

Empowering Communities Through Legal Counseling in Agrarian Reform: A Simojayan Village Case

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Abstract

Simojayan Village in Malang Regency has long experienced unresolved agrarian conflicts. Addressing these issues requires not only innovative legal strategies but also increased public legal awareness. In response, a legal outreach program was conducted, involving expert presentations and interactive dialogue, and attended by over 70 participants. The program successfully enhanced the community's understanding of agrarian law, particularly regarding the legal status of former HGU lands and the opportunities presented by agrarian reform. A notable outcome of the outreach was the community's initiative to form a citizen forum for agrarian advocacy and their commitment to collaborate with legal organizations, including the Forum of Law Students for Justice (FORMAH PK). Follow-up plans include legal counseling, participatory land mapping, and paralegal training. These results indicate that legal education can serve as an effective entry point for community empowerment and equitable conflict resolution.

Keywords: Agrarian conflict; community participation; Legal empowerment; Land rights.

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Introduction

The development of national law in the post-reform era has become an important foundation for achieving justice and sustainability in various aspects of people's lives. One of the national priority programs in this context is agrarian reform. Through Presidential Regulation Number 86 of 2018 concerning Agrarian Reform, the government seeks to realize the equalization of the structure of control, ownership, use, and utilization of land. Agrarian reform represents a spirit to reformulate land and natural resource regulations, bring about justice in land ownership, and promote the welfare of the people, especially small farmers and indigenous peoples. The main objective of this program is to restructure the agrarian structure to create justice, resolve agrarian conflicts, and improve people's welfare (Setkab RI, 2018).

In the context of agrarian reform, resolving agrarian conflicts has become a priority program. To accelerate the resolution of agrarian conflicts in Indonesia, the government even deemed it necessary to establish the Agrarian Conflict Resolution Acceleration Team and Strengthening of Agrarian Reform Policies in 2021. Moeldoko, as the Chief of Presidential Staff, signed Decree Number 1B/T/2021 on the Formation of the Task Force for the Acceleration of Agrarian Conflict Resolution and Strengthening of Agrarian Reform Policies (Setiawan, 2021).

However, these efforts have yet to show the expected results. Existing studies indicate that the agrarian reform agenda has not made significant progress in resolving agrarian conflicts. In practice, the agrarian reform agenda has primarily focused on improving the structure of land and natural resource ownership, control, use, and management, which has historically been highly unequal. Issues of sectoral egoism among ministries and state institutions, as well as overlapping policies related to land management, have hindered the swift resolution of many agrarian conflicts (Perdanakusumah & Minulyo, 2019).

This is evidenced by the still high number of agrarian conflicts in Indonesia today. The National Land Agency (BPN) records that disputed land registered covers nearly 90 million hectares, while registered agrarian conflict cases reach 8,000. In reality, these figures are likely much higher, as not all disputes are formally registered. The Head of the National Land Agency explains that most of the current agrarian cases stem from legacies of the past (CNBC Indonesia, 2022). A persistent case study of unresolved agrarian conflict stemming from historical legacies can be found in Simojayan Village, Ampelgading District, Malang Regency.

The agrarian dispute in Simojayan is part of a broader conflict between the local community and PTPN XII (Persero). The conflict centers around the Kalibakar plantation, a former Dutch estate covering 8,828.84 hectares, located across five villages: Simojayan, Tirtoyudo, Kepatihan, Tlogosari, and Bumirejo, with a total area of 4,826 hectares.

The conflict originated from the nationalization of former Dutch plantations, where all ex-Dutch plantation lands, including the Kalibakar plantation, were taken over by the state. According to a decree from the Ministry of Home Affairs dated June 18, the right of exploitation (Hak Guna Usaha, HGU) was granted to PTPN XII over 2,050 hectares, valid until 2013. After the expiration of this HGU, a conflict of interest and differing perceptions arose between the farmers, who claimed ownership of the land, and PTPN XII. PTPN XII, as the holder of the HGU, asserted that the land did not belong to the community, while the local residents believed the land to be ancestral property (Tanahkita, 2022; Wibisana, 2023).

The community's limited legal awareness, coupled with systematic provocations exploiting the momentum of the reform era, prolonged the conflict beyond mere differences in perception (Wibisana, 2023). Seizing the opportunities afforded by the reform movement, the community initiated a reclamation effort. This movement reached its peak between 1998 and 2000, when the Kalibakar farmers, bolstered by widespread support, reclaimed approximately 94% of the plantation, which they regarded as their ancestral land. This event marked the culmination of a long-standing struggle for land rights and underscored the farmers' aspiration to use agrarian reform as a means to resolve their dispute with the plantation company (Wahyudi, 2010).

According to Mustain (2007), the farmers' resistance in PTPN VII Kalibakar was driven by a confluence of factors, namely: (a) resentment towards the broken promise of returning ancestral lands, (b) the opacity and inconsistencies in the land area data provided by PTPN XII and the National Land Agency, (c) a pervasive sense of guilt for failing to safeguard their ancestral heritage, (d) the intransigence and insensitivity of PTPN XII's management towards the local workforce, (e) discrepancies in the PTPN XII HGU data, and (f) the arrogant and overbearing behavior of the plantation overseers and supervisors (Mustain, 2007).

The agrarian conflict at the Kalibakar plantation has endured for nearly 27 years (Syamsuddin, 2023), and the land tenure dispute continues to defy resolution (Innews, 2023), despite being identified as a priority for conflict resolution in Malang Regency (Malangtimes, 2016). The villagers have undertaken various initiatives to secure land for cultivation, ranging from self-organized land occupations to public hearings with the Regional House of Representatives. However, the Indonesian government has thus far failed to exhibit a robust political commitment to divest itself of IMnd that is no longer under its effective control (Tanahkita, 2022).

The resolution of the Simojayan conflict necessitates innovative and targeted legal approaches to untangle the intricate agrarian issues at hand. Effective legal education and outreach are indispensable in this regard. The people of Simojayan, like many Indonesian communities, often exhibit limited comprehension of their agrarian and agrarian reform rights. A more profound understanding of land regulations, ownership entitlements, and their agency in safeguarding these rights is imperative.

Legal education on agrarian reform is a pivotal component in resolving agrarian conflicts and enhancing public legal consciousness. It not only imparts legal knowledge but also empowers communities to engage in negotiations and conflict resolution processes from a position of strength. In the Simojayan context, legal education can serve as an empowering tool for the community to safeguard their rights and seek more equitable resolutions to complex agrarian conflicts.

Moreover, studies have shown that despite the positive implications of direct legal outreach on public legal awareness, its actual implementation has been minimal. This is attributable to constraints in terms of resources, inadequate budget, and limited human capacity (Ernis, 2018).

Various community service programs focusing on legal literacy in agrarian issues have been implemented in several regions, typically through one-way legal education approaches. For instance, in Tanah Putih Village, socialization efforts aimed to improve public understanding of land disputes and the importance of legal documents such as land ownership certificates (Rachman et al., 2024). In Nendali Village, legal counseling activities addressed the settlement of customary land disputes based on Ministerial Regulation ATR/KBPN No. 5 of 1999 (Manengkey et al., 2023). Similarly, in Gunung Mas Regency,

community service initiatives provided legal education and consultations related to land certification procedures through legal aid institutions ([Herlintang et al., 2025](#)).

While these programs have contributed to raising public legal awareness, they largely relied on limited, one-off sessions without sustained legal assistance. In contrast, the program implemented in Simojayan introduces a more integrative and sustainable model. Its novelty lies in the follow-up advocacy efforts conducted by the Forum of Law Students for Justice (FORMAH PK), which actively supports the community after the initial outreach. Furthermore, the program is uniquely designed to build the community's capacity for independent legal advocacy, enabling local residents not only to receive legal knowledge but also to become empowered agents in defending their land rights. This approach transforms the program from a mere transfer of knowledge into a strategic, community-based empowerment initiative.

