

# Oil Palm Industry, Economic Environment, and Sustainable Development Environment

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## Abstract

Exploration and exploitation of natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, always departing from the economic aspect. Such activities certainly affect the emergence of the impact that it can simply be expressed in the form of degradation of environmental quality. The problem is within the tolerance limits that can be used as a foothold, on the cusp of economic needs on the one hand and keep the quality of the environment in order to stay well. Land conflicts that have occurred between the company and the community must be resolved. Concretely, the company must give greater governance for the people. Plasma mechanism for this function should be improved so that it really becomes a pattern of mutual partnership brings positive benefits.

**Keywords:** Palm Oil Industry, Development. Environmental Sustainability.

## Orientation

An important aspect in relation to the protection and management of the environment is of economic sectors. The economic sector is a significant part as the support of the Indonesian economy today is the plantations, especially oil palm. These plants are excellent plantations, and occupies a land area reached about 13.5 million hectares. (Sawit Watch, 2006:6).

Such rapid development to result in changes in environmental baseline studies. But for the sake of development and economic growth, this field coconut land clearing continue, and continue to grow over time. In this context the fore, the classic problem of the necessity to develop the economy on the one hand the necessity to preserve environment, on the other hand. It was understood that the oil palm cultivation on a large scale to bring significant influence to change the environmental setting.

At the normative level, stated in the preamble of Law No. 32 of 2009 on the protection and Environmental management that the national economic development, as mandated by Constitution Indonesia organized based on the principles of sustainable development and environmental.

Further elaboration, then the provisions of subsection 1 paragraph 33 UU No. 32 Tahun 2009 stated that environmental economic instruments is a set of economic policies to encourage the Government, Local Government, or any person towards environment conservation.

In subsection 42 Act Number 32 Year 2009 about environmental economic instrument expressed like this:

1. In order to preserve the function of the environment, and local governments are required to develop and implement environmental economic instruments
2. environmental economic instruments as referred to in paragraph (1) shall include:
  - a. development planning and economic activities;
  - b. funding environment; and
  - c. incentives and / or disincentives

Next stated in subsection 43:

1. The instrument of economic development planning and activities referred to in subsection 42 paragraph (2) letter a covering:
  - a. balance of natural resources and the environment;
  - b. preparation of gross domestic product and gross regional domestic product which includes the depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation;
  - c. compensation mechanisms / inter-regional environmental reward; and
  - d. internalization of environmental costs.
2. Environmental financing instruments referred to in subsection 42 paragraph (2)b includes:
  - a. guarantee fund environmental restoration;
  - b. fund pollution prevention and / or damage and restoration of the environment; and
  - c. trust fund / support for conservation
3. Incentives and / or disincentives as referred to in Article 42 paragraph (2) c, among others, applied in the form of:
  - a. procurement of goods and services that are environmentally friendly living;
  - b. application of taxes, levies, and environmental subsidies;
  - c. system development financial institutions and capital markets environment friendly;

- d. development of waste disposal permit trading system and / or emissions;
  - e. development of environmental service payment systems;
  - f. development of environmental insurance;
  - g. development of environmental friendly labeling system; and
  - h. performance reward system in the field of environmental protection and management
4. Further provisions on environmental economic instruments as referred to in Article 42 and subsection 43 paragraph (1) until (3) Government Regulation.

An important aspect in relation to the issues of environmental law is referred to the economic aspect. The relationship between the economic aspects of the environment so closely. Simple things that can be stated is that somehow the operationalization of activities related to the environment can always leave and analyzed based on the economic aspects. (Anderson, 1990: 65)

In the economic problems that relation closely with the environment is the oil palm plantation industry. Industrial plantations cultivated in bulk instead of this mining, a large impact on environmental baseline studies. How is the relationship between this plantation industry with the creation of conducive environment hue, is a problem that requires elaboration.

### **Elaboration Activities Nature**

Exploration and exploitation of natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, always departing from the economic aspect. Such activities certainly affect the emergence of the impact that it can simply be expressed in the form of degradation of environmental quality. The problem is within the tolerance limits that can be used as a foothold, on the cusp of economic needs on the one hand and keep the quality of the environment in order to stay well.

