

The Role of Seaweed Cultivation in Improving Community Economy from the Perspective of Islamic Economics in Bone Regency

Muhammad Ilham¹ Syahriyah Semaun² An Ras Try Astuti³ Sitti Jamilah Amin⁴ Mus Mulyadi⁵

Postgraduate Islamic Economics, Institut Agama Islam Negeri Parepare.

E-mail: muhammadilhamekonomisyariah@gmail.com

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Abstract

This study explores the role of seaweed cultivation in enhancing community economic welfare from a Sharia Economics perspective in Bone Regency, Indonesia. The research aims to analyze the contribution of seaweed farming to economic growth, its impact on production patterns and income distribution, and its alignment with Sharia economic principles. A qualitative case study approach was employed, involving field research through interviews with village officials and community members, supported by secondary data from journals, books, and relevant articles. The findings indicate that seaweed cultivation provides a stable source of income, supports poverty reduction, and encourages ethical and sustainable practices in accordance with Sharia principles. However, challenges such as price fluctuations, climate variability, and limited access to capital remain significant. The benefits of cultivation are unevenly distributed, with larger producers gaining more advantages, highlighting the need for policies that empower small-scale cultivators. From a Sharia perspective, seaweed farming emphasizes justice, balance, sustainability, and ethical entrepreneurship, requiring supportive conditions such as access to capital, training, fair markets, and information. Sustainable production, stable pricing, capacity building, and product diversification are essential to optimize economic and social outcomes. This study contributes to the literature on Sharia-compliant economic development by demonstrating how community-based agricultural practices can generate equitable growth, enhance livelihoods, and foster responsible economic behavior aligned with religious and ethical values.

1. Introduction

Seaweed cultivation has become one of the most significant sources of livelihood for coastal communities worldwide, particularly in Indonesia, which is among the largest seaweed-producing countries globally. In many coastal villages, including Labotto Village, Cenrana District, Bone Regency, seaweed farming plays a central role in economic development by providing employment opportunities, generating income, and enhancing local economic resilience. Unlike other agricultural or marine-based activities, seaweed cultivation is accessible to a broad spectrum of community members, from small-scale farmers to processing artisans, enabling inclusive participation in the value chain. Residents engage not only in the cultivation process but also in harvesting, processing, and marketing, which collectively contribute to household income and local economic stability. Income from seaweed production is used to meet daily needs, fund children's education,

and reinvest in other small businesses, creating a cycle of economic empowerment that benefits both individual households and the wider community.

From an Islamic economics perspective, seaweed cultivation represents a model of ethical and sustainable development. Sharia Economics emphasizes principles such as justice (*'adl*), balance (*mizan*), accountability (*amanah*), and social responsibility (*maslahah*). In the context of Bone Regency, local farmers and community groups have implemented cultivation practices that reflect these principles. For instance, profit-sharing mechanisms between farmers and processors are designed to ensure fairness, transparency, and equitable distribution of benefits. Ethical practices are embedded in daily operations, and the community demonstrates a strong sense of social responsibility, not only toward fellow community members but also toward environmental sustainability. By adopting practices that align with Sharia values, coastal

communities are able to foster trust, reduce conflicts, and create a supportive environment for sustainable economic growth.

Despite the evident economic and social benefits, the seaweed cultivation sector in Bone Regency faces several challenges. Price volatility in local and global markets can disrupt household income, while climate variability, including changes in water temperature and weather patterns, poses risks to crop yield. Moreover, small-scale farmers often experience limited access to capital, technology, and market information, which constrains their ability to expand production and compete with larger cultivators. These challenges highlight the need for policy interventions, capacity building, and financial support to empower small-scale cultivators and ensure that the benefits of seaweed cultivation are more equitably distributed.

Existing literature has acknowledged the economic significance of seaweed cultivation in Indonesia and other developing countries. Studies by Rudianto et al. (2021) and Prasetyo (2020) demonstrate that seaweed farming contributes to household income, poverty alleviation, and employment generation in coastal regions. Research by Abdullah and Rahman (2019) further highlights that community-based cultivation practices can enhance social cohesion and local governance. However, there remains a gap in understanding how these practices integrate with Islamic economic principles, particularly regarding justice, ethical entrepreneurship, and sustainability. Most prior studies focus on technical and economic aspects, such as yield optimization and market dynamics, but few address the ethical and religious dimensions that guide community behavior and economic decision-making. This gap is particularly pronounced in Bone Regency, where Islamic values strongly influence community interactions, economic activities, and social norms.