As part of our commitment to the "Tri Dharma perguruan Tinggi", we have partnered with the Forum of Law Students for Justice, Faculty of Law, Universitas Brawijaya (FORMAH PK FH-UB) to conduct a community service program focused on legal counseling in Simojayan Village. The primary objective of this program is to raise community awareness about agrarian reform and to equip villagers with the knowledge necessary to exercise their land rights. It is hoped that the Simojayan Village community will actively participate in advocating for their land ownership rights and contribute to land redistribution that promotes justice and prosperity in the region.

Method

The legal outreach activity was conducted on July 14, 2023, at the Simojayan Village Hall, Ampelgading District, Malang Regency, and lasted for approximately four hours. The program consisted of three segments: legal material presentations, interactive discussion sessions, and a collaborative follow-up planning forum. The outreach carried the theme: "Enhancing Legal Understanding of the Simojayan Village Community in Efforts to Achieve Inclusive Agrarian Reform for Land Redistribution Based on Justice and Prosperity." Speakers were selected based on their qualifications and relevance to agrarian reform. They included academic experts from the Faculty of Law, Universitas Brawijaya; officials from the East Java Provincial and Malang Regency Land Offices; and community representatives directly involved in the conflict. The event was attended by approximately 70 participants, consisting of farmers, village officials, students, and social activists. To enhance engagement and understanding, the activity utilized visual aids such as LCD-projected slides, graphs, and short videos to illustrate key points. The session format combined lectures with interactive dialogue, moderated discussions, and printed handouts, fostering active participation and critical reflection.

Result and Discussion

The legal outreach related to agrarian reform for the residents of Simojayan Village, Ampelgading District, Malang Regency was conducted through three stages: pre-event activities, implementation of socialization, and formulation of follow-up plans. The following is an outline of these three stages:

Pre-Event Activities

Pre-event activities involve preliminary studies or assessments of the conditions in the area where the event is to be held. These activities help to understand the context and conditions in the area, allowing for the design of a more effective socialization program that meets the local community's needs. This approach enhances the effectiveness of socialization efforts and minimizes errors in information dissemination. In the context of agrarian reform socialization, pre-event activities are conducted to ensure that the socialization of agrarian reform is more targeted, relevant, and effective in addressing agrarian conflicts and providing useful information to the Simojayan community. The pre-event activities include:

Social Analysis

A social analysis was conducted as a preliminary study or field survey to gather concrete data on the social conditions of Simojayan Village, particularly demographic data, as well as social, economic, cultural, and political conditions. This activity was also necessary to understand the history of agrarian conflicts, the underlying causes, the parties involved, and the key stakeholders in the area. Social analysis involved collecting demographic data through relevant parties and gathering information through interviews and discussions with Simojayan residents, farmers, community leaders, village officials, and relevant community groups such as indigenous peoples, farmers, local government, NGOs, and other relevant groups. This information helped to understand the conditions of the Simojayan community and identify the existing

problems. Social analysis also aimed to map local resources and analyze the specific supporting and inhibiting factors faced by the local community in resolving agrarian conflicts.

Literature Review

A literature review was conducted to gain a deeper understanding of the legal context, regulations, history, and issues related to agrarian reform in Simojayan. This involved a systematic search of academic works such as journal articles and other publications, as well as information on agrarian conflicts in Simojayan found in popular publications like newspapers and online media. Furthermore, the literature review was essential for planning the socialization materials, ensuring that the content presented was well-structured and relevant.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

A Terms of Reference (ToR) document was developed as a guideline for the implementation of the activity. The ToR, in this context, outlined the objectives of the legal counseling activity, scope, tasks, responsibilities, schedule, key topics to be covered in the counseling sessions, and other provisions related to the implementation of the legal counseling.

Implementation Highlights

The outreach was conducted through a format where the material was presented by academics, representatives from the Land Agency, and community representatives involved in the conflict. The socialization was attended by the residents of Simojayan, particularly those involved in agrarian conflicts, as well as village officials and members of the Ampelgading District Coordination Forum (Muspika). Representatives from the East Java Provincial Land Agency (BPN Kanwil Jawa Timur) and Malang Regency also participated in the socialization.

The primary objective of this legal counseling was to increase the legal awareness of the community, particularly Simojayan residents involved in agrarian conflicts. This activity was also intended to provide adequate legal knowledge to the Simojayan community so that it could be used as a guide and reference to find solutions to the agrarian problems they faced and to realize the long-sought-after land redistribution. This event, which brought together the community, academics, and government, also served as a forum to foster synergy between the government and the community in formulating strategic steps that the community could take to achieve equitable and prosperous land redistribution.

Enhanced legal awareness is a fundamental prerequisite for community legal empowerment, enabling individuals to understand their rights and effectively access dispute resolution mechanisms (Nora, 2023; Yudhayana & Aziz, 2024). This program aims to bridge the information gap, a crucial barrier for farmers in claiming their land rights. This obstacle arises from inadequate education regarding land registration procedures, legal rights, and agrarian dispute resolution mechanisms. Consequently, many small-scale farmers face difficulties in obtaining land certificates or comprehending the legal status of the land they manage due to complex administrative processes, high costs, and slow bureaucracy (Saimar et al., 2024).



Figure1. Outreach participants

The outreach began with a presentation on the social conditions of Simojayan Village, specifically addressing the land issues and controversies occurring there. From the data collected by students, it was found that 81% of the residents in Simojayan own land, with the majority of this land used for plantation purposes. However, 73% of the land utilized by the residents does not yet have certification. This is due to 22% of the land being former estates of PTPN XII, which have not been officially transferred to the community. Therefore, a process is needed to ensure the legal status of the land they manage. One of the steps to address this is through land redistribution. Land redistribution is part of agrarian reform and involves

the distribution of land to the community with the aim of creating justice and agrarian welfare. The goal of this process is to eliminate inequalities in land management within the community.

Next, an academic from the Faculty of Law, Brawijaya University, presented a topic titled “Land Redistribution of Ex-HGU Land in the Context of Agrarian Reform Implementation.” The presentation covered the intricacies of agrarian reform, including terminological explanations, historical background, and recent developments in agrarian reform in Indonesia. From the presentation, it was evident that the agrarian reform program provides a significant opportunity for the residents of Simojayan Village to obtain legal status for their land ownership, which has been a point of contention. This opportunity arises because the disputed land falls within the criteria of Land Objects for Agrarian Reform (TORA). The land in question is designated as a target for agrarian reform and can be used as a source for land redistribution and asset legalization. TORA may come from various sources, including state land formerly classified as abandoned, land resulting from the resolution of agrarian disputes and conflicts, and former mining land outside forest areas. Presidential Regulation (PERPRES) No. 86 of 2018 on Agrarian Reform (Perpres 86/18), which serves as the basis for agrarian reform in Indonesia, regulates land redistribution, which can serve as a foundation for land ownership of former Hak Guna Usaha (HGU) land. The regulations underpinning the redistribution of former HGU land include Article 7, paragraph 1, which details the objects of land redistribution. Point A specifies that the objects of land redistribution include:

“(a) HGU and HGB land whose terms have expired and for which no extension or renewal has been applied within one (1) year of the expiration of such rights;”

a) tanah HGU dan HGB yang telah habis masa berlakunya serta tidak dimohon perpanjangan dan/atau tidak dimohon pembaruan haknya dalam jangka waktu 1 (satu) tahun setelah haknya berakhir) “

This provision can serve as a legal basis for efforts to obtain ownership of the former HGU land in Simojayan. Given that the disputed land falls within the scope of land redistribution as defined in agrarian reform, as stated by the Indonesian Farmers Alliance (API), the land in dispute in Simojayan Village, particularly the former HGU land of PTPN XII Kalibakar, has been cultivated by farmers for more than 20 years. The 2050-hectare former HGU land of PTPN XII Kalibakar has expired since 2013. Currently, 2040 hectares have been cultivated by farmers as productive agricultural land supporting approximately 13,000 farmers or 6,500 farming households (Apicyber Desk, 2022).

Additionally, the disputed land also falls under the category of Land Objects for Agrarian Reform (TORA) because it is classified as “state land already controlled by the community,” as stated in Article 7, paragraph 1, point (i)/4. Apart from the perspective of the agrarian reform objects, the opportunity for legalizing land ownership status can also be considered from the perspective of agrarian reform subjects. The residents of Simojayan meet the criteria to be subjects of agrarian reform. According to Perpres 86/18, an agrarian reform subject can be an individual, a community group with joint ownership rights, or a legal entity eligible to receive land from the agrarian reform program. To qualify as an individual subject of agrarian reform, one must meet the following criteria: a) be an Indonesian citizen, b) be at least 18 years old, and c) reside in or be willing to reside in the land redistribution area. These general criteria have been met by the Simojayan community involved in the agrarian conflict, as they generally live around the land formerly used for the Kalibakar plantation, which is now in dispute.

Other provisions regarding agrarian reform subjects align with the conditions of the Simojayan community. Typically, the community members involved in the conflict are marginal farmers, tenant farmers, and agricultural laborers. This condition corresponds to Article 12, paragraph 3, which details the occupations of agrarian reform subjects. This article specifies that the occupations of agrarian reform subjects include marginal farmers, tenant farmers, agricultural laborers, small-scale fishermen, traditional fishermen, labor fishermen, small-scale fish cultivators, land cultivators, small-scale salt farmers, salt pond cultivators, honorary teachers, daily laborers, informal traders, informal sector workers, casual employees, private employees, civil servants at most III/a without land, and military personnel without land, among others.

The counseling program focused on the relationship between the agrarian reform agenda and the case in Simojayan Village, particularly concerning the resolution of agrarian conflicts. Given that agrarian reform, conceptually, can be a potential solution for resolving land disputes between communities, farmers, and state-owned companies such as PTPN (Perkebunan Nusantara), it aims to achieve social justice and equitable land redistribution to farmers in need. The outreach proceeded smoothly and was met with high enthusiasm from the Simojayan community. This was evident from the active participation and constructive feedback from the attendees (community members) during the outreach process.



Figure 2. Presentations during outreach program

Participants attended the event with great interest, as indicated by the high attendance rate and the thoughtful feedback provided, including questions and responses to the material presented. The community expressed hope that alternative solutions would emerge to address their difficulties regarding the disputed land ownership status. From the participants' responses, including questions and feedback on the material, it is clear that the legal outreach related to agrarian reform is seen as a promising activity expected to offer solutions or ways to resolve the issues faced by the Simojayan community. This is particularly important given that various efforts by the Simojayan community to resolve the conflict have repeatedly reached dead ends, and no satisfactory resolution has yet been achieved.

The presence of academics and officials from the Land Agency in the forum is hoped to provide alternative steps for resolving the agrarian conflict. Furthermore, agrarian reform has provided a legal basis for obtaining legitimacy for the ownership of former HGU land, which remains contentious. In the forum, the Simojayan community also sought advice and guidance on additional steps to take in order to obtain legitimacy for the disputed former HGU land.

Community Responses and Program Impact

The implementation of the legal outreach program in Simojayan Village proved effective not only as an information dissemination initiative but also as a catalyst for increasing legal awareness and stimulating strategic community-driven initiatives. This was reflected in the dynamic interactions that emerged during the event, particularly in the interactive discussion sessions. Participants were not passive recipients of information; rather, they engaged actively through questions, comments, and suggestions addressed directly to the speakers.

One of the most notable indicators of the program's impact was the significant shift in participants' understanding and attitudes toward the legal status of the land they cultivate. In the context of agrarian issues, the status of Hak Guna Usaha (HGU, or Right of Exploitation) has long been a source of conflict, largely due to the lack of public awareness regarding the distinctions between state land, privately held land, and former HGU land eligible for agrarian reform. Through expert presentations and open discussion, participants gained a clearer understanding of the legal standing of the disputed Kalibakar estate and the potential for formal land recognition through the agrarian reform mechanism. This enhanced legal consciousness has inspired renewed determination among community members to secure legal certainty over the land they have cultivated for decades.

Active engagement was not limited to farmers or directly affected residents. Local advocacy activists, who have long supported the community's agrarian struggle, also played an important role in the discussions. Their contributions deepened the discourse by raising structural issues such as land tenure inequality, the state's absence in agrarian conflict resolution, and the need for sustained, community-based advocacy efforts. This synergy between local residents and supporting actors highlighted that legal outreach should not be viewed merely as an educational activity, but as a strategic space for cultivating collective legal consciousness and community organizing.

As a concrete follow-up, participants proposed the establishment of a community forum specifically dedicated to addressing agrarian conflict in Simojayan and surrounding areas. The envisioned forum would serve as a platform for communication, a hub for advocacy coordination, and a repository for documenting and mapping community-held agrarian assets. In addition, participants expressed a strong commitment to forging collaboration with various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, village authorities, academic institutions, and legal professionals, to strengthen the foundation of their movement. These developments signal a shift from individualized approaches toward collective and participatory conflict resolution frameworks.

Within this process, the role of the Forum of Law Students for Justice (FORMAH PK) has been particularly significant and widely acknowledged by the community. FORMAH PK has not only

participated in the legal outreach activity but also committed to providing sustained support in administrative and legal advocacy. This includes assistance with the preparation of legal documents, guidance during mediation sessions, and further legal literacy training to empower villagers to navigate land formalization procedures independently. Moreover, FORMAH PK has expressed its readiness to engage in broader advocacy initiatives at the district and provincial levels, including policy dialogues, media outreach, and mobilization of legal student networks across Malang and East Java.

In summary, the legal outreach program transcended its role as a one-off educational event and evolved into a measurable driver of social transformation. The emergence of legal awareness, the formation of a citizen forum, and the continued involvement of FORMAH PK demonstrate that the program possesses strategic leverage in promoting just and sustainable resolutions to agrarian conflict. It also reinforces the idea that a critical legal education approach, when combined with active community participation and institutional support, can generate meaningful change at the grassroots level.

Challenges and Follow-up Plans

In this context, legal outreach serves not only to disseminate information but also as a long-term tool for community empowerment in agrarian conflict resolution. While agrarian reform holds significant potential for fulfilling community rights—particularly for smallholders and marginalized farmers—and supporting sustainable land use (Suhendro, 2013), its implementation on the ground remains limited. Studies indicate that legal outreach efforts have yet to be fully optimized, primarily due to constraints in human resources, limited institutional support, and the absence of structured follow-up mechanisms (Ernis, 2018).

Despite the positive momentum generated during the outreach program in Simojayan, several persistent structural and administrative challenges emerged. One of the most pressing issues is the community's limited access to legal documentation and bureaucratic pathways for land formalization. Many villagers remain unfamiliar with procedures such as land registration, document verification, and administrative appeals. Additionally, there exists a pervasive hesitation among residents to engage with formal legal institutions, often stemming from prior experiences of neglect, prolonged disputes, or perceived bias toward corporate interests. These conditions underscore the systemic barriers that continue to hinder equitable resolution.

Insights gathered during the interactive discussion session revealed specific legal and administrative constraints related to the land status in Simojayan. The primary structural obstacle identified lies in the legal classification of the disputed land, which remains officially registered as a state asset under the ownership of the state-owned plantation company, PTPN. Consequently, the National Land Agency (BPN) is unable to process land registration in Simojayan, despite the expiration of the land's Hak Guna Usaha (Right of Exploitation) certificate. This is because, administratively, the land is still recognized as part of PTPN's state-managed assets. Therefore, BPN lacks the legal authority to register the land in the name of the community as private property. Any attempt to do so, in response to community demands, could place BPN officials at legal risk, potentially exposing them to charges of state financial loss and even corruption.

On the other hand, PTPN continues to assert its claim over the land, despite substantial physical development carried out by the local community. This includes residential housing and public facilities, which clearly reflect long-term and continuous land use, even in the absence of formal ownership status. As an attempted compromise, a proposal was introduced to grant the community either a management right (*hak pengelolaan*) or a use right (*hak pakai*) in accordance with Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021, which allows for an initial term of 30 years, extendable for an additional 20 years, and renewable for another 30 years. However, this proposal was rejected by the residents on the grounds that it still failed to provide adequate legal certainty. The Simojayan community firmly demands that the land be granted Hak Milik (full private ownership), as this is the only legal status without a time limit.

Ideally, for the land to be registered as private property, its status as a state asset must first be formally revoked. This administrative process, known as “asset write-off” (*penghapusan aset negara*), falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance and can only be initiated by the asset holder—in this case, PTPN itself. Unfortunately, PTPN appears unwilling to release the land and is instead planning to re-utilize it through its subsidiaries. As a result, the likelihood of a voluntary asset release remains extremely low.

Given the complexity of these legal and administrative barriers, resolving the agrarian conflict in Simojayan requires intervention from multiple stakeholders across sectors. Effective coordination is needed among local government actors (including the governor, regent, and regional parliament), relevant ministries, civil society organizations, and academic and legal advocacy institutions. However, due to the limited authority of local and technical agencies, stronger political direction at the national level is essential. In this context, the President—as head of government—should be positioned to provide clear political leadership in ensuring the implementation of agrarian reform. Under Presidential Regulation No. 86 of 2018, land such as that in dispute in Simojayan can legally be designated as an object of agrarian reform (TORA).

However, its implementation is highly contingent on the political will of the central government. Accordingly, direct presidential support, backed by coordinated actions from technical ministries and active advocacy from regional authorities, is a critical precondition for achieving a fair and community-oriented resolution.

To address these multifaceted challenges, the Forum of Law Students for Justice (FORMAH PK) has committed to establishing a comprehensive follow-up framework. This includes offering free legal consultation services, assisting in the preparation of legal documents for land claims, and coordinating with trusted Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to facilitate access to external support and policy advocacy. In partnership with local leaders, FORMAH PK also plans to initiate participatory land mapping activities and conduct paralegal training for selected community members. These efforts are intended to institutionalize community-based legal capacity and ensure that villagers are not solely dependent on external actors but can advocate for their rights autonomously. This strategy aligns with the sustainable legal empowerment approach, which emphasizes not only the dissemination of legal information but also the development of internal community capacity to independently advocate for their rights (Dirkareshza et al., 2023). Paralegal training, in particular, has proven effective in strengthening local change agents and bridging the gap between communities and the formal legal system (Universitas Udayana, 2024).

Furthermore, the Simojayan community has proposed the creation of a citizen forum that will function as a communication hub, a center for collaborative planning, and a repository for documentation of land claims and community grievances. The forum is envisioned to strengthen solidarity among affected residents and serve as a formal channel through which the community can engage with government bodies, civil society organizations, and legal professionals. This initiative reflects a paradigm shift from individualized grievances toward a collective, participatory approach to agrarian conflict resolution.

Looking forward, these follow-up efforts are also strategically aligned with Indonesia's national agrarian reform agenda, particularly the redistribution of former Hak Guna Usaha (HGU) land as mandated by Presidential Regulation No. 86 of 2018. By building local capacity and enabling grassroots legal engagement, the program aspires not only to assist the people of Simojayan but also to serve as a replicable model for empowering communities in other agrarian conflict zones. Nevertheless, realizing these ambitions will require sustained commitment, inter-institutional collaboration, and policy-level responsiveness from both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. These structural and institutional barriers underscore the importance of aligning legal empowerment efforts with broader political and policy advocacy at the national level.

Conclusion

The legal outreach program on agrarian reform conducted in Simojayan Village successfully enhanced legal awareness among community members and encouraged strategic initiatives such as the establishment of a citizen forum and collaboration with FORMAH PK. This program demonstrates that a critical legal education approach can serve as an effective entry point for participatory and equitable resolution of agrarian conflicts. However, the program faced several limitations. The activity was conducted within a relatively short timeframe and was unable to reach all segments of the community equally, particularly vulnerable groups such as women and rural youth. Moreover, not all participants possessed the technical capacity to follow up on the information provided—especially regarding land legalization procedures and legal complaint mechanisms. Therefore, it is recommended that future programs adopt a sustained assistance model, incorporating advanced technical training such as paralegal workshops, participatory mapping, and data-based advocacy. Multi-stakeholder collaboration involving academics, civil society organizations, and local governments should also be expanded to amplify the systemic and cross-sectoral impact of such initiatives. These efforts are expected to strengthen the community's position in asserting land rights and to support a more inclusive implementation of agrarian reform.

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