing Industry," *Forum Penelitian Agro Ekonomi* 34, no. 1 (2016).

<sup>67</sup> Lihat dalam Fahmi Yunus Hafas Furqani, Ratna Mulyany, "Zakat for Economic Empowerment of The Poor in Indonesia: Models and Implications," *IQTISHADIA: Jurnal Kajian Ekonomi Dan Bisnis Islam* 11, no. 2 (2018).

increase the productivity of underutilised land, and fund training programs that encourage creativity and innovation among farmer groups when addressing the challenges of the green economy. Islamic economics also emphasises productive endowments in the agricultural sector. Optimising productive endowments can support sustainable agriculture and help farmer groups develop an environmentally friendly agricultural sector.

The findings of this study indicate that the creativity strategies employed by farmer groups in the Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar districts in response to green economy policies exhibit both similarities and unique characteristics compared to practices in other international regions. For instance, Altieri and Nicholls's (2020) study on agroecology in Latin America emphasises the importance of community-based sustainable agriculture through crop diversification, water efficiency, and farmer collaboration within cooperatives—a pattern also observed in the practices of farmer groups in these three districts.<sup>68</sup> Thus, this research reinforces the importance of Islamic economic values in sustainable agricultural practices and contributes to the field by emphasising the need to integrate green economy principles with *maqashid al-syari'ah* to develop inclusive, sustainable agricultural systems worldwide.

## Conclusion

To enhance the creativity of farmer groups in the Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar districts in response to green economy policies, the strategy includes implementing various innovative sustainable agriculture practices. These farmer groups have successfully adopted an inclusive approach to agriculture that includes strengthening organic fertilizer systems and improving knowledge of rice farming techniques. They also focus on managing natural resources, such as soil structure and environmentally friendly irrigation patterns, to support sustainable agricultural productivity. Collaboration with external agencies has also been key in fostering creativity among these groups. One notable example is tobacco cultivation, which boosts productivity and provides access to the cigarette industry market. This initiative aligns with green economy principles by conducting tobacco cultivation with environmental considerations such as waste management and renewable energy use. These strategies demonstrate that creativity in agriculture combined with environmentally friendly technology can effectively address the challenges of green economy policies.

Implementing Islamic economic concepts has driven creativity among farmer groups in the Tulungagung, Trenggalek, and Blitar districts, promoting a significant transformation in agricultural practices to address the green economy. In Tulungagung, farmer groups have transitioned to organic farming techniques, reducing their dependence on harmful chemicals by using natural fertilizers and plant-based pesticides. This positively impacts soil and water quality and improves the quality and safety of agricultural products, aligning with the principle of environmental conservation. In Trenggalek District, meanwhile, farmer groups have adopted Islamic economic principles by prioritizing the wise management of natural resources. They minimize waste, reduce pollution, and use environmentally friendly technology in irrigation and agricultural systems. This approach emphasizes balancing economic benefits with environmental conservation, aligning with the values of justice and sustainability in Islamic economics. These steps allow farmer groups in both regions to maintain agricultural productivity and actively support green economy policies that prioritize environmental sustainability and shared prosperity.

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<sup>68</sup> Bogdan, R.C & Biklen, *Qualitative Research for Education: An Introduction to Theory and Methods. Third Edition.*

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