Not excessively presumably if it is stated that the study of the environment on the one hand and economic problems on the other side cannot be separated from the development of human civilization that continues to evolve dynamically over time. Such developments can be understood as part of a human necessity in fulfilling his life, which means it is management based on the economic principle that was. (Suparmoko, 2010:78)

Understanding this relationship, based on one of the sociocultural aspects that can be observed is based on the pattern and the elaboration of Western culture. That's where human civilization lately quotable oriented and oriented. Commencement is known as the renaissance period (early 1300s to early 1600s) and then the Enlightenment (early 1700s to mid-1700s) and continues as a development that century industrial revolution. (John Naisbitt, 1983: 172)

Each era has a different history, for example, in the era of industrial revolution occurred in the rapid development of the invention in the field of engineering and engineering, including the procedures for the utilization of natural resources Then came the economic strength and development efforts began introducing and popularizing the term ecology as the development of research related to the universe.

The development of science and ecology have met the needs of even the human desire. Humans began to dominate and exploit nature. These circumstances resulted in progress as well as socio-economic inequality and degradation of natural resources and the environment to ultimately boils down to questions of justice, prosperity and sustainability of the future of mankind itself.

Direction and intentions of human beings is their modernization. Modernization is synonymous with economic growth orientation was not separated from the various weakness, especially raises issues of ecosystem decline, marginalization or poverty, social problems and so on. The owners of capital and the authorities treat nature as an unlimited resource to be fully utilized for the benefit of mankind. Natural addition to being exploited at the same time also be used as a trash imposed exceeds the carrying capacity and environmental capacity of his life.

On the other hand, the environmentalist. (Suparmoko, *ibid*: 80), especially those that embrace the paradigm of deep ecology. (Koesnadi Hardjasoemantri, 2005: 87) considers that modernization is equal to the greed of man over nature. Tendency to experience modernization and exploit natural capital accumulation is considered to have an impact on nature encourage human greed. These circles are very hard against the trend of modernization which leads to the exploitation of natural resources and environmental destruction are realized large-scale projects.

Reality over appearance is due to the flow of deep ecology that puts humans as part of nature. The flow also promote equal rights and natural organisms, utilization adjusted to the carrying capacity of the environment, without growth-oriented economy. In addition, the flow is the theme of diversity and flexibility to promote biological and cultural diversity, decentralized planning by using the diversity of values, utilizing traditional knowledge and resource management with local technology. (Samsul Wahidin, 2012: 12)

### **Economic Relations and Ecology**

There is a different point in the treatment of natural resources between the economists and the known environmentalist. In the economics, natural resources is a huge economic potential that should be utilized for the benefit of mankind. That assumption is not wrong if his review only purely economic, but when viewed from the side of the environment as a whole, such an assumption is not appropriate and could ultimately threaten human well-being itself.

Economic theory in general stems and departing from the basic principles of "price system" (value system) in view of a phenomenon or object. The economist sees only the environment and natural resources be an environmental one of the elements that are part of the chain of life that interact with one another to form a balance and productivity. Therefore, conventional economics received sharp criticism from the environmentalist.

As Nurmahmudi exposure Ismail (2002), that there are some differences between economists with environmentalist principles relating to natural resources, among others:

1. The environmentalist very concerned about the limited capacity of the environment in view of the activity of life cyclically following the pattern of the natural life, while economists think linear and exponential follow market developments.
2. Environmentalist sees economic growth as a phenomenon that needs to be watched carefully because it spends a lot of cheap fossil fuels and cannot be recovered, a process that could disrupt Earth's climate, while economists view economic growth as a phenomenon that should be supported because it will improve people's views.
3. Environmentalist look at economic growth from environmental sustainability indicators, while the economists see economic growth and market indicators are considered as a sacred place for economists and is a deceptive place for environmentalist.
4. The environmentalist considered deceptive because the market often overlook the interrelationships between economic and environmental sustainability. Law of supply and demand that the central tenet of economists, according to the law environmentalist is misleading because the law can basically be engineered through media advertising by creating a demand-fetched, while economists think otherwise.(Nurmahmudi, 2009).

The solution of a conflict that view is to create a new synthesis of both with the aim of balancing all the interests and lead to save the earth and all living creatures of destruction. Thus, the economic discourse is no longer used to the new environment, and not too used to the new economic environment, but to integrate the economy into the environment, and put it in the model development.

The strategy can be used in the integration of environmental concerns into economic development include the development of the economic approach in the management of natural resources and the environment, the development of preventive approaches pollution and economic development of the balance system of natural resources and the environment.

### **Orientation for Sustainable Development**

As understood, the concept of adult development is done more towards economic development model which believes is a system with the environment as its subsystems. In simple language, the fulfillment level of subsistence is from the economic side. In this case the main priority is economic interests, as a result of environmental concerns put under economic interests.

In case it was realized that the environment is an important component of the economic system, because without the environmental, economic system will not work. Development too much pressure on economic growth alone, often in conflict with the interests of the general public who want justice and sustainability.

Development was no longer concerned conservation principles are the foundation for development using Cartesian philosophical world view that is more likely to anthropocentric, which puts human interests as the primary consideration and the only one in development

Starting from this view, then developed the idea that the development and the environment is something that is very contradictory. Development is always regarded as an act which degrades the quality of the environment. While economic interests require the implementation of development, especially the development of infra and supra-physical structure.

On the one hand, the environment will hinder development, and vice versa development will damage the environment. In reality appears that the prioritization of economic growth in the construction does not guarantee the sustainability of the development because the environment becomes damaged.

The environment is also an important element of economic growth, as if the function of the environment down because of utilization beyond capacity of the environment, the economy will lose its ability to growth.(ibid)

Based on proficiency level, good economic growth should also be supported by the network environment as a container of life. Every economic development do need to take into account the impact on the

environment so as not to turn off life itself. So in this case the economy is a subsystem of the environment.

Economy as a subsystem of the environment does not mean economic growth still need to be considered for stopping economic growth can also cause environmental degradation, mainly deals with the problem of poverty, the lack of human needs and unemployment. Based on the concept of the economy as a subsystem of the environment should be developed and implemented sustainable patterns of development (sustainable development).

Indeed, in the implementation of the development paradigm shift must be done with caution and not be in a hurry. So, need a series of substantial changes in the long term that is done slowly. It must be realized that a change in this dimension does not necessarily and only in the economic area. Nini change intertwined, connected to each other with broad social sectors and complex.

Therefore, the implementation of the concept of sustainable development requires a paradigm shift and how to build it so that the pattern of development is no longer a conventional, not only emphasizes the economic aspect alone, but should also consider the ecological and social aspects. This aspect is basically as one that is constantly changing and evolving dynamic.

If seen from the history of the formation of the concept of sustainable development, the basic idea of thinking of the formation of the concept of sustainable development is the integration of the ecological perspective. This is a picture of a paradigm shift of development adopted by the developed countries initially prioritizes economic growth then shifted towards sustainable development.

The concept of sustainable development was actually first appeared when the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) made a report entitled *Our Common Future* on April 27, 1987. The report contains a real program to integrate environmental concerns and economic development at international, national and local.

In the WCED report stated definition of sustainable development is development that meets the needs of future generations to meet their own needs. Thus, the definition of sustainable development provided by the WCED put pressure on power conservation support ecosystem is a prerequisite of achieving the quality of life of present and future.

In addition, sustainable development is a long-term development of intergenerational not only inter generations. Sustainable development implies that one should not spend a generation of natural resources, so it is no longer left to the next generation.

Thus, sustainable development, human beings are placed at the center of attention, along with their rights to obtain a healthy and productive life as well and in harmony with nature, emphasizing the right build. Sodium absorption ratio only that, also accompanied by the obligation to meet the need for development and the environment for generations now and in the future in balance.

The emphasis is on the necessity of eliminating poverty in order to be sustainable development, increase the appropriate population policies and prevent patterns of consumption and production that does not guarantee the sustainability of development and the importance of women, youth and local communities.

The essence of sustainable development is development that is based on three considerations in proportion it's mean economic considerations, considerations of social and ecological considerations. However the construction is done by exploiting natural resources, but the function of the environment should be well preserved. It is a principle that should always be implemented based

Above all, means that in the utilization should be based on the policy and natural resource management efforts in the sense of rational utilization of natural resources and the environment must be balanced with the potential for sustainability. Not stand alone and always relate both physical and nonphysical.

In addition, to be considered in sustainable development is to optimize the benefits of natural resources and human resources in a way to harmonize human activity in accordance with the ability of natural resources that sustain them. So it should not be and cannot be viewed in isolation. Although it can be argued that it is a variable alone.

Then, for the achievement of sustainable development required three conditions its/e means continue economic, social and ecological. Economic sustainability means that there is no economic exploitation of the strong economic actors against the weak, while social sustainability are not against development, damage and or replace systems and social values that have been tested for so long and has been practiced by the community. Ecological sustainability is the existence of human tolerance to the presence of other creatures besides humans.

Looking at the definition of sustainable development, the definition can vary depending on the interpretation and purpose of the benefit to be achieved. For Indonesia, sustainable development on version "UUPPLH" understood as: Sustainable Development Environmental Life, namely the implementation of sustainable development as a conscious and deliberate effort that combines aspects of environmental, social, and economic development strategies to ensure the environmental integrity and safety, ability, welfare, and quality of life of the present generation and future generations.

Basically, the juridical statement floor idealism applying environmental issues into economic values in

order to raise awareness of the importance of the sustainability of natural resources and improve the quality of the environment, which in turn will influence the economic growth. Furthermore, the law governing environmental aspects must be anticipatory. This is reflected in the statement "to ensure capability, well-being and quality of life of future generations".

In this perspective, implies that development should be a conscious effort to be side-effects of the development process in the form of environmental degradation, environmental pollution even its moral degradation. Therefore, the laws governing environmental aspects should be preventive. However, in the application stage and the operationalization of sustainable development strategy is difficult to implement

One reason is the lack of agreement among intellectuals and policy makers in addressing the concept of sustainable development. This is consistent basis should always be referred to the implementation. In addition, it takes the ability of interpretation and action of diverse concepts.

It needs to be considered because the proposed concept developed countries is not necessarily appropriate to be implemented in developing countries and vice versa. However, the concept of sustainable development remains must be the base reference in the development to prosperity, justice and sustainability of life can be realized

### **Oil Head Plantation Industries**

That the development of the palm oil industry in Indonesia, gave birth to are controversial polemic. Two interests which ideally can be accommodated simultaneously in a tangle of artistic. Namely the development of the oil palm plantation industry, ecological sustainability and economic growth. But this actually happens during childbirth clashed.

In general, environmental activists or the ecologist assess the palm oil business is not environmentally friendly. Operationalization always leave the ugliness of the ecological system. It can be proved by either the quantitative measurement of the quality of air and soil.

While the other perspective, economic actors look palm oil is the field of money. Means that an entrance improvement of sustainable economic welfare. Starting from the upper reaches, when the oil palm be planted until processing into oil. The point is that this industries into land fees, and became the economic pulse of the local community in particular.

In the ideal level, ecology and economy should be met. Environmental sustainability can be maintained and economic activity continues to grow. From the aspect of the language course, at the root of both words have the same source, namely *oikos*.

Quoting from Wikipedia, derived from the Greek *oikos* which can be translated as "the family, the household". Only the second syllable of the economic and ecological different meaning. Both can indeed arise from a source that is not the same interests.

In different conditions, the palm oil industry into a classic battle between environmentalists and developmentalist. Essentially the oil palm industry wants to be left growing. While environmental conditions require the preservation of environmental quality, and it did not materialize when palm oil continues to be cultivated extensively. The fight that requires elaboration solution in order to keep a balanced manner complementary.

Economic interests and ecological be normatively problematic continues to grow and the specter of his own for the palm oil industry. Problematic was further complicated by contributing involvement of various other sectors, such as law, politics and even simply actually want to create the objective conditions, namely how to develop the industry properly and do not leave the impact of environmental degradation. (Human Ecology, 2013).

Historically, in Indonesia, palm oil was first entered into Sumatra, at around 1911. A doctor from Belgium bringing four oil seeds and cultivated in national parks. Of the two provinces, North Sumatra and Aceh in 1980, oil palm plantations and then spread to 23 provinces in Indonesia until 2013

In terms of ownership began to flatten. Initially, only private and state-owned enterprises wrestle coconut. But until 2012, came the plantation owned by the people. Based on the data, the growth of smallholders in the palm oil sector is quite passionate. Until 2012, carrying oil palm plantations owned by the people reached 43 percent. While 49 per cent controlled by the remaining eight percent of private and state-owned, or managed by the government, especially the local government. (Oxford Paperbacks, 2007)

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Based on its development, since 2006, and Indonesia is still capable of being a champion producer of crude palm oil (CPO). Provisional data from the Central Bureau of Statistics, showed in 2012, Indonesia produced nearly 25 million tons of palm oil. More than 15 million ton into an export commodity. If cashed, the value of exports of palm oil and its derivatives in 2012 reached USD 21.3 billion. (Data Bureau Statistic, 2013)

From this vantage point, the year an increase in the Indonesian palm oil production quickly. That is why as a result make the countries in America and Europe feel threatened. The land area is relatively small but big production. Per hectare, oil palm plantations produce 4.27 tons of oil. Far from those of similar commodities mainstay of Western countries.

As a comparison, rape oil (Canada) which only produces 0.69 tons from one hectare of land. Or the US soybean oil (0.45 tons per hectare), sunflower oil (0.52 tons per hectare), red bean oil (0.45 tons per hectare), or cotton oil (0.19 tons per hectare). (Data Bureau Statistic Indonesia, 2013).

Conditions as stated it is really troubling the West. The presence of palm oil from Indonesia to shift the dominance of their export commodities. Therefore, as part of the fight to win business then Western countries then float a bad campaign on palm oil. Both climate change in the dimensions of environmental law as well as human health in general. (human Ecology, 2013).

Negative campaign that became the Western country to their inability to cultivate oil palm. Existing land in the region of the country have not the type of this plant. Simply put, oil palm only requires full sunlight and intake of water per day, such as in Indonesia. While in other parts of the continent, such as America and Europe, it is difficult to obtain.

The enthusiast's environment or ecologist and economic enthusiasts or the development list is difficult to meet, due to a left that is not the same. In general, it is difficult to be met due to the inequality concept when looking at these issues.

Even the smallest amount of oil palm plantations in view of environmental activists were admittedly trigger a change in the environmental setting. Always will be a shift in the function of the environment there. Biodiversity is also turned into a monoculture.

Technically, change hue environment it happens for example with the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Indeed, in the small scale, fertilizer can fertilize. While oil palm plantations every year will certainly increase the amount of fertilizer. But in large quantities, it reduces the fertility of the soil fertilizer. (<http://redemptajelamu.blogspot.com/2013/10/dampak-negatif-penggunaan-pestisida-dan.html>).

On the other hand, any kind whose name the chemicals affect the function of the water. The water then flows into rivers and destroy the eco system in the river, which is the artery of the needs of the population in the watershed (DAS) it.

On the other hand, however, the difference in views between ecologist and development list, there remains a gap that can bring both. The birth of the middle school is expected to accommodate the interests of business and ecology in the area of oil palm is not impossible.

Among the solution is to strictly limit the expansion of the expansion of oil palm plantations. While there is an inventory that is adapted to the strength of the environmental setting. Maximizing the existing land, must be done with various pro-environmental technical management.

On the other hand, the land conflicts that have occurred between the company and the community must

be resolved. Concretely, the company must give greater governance for the people. Plasma mechanism for this function should be improved so that it really becomes a pattern of mutual partnership brings positive benefits. It is one of the points for a solution, because the proportion of land acquisition for plantations by the people is still too little

### Conclusion

That issues relating to the palm oil industry, environmental economics, environmental and sustainable development, require elaboration and coordination. At the normative level, efforts to reunite economics and ecology are important in efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The process of integrating the two is through the formulation and direction of the policy paradigm, which is based on partnership and participation of development actors in managing resources optimally. For that required coordination of all aspects of economic development are direction environmentally.

In order to foster the development of the economy performed without causing much damage to the environment, then it takes the concept of sustainable development. That is the concept of economic growth, which maintains the natural resources that are used, as well as the integration of environmental strategies into economic development.

It is recognized that the natural resources located very important for human survival because of the natural resources required in every human activity. Environment should be organized and managed as well as possible to support current and future life. Is the duty of everyone to preserve the ability of the environment to remain utilized for the protection and the needs of humans or other living creatures

Similarly be must for all based on the interests of balance while maintaining environmental balance. Another goal is to save the earth and all living creatures of destruction. Liabilities such a burden and responsibility of the entire human race who inhabit this planet. Thus not only the exploitation of natural resources just for the sake of economic interests alone.

No longer put the first new economic aspects of the environment or otherwise used to the new economic environment, but to integrate the economy into the environment and put it in the model development. Strategies that can be used in the integration of environmental concerns into economic development is for example by developing a wide range of relevant sectors based economic approach in the management of Natural Resources (SDA) and the environment.

In the case of the management of the palm oil industry, then as a step in the short term is strictly limit the expansion of the expansion of oil palm plantations. For existing, customized inventory needs to be done with the power of the environmental setting. In this regard, efforts to maximize the existing land, must be done with various technical management departing from environmental conservation efforts.

On land tenure, then there must be a concrete and structured efforts to finishing land tenure problems. Businesses large modal must give greater governance for the people. Plasma mechanism for this function should be improved so that it really becomes a pattern of mutual partnership brings positive benefits.

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