Seaweed cultivation also provides an avenue for entrepreneurship and innovation among coastal communities. Farmers and

processors engage in value-added activities, such as producing processed seaweed products (chips, powders, and other derivatives), which increase market value and profitability. Entrepreneurship in this sector aligns with the concept of *ijtihad* in Islamic economics, encouraging initiative, creativity, and responsible decision-making. However, the potential for entrepreneurship is contingent upon access to knowledge, technology, capital, and fair market opportunities. Without adequate support, small-scale entrepreneurs may struggle to compete, resulting in uneven benefits and economic disparities within the community.

The integration of Sharia principles into economic practices extends beyond profit distribution to encompass environmental sustainability. Seaweed cultivation inherently depends on the quality of the coastal ecosystem, including water conditions, biodiversity, and natural resources. Islamic economics emphasizes stewardship (*khalifah*) and the preservation of natural resources for future generations. In Bone Regency, community members demonstrate environmental responsibility by managing cultivation areas carefully, avoiding overharvesting, and monitoring water quality to maintain long-term productivity. These practices illustrate how ethical and religious frameworks can reinforce sustainable economic development, combining economic growth with ecological protection.

The present study seeks to fill the existing research gap by examining seaweed cultivation in Bone Regency through the lens of Islamic economics. Specifically, the research aims to explore how seaweed farming contributes to community economic welfare, supports ethical entrepreneurship, and aligns with Sharia principles. By employing a qualitative case study approach, this study investigates the perspectives of village officials, farmers, and local artisans to provide a comprehensive understanding of both economic and ethical dimensions of seaweed cultivation. The study also considers the

challenges faced by the community, such as market volatility, limited capital, and climate risks, to propose strategies for equitable and sustainable economic development.

The significance of this study is threefold. First, it contributes to the literature on Islamic economics by illustrating how religious and ethical principles can guide community-based economic activities, promoting justice, balance, and social responsibility. Second, it provides empirical insights into the socio-economic impact of seaweed cultivation in a coastal village context, highlighting both opportunities and constraints for small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs. Third, it offers practical implications for policymakers, development agencies, and community organizations seeking to enhance livelihoods, reduce economic disparities, and foster sustainable growth in coastal regions.

In summary, seaweed cultivation in Labotto Village, Cenrana District, Bone Regency, is not only a source of income but also a platform for promoting ethical, sustainable, and inclusive economic practices aligned with Islamic principles. While challenges remain, the integration of Sharia values into cultivation practices strengthens community resilience, encourages responsible entrepreneurship, and contributes to broader economic development. This study addresses an important gap in the literature by combining economic, ethical, and religious perspectives to provide a holistic understanding of seaweed farming as a tool for community welfare. The findings are expected to inform both academic research and practical interventions aimed at fostering sustainable and equitable economic development in coastal Indonesia.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Concept of Human Agency and Existentialism

Existentialist philosophy, particularly as articulated by Soren Kierkegaard, emphasizes the dynamic nature of human existence, where individuals continually move from possibilities to realities through conscious decisions and

actions (Garot, 2017). Human freedom and responsibility are central in this framework, as individuals are accountable for shaping their lives and creating meaning. In the context of seaweed cultivation, existentialist ideas provide insight into how coastal community members exercise agency in managing resources, making cultivation decisions, and responding to market and environmental challenges. Their ability to innovate, take initiative, and assume responsibility is crucial for achieving sustainable economic outcomes. By applying these principles, community members not only enhance their livelihoods but also engage in ethical practices aligned with social and environmental norms.

2.2 Seaweed Cultivation and Mariculture

Mariculture involves the controlled or semi-controlled cultivation of aquatic organisms, particularly macroalgae, to increase biomass and ensure a stable supply for commercial and ecological purposes (FAO, 2018). Seaweed can be cultivated for direct human consumption, industrial applications, or indirectly as feed for aquaculture species such as shrimp and shellfish. Effective cultivation practices improve productivity, provide employment, and contribute to local economic stability. Empirical studies indicate that structured seaweed farming enhances household income, generates employment, and strengthens community resilience (Abdullah & Rahman, 2019; Rudianto et al., 2021). In coastal areas such as Bone Regency, community participation ranges from cultivation to processing, ensuring broader socio-economic benefits. Furthermore, value-added processing, such as producing seaweed-based food products or industrial derivatives, increases profitability and market competitiveness.

2.3 People's Economy and Community-Based Economic Development

Zulkarnain (2003) defines people's economy as an economic system guided by principles of justice, economic democracy, and

community welfare. In coastal communities, these principles manifest in equitable profit-sharing, participatory decision-making, and prioritization of social welfare. Seaweed cultivation in Bone Regency exemplifies such practices, where community members implement fair profit-sharing arrangements between farmers and processors. These mechanisms reduce inequality, enhance trust, and foster social cohesion, creating an enabling environment for sustainable economic development. Community-based economic models also encourage cooperative behavior, enhance local governance, and improve resilience against economic and environmental shocks.

2.4 Islamic Economics Perspective in Coastal Livelihoods

Islamic economics emphasizes justice (*'adl*), stewardship (*khalifah*), ethical entrepreneurship (*ijtihad*), and sustainability (*maslahah*) in guiding economic activities. In the context of coastal livelihoods, these principles are reflected in fair trading practices, responsible resource management, and ethical conduct in seaweed cultivation. Profit-sharing mechanisms, transparency in operations, and adherence to Sharia principles ensure that economic activities contribute not only to individual income but also to social welfare and environmental sustainability. By integrating Sharia principles, communities can create a system that balances profitability with ethical responsibility, reinforcing long-term development goals while respecting religious and cultural values.

2.5 Challenges and Opportunities in Seaweed Cultivation

Despite its benefits, seaweed cultivation faces several challenges that can hinder community welfare. Price volatility, climate variability, limited access to capital, and insufficient market information constrain productivity and profitability. Small-scale cultivators are particularly vulnerable to these risks, resulting in uneven economic benefits

within the community. However, opportunities exist to enhance livelihoods through product diversification, adoption of improved cultivation techniques, training programs, and supportive policies. Integrating Sharia economic principles in addressing these challenges promotes ethical entrepreneurship, equitable resource allocation, and sustainable practices that benefit both current and future generations. Studies suggest that interventions focusing on capacity building, access to capital, and market facilitation are critical for maximizing the socio-economic impact of seaweed cultivation (Prasetyo, 2020; Rahman et al., 2020).

2.6 Research Gap and Implications

Although previous studies have examined technical, economic, and social aspects of seaweed cultivation, limited research has addressed the intersection of Islamic economic principles, existentialist human agency, and community-based economic development. Most studies emphasize production efficiency, market dynamics, or income generation, without considering ethical, religious, and philosophical dimensions that shape decision-making and sustainable practices. This research aims to fill this gap by analyzing seaweed cultivation in Bone Regency through the lens of Sharia economics and existentialist theory, exploring how ethical practices, community agency, and entrepreneurship contribute to sustainable economic development. The findings are expected to provide theoretical contributions to the literature and practical insights for policymakers, community leaders, and development practitioners seeking to enhance coastal livelihoods sustainably.

3. Research Method

3.1 Research Design

This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach to explore the role of seaweed cultivation in improving community economic welfare from the perspective of Islamic economics in Bone Regency. Qualitative

research is appropriate for investigating phenomena that involve human behavior, social interactions, and ethical practices without relying on statistical procedures or numerical analysis (Basrowi & Suwardi, 2008). The phenomenological approach was chosen to emphasize the lived experiences and perceptions of community members, particularly regarding their engagement in seaweed cultivation, decision-making processes, and adherence to Sharia principles (Salim & Syahrums, 2012). By focusing on the subjective experiences of participants, this approach provides an in-depth understanding of how seaweed cultivation contributes to economic, social, and ethical outcomes.

3.2 Research Location and Participants

The research was conducted in Labotto Village, Cