

# 3. Take It Slowf1000cuttingNewst

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# Take It Slow: The Response of Indonesia Slow Food Actors into Food Security

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**Abstract.** This article aims to discuss the presence of Indonesia slow food actors, namely Presidia, as a response to fast food phenomena, globally and locally. Those phenomena raised several impacts such as health problems, negative consumer lifestyle and environmental degradation. From food security perspective, those impacts of fast food phenomena could cause insecurity food in the future. Food security concept helps to explain the objective of Presidia and how they promote slow food project through food security approach of FAO. This article is a qualitative and descriptive study using primary and secondary data obtained interview with the Presidia activists and literature review from books, journal and online sources. This article offers fairly new concept from non-traditional security studies and introduces Indonesia Presidia and slow food actors in Indonesia. The importance of the study is relay on the food issues as public goods but less of concern in International Relation studies. The result is that fast food trends in Indonesia showed fulfill risks indicators of food insecurity, such as unavailability, no access, no utility and no stability. As the counterbalance, the actors specifically tried to cover the Presidia's rare products which began to appear, including Tengkawang Nut Oil, Heritage Banana Varieties Yogyakarta and Cingagoler Honey from Cerana Bees. Meanwhile, formal actors of governments and social movements are still lacking. Therefore, the benefit of this article is helps to understand the issue of food insecurity and the movements of local actors as well as to addressing newly International Relation concepts of non-traditional security studies.

**Keywords:** Slow Food, Food Security, Indonesia presidia, Fast Food.

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## Introduction

Fast food issue is a global phenomenon of the 20th century that experienced rapid development which has emerged in the form of food industry. This phenomenon develops in society with the emergence of fast food outlets, fast food mass production and increasing of fast food consumption. The main impacts of these phenomena, globally and locally, such as health problem, negative consumption behavior and environment degradation.

Health problems come from the fast food product which is generally contains a lot of oil, salt and high cholesterol and instant ingredients process. Based on popular articles, US become the highest ranked country with diabetes and heart disease. This was mentioned in the "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution" Program in 2010-2011, which made its first trip to Huntington, West Virginia, and Los Angeles<sup>4</sup>. This region is famous for its people who like to eat fast food. Oliver met doctor who told about his patient who has type 2 diabetes with 80lb body weight, and if he is unable to go on a diet then it is said he will not reach the age of 30 years. These patients are an example for those who often consume fast food. <sup>6</sup> e pastor also said that he visited hospital diabetic patients several times a week. Huntington then became the unhealthiest area in America based on an analysis of data collected in 2006 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.<sup>5</sup> Other impact is negative consumption behavior which is shown by the trend of instant lifestyle because it's practical and cheap such as canned food, soda, fast food franchise and processed foods with elements of biotechnology such as light snack pack. Besides that, consumers tend to be wasteful and will result food waste. Basically, mass production also results in food waste, whereas production will continue to be carried out whether food is needed or not. Fast food generally only uses food warmers. Those impact then causing the raises of mass production to reach high demand of fast food consumers. Impact to Environment degradation comes from fast food ingredients that generally produced with certain biotechnology to have superior properties that are environmental resistant. This product also contains the danger of Genetically Modified Organic (GMO), which is the result of genetic engineering. Another that, Fast food generally does mass production with a mixture of biotechnology and impurities, which are contain these emissions which will ultimately lead to environmental degradation. Another impact is the loss of land and ecosystems due to massive land clearing as well as pollution due to chemical waste. If these impacts left unchecked, another threat that will emerge is food insecurity.

Indonesia on the other hand also experienced the impact of the modern fast food phenomenon. The condition of the people who tend to be busy, especially in urban areas also triggers consumption of fast food. As one of the countries with a tropical climate, Indonesia is rich in biodiversity and food<sup>6</sup>, but the green environment that has replaced many of its land into fast food industries makes massive urbanization into the city. Finally, the phenomenon of fast food results in less production than local products. Production and consumption that are less ultimately result in food insecurity in specific foods in Indonesia.

This study became interesting, because the efforts made actually emerged from slow food<sup>7</sup> as an informal actors, not international regimes or environmental protocols. SF movement supports agriculture and livestock business in accordance with the climate and ecosystem of each region makes food as the

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<sup>4</sup> Independent. 2012. "<sup>1</sup> Jamie Oliver Takes On America's Fast food Culture". Accessed from <http://www.independent.co.uk> at August 8<sup>th</sup> 2018

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Hesty widyanti and Ika N. Khrisnayanti. 2003. "*Bioteknologi, Imperialisme Modal dan Kejahatan Globalisasi*", Insist Press. Yogyakarta. Page 2

<sup>7</sup> This section then will be called SF

core. Just mention them slow food community<sup>8</sup> of Jabodetabek and Yogyakarta. This article limits actors consisting of presidia as a producers, while local SFC as a distributors, consumers, consultants and supervisors. Each presidia actor works locally in his area with the application of SF and understanding of local ecosystems. On the other hand, the food issue and food security concept is a new issue in the non-traditional aspect of international security studies.

This article uses the concept of food security as a basic for research analysis. The FAO definition at the 1996 World Food Summit stated that "Food Security is realized or exists if all communities, for all time, have access physically and economically to meet the needs of food needed for the needs of living activities and healthy living".<sup>9</sup> Now day food is not only seen as nutrition fulfillment, where food has become a global issue by FAO in 2006 this approach is explained in four dimensions including availability, access, utility, and stability dimension<sup>10</sup>.

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#### Method

This research is descriptive type research which uses primary data in form of virtual interviews by telephone and correspondence via email with presidia actor such as Bibong Widyarti and Wandy Assayid from Cingagoler Honey Presidia and SFC Jabodetabek, Amaliah from Heritage Banana Varieties presidia and SFC Yogyakarta and Hendra Wisnu Whardana from Tengkawang Nut Oil presidia. Secondary data with literature review from FAO website <http://www.foodsecinfoaction.org>, SF website <http://www.slowfood.com> and <http://www.fondazione Slow Food.com>. This study uses qualitative analysis supported by quantitative data. Data collection used is literature study that conducted by studying existing documents such as books, articles, and so on.

The first literature study is Maulvi Dzikrana M thesis with the title **Identification of the Counter Slow Food Hegemony in the Resistance to Fast Food**. Maulvi tried to explain how the SF movement in an effort to fight the hegemony of the global fast food industry was identified as a form of counter-hegemony. The second literature from Indonesia Presidia's interview that concluded Presidia Project as the response of fast food phenomena has begun locally in Indonesia. Through resource persons namely project coordinators and producer groups, informs that SF foundation till the day keep the presidia. The third literature that came to give some critics for this SF project is **The Commodity of Products and Taste: Slow Food and Conservation of Agro biodiversity** written by Arianne Lottie. Lottie mentions the case that occurred in one of the producer groups in the Basque Country, whereas binding regulations cause the potential for producer groups to be confined. In this case, Lottie also claims that SF makes some limit for producer, so they couldn't expand and raise product for commodity.

Based on Maulvi's view as a counter-hegemony and supporting his positive efforts also Presidia Interview, this article attempts to explain the response of producer groups in Indonesia in achieving food stability towards specific food as a realization of support for global SF projects. This article will describe

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<sup>8</sup> This section then will be called as SFC

<sup>9</sup> *An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security*, FAO 2008

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

how Indonesia SFC and Presidia as the actor in order to support the project in chase to response the fast food phenomena in Indonesia.

## Result

Presidia is a term for groups of traditional and local producers who are actors for this movement in response to the phenomenon of fast food. In Indonesia, the three specific foods above are foods that experience scarcity and generally have their own problems for the producer group. For example *Tengkawang Nut Oil, Kapuas Hulu, West Borneo*.<sup>11</sup> Existing producer groups do not survive in producing products, because they don't have stable prices and tend to create monopolies. In addition, lack of promotion and minimal access make people leave the profession. Finally Tengkawang fruit as a source of too much fruiting products, but with less utilization, so that food waste is created. *Heritage Banana Varieties Yogyakarta*.<sup>12</sup> It struggle as a variety of natural banana plants. The issue of banana plants will be used as GMO products to encourage the formation of protection for this producer group. In addition, less access makes the lack of attention to banana production in the traditional way. The nine presidia types of bananas include five types of Raja banana, namely Raja Bagus, Raja Bulu, Raja Pulut, Raja Sere, Raja Kluthuk, Raja Uter, and two types of Ambon banana, Yellow and Green.<sup>13</sup> *Cingagoler Honey from Cerana Bees, Lebak, Banten*.<sup>14</sup> This Cingagoler honey has its own characteristics for its products, as well as its unique process. The protection of bees will be a natural safeguard factor, but the production process was poorly inadequate, because of the lack of knowledge and lack of access make the honey producer group diminish. In 2012 presidia has 250 hives but in 2014 just about 150 hives of the bees. The purpose of the establishment of this presidium is to maintain the unique nature of this original Cingagoler honey product.

## Discussion

In this discussion, this article will discuss how the Indonesia SF actors responds to the phenomena of fast food which is identified with the presidia's protection, in case to realize food security against specific food in Indonesia. The process will be answered through the four dimensions of FAO

### 1. Response to Availability Problem

The main actor of this response is Presidia as a producer of the products, whereas the response is to defending producer for good product process. Basically SF supports the protection of this producer group by providing education funds to Italy at the annual Terra Madre program<sup>15</sup> that they are exempt from fees. This education followed by TNO in 2014, HBV Yogyakarta in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and Cingagoler Honey in 2014 and 2016. The selected actors were the heads of their respective producer groups such as Hendra Wardhana for TNO, Lasiyo for HBV Yogyakarta and Wandy for Cingagoler Honey. Which was SFC act as supervisor and coordinator. Beside that, they also attempt for technical matters in order to effort for availability. Example, HBV Yogyakarta, In order to realize anti GMO products, they produce their own natural fertilizers that are used to fertilize banana plants. Cingagoler Honey, in technical matters, the coordinator Bibong Widyarti and Wandy works together to teaching hygienic honey production. In this case, Cingagoler people used to harvest honey while smoking and

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<sup>11</sup> This section then will be called TNO

<sup>12</sup> This section then will be called HBV

<sup>13</sup> Lady Paramita, "Gerakan Slow Food Internasional Merespon Fenomena Fast Food (Case Study: *Perlindungan Presidium di Indonesia*)" (Samarinda:Mulawarman University, page. 55-56, 2018)

<sup>14</sup> This section then will be called Cingagoler Honey

<sup>15</sup> Annual Slow Food event involving food communities from around the world, youth, chefs and producer groups.



taking honey by squeezing. For understanding based on the value of SF, then they seek more hygienic honey production by not smoking also draining honey without having to squeeze it.

## 2. Response to Access Problem

The main actor of this response is Indonesia SFC, whereas the response is to create market access globally and locally. The next process and the most important effort then carried out by the presidia itself. Another access has created by the autonomy of the actors of Indonesia SF presidia including coordinators and communities, just mention them SFC Jabodetabek and SFC Yogyakarta. Another effort as a form of autonomy is that they run a banana exhibition event every year which later gets government support. Different from Cingagoler Honey presidia, after the return of food education in Italy in 2014, they were then committed to continuing to fight to defend Cingagoler Honey. Evidently, the area now has its own workshop to maintain honey. Besides, they routinely hold local food festivals, including PARARA or Nusantara Harvest which is usually done every October. This event is one of the local food exhibitions which are also supported by local SF actors and presidia. Other festivals which are held in December 2017 are called Lebak Food Festival with Cingagoler Honey as the flagship product. The Tengkwang Nut Oil is also supported by the business of PARARA.

## 3. Response to Utility Problem

The main actor of this response is Indonesia SFC, whereas the response is to teaching for sustainability food. SF came in 2014 for TNO and for Cingagoler Honey. At the same year in 2014 they gave some educational food about utility, by SF foundations. 2015 for HBV Yogyakarta and also gave them educational food about utility which was including the form of sustainability food. At the initial meeting food education was conducted, emphasizing aspects of traditional and local food consumption. From here some actors at TNO then, tried to give fair access to marketing, as well as fair prices for products. Finally there is no more monopoly by one person. There is no more food waste, due to too much but not processed Tengkwang fruit. Different with HBV, in this sustainability food education they learn that traditional food is very important in the midst of global fast food. For that, then they unify the views of the producer and cooperate in developing the community. Cingagoler Honey in other hand trying to keep the hereditary culture. People of Cingagoler used to consume bee larvae, so sometimes the use of typical Cingagoler Honey doesn't reach the maximum stage. For this reason, this habit is then reduced so that the utilization of honey can be done optimally.

## 4. Response to Stability Problem

The main actor of this response is Indonesia SFC, whereas the response is describe the coordination and communication that is always interwoven between actors. TNO in this case is coordinated by Djoko Prakoso and supported by the SFC Jabodetabek. Since the establishment of the presidia in 2014 until now, communication is also coordinated always in realizing and increasing the productivity of presidia. This community also initially gave access to global SF. Whereas in Cingagoler Honey, communication and coordination are also supported by SFC Jabodetabek since 2014 with Bibong Widyarti as coordinator. At the HBV Yogyakarta this process was supported by the Yogyakarta Community with Amaliah as the coordinator chair since 2015 until now. The following table is detail response made to each Presidia:

**Table.** The Response of Indonesia SF Actors into Food Security

<b>No.</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Tengkawang Nut Oil</b>	<b>Heritage Banana Varieties Yogyakarta</b>	<b>Cingagoler Honey from Cerana Bees</b>	<b>conclusion</b>
1.	defends producer/teaching for good product process (Availability)	educational funding to Italy	creating traditional GMO-free farming patterns and educational funding to Italy	educational funding to Italy, teaching hygienic honey production,	works
2.	teaching for sustainability food (utility)	2014, by slow food foundations	educated by the foundation in 2015	2014, by slow food foundations	works
3.	create access with member networking (access)	promotion of local events PARARA, Terra Madre, ark of taste	promotion through local Yogyakarta events, Terra Madre, ark of taste	promotion of local events PARARA, Terra Madre, Ark Of taste	works
4.	Keep the Coordinate and communicates between presidial actors (Stability)	Supported by community Jabodetabek since 2014	Supported by community Yogyakarta since 2015	Supported by slow food Jabodetabek since 2014	works

*Source: processed by authors from many sources*

Here are the figures of Indonesia SF Presidia product:

#### **Cingagoler Honey from Cerana Bees**



Source: Accessed from <http://vdocuments.site> at March 14<sup>th</sup> 2018

#### **Tengkawang Nut Oil**



Source: Documentation by Tengkawang Nut Oil Presidium

#### **Heritage Banana Varieties Yogyakarta**



Source: Photo on Slow Food Yogyakarta, from <http://www.facebook.com>

#### **Conclusion**

The Indonesia SF actor has succeeded in protecting the existing food assets and biodiversity in Indonesia, namely TNO, Cingagoler Honey from Cerana Bees and HBV Yogyakarta. The effort made in the form of defending on good production, food education, promotion of access and coordination and communication between actors. The succeeded doesn't complete, because the government should emerge as a formal actors in realizing stability dimensions in maintaining food security. But, in the fact, local SFC is still role as the main actor, whereas it's what then needs to be considered. Food is a vital asset, that should be a response to the government.

**Acknowledge.** We thank the Slow Food Jabodetabek Community and Yogyakarta including all member for sharing valuable data and information.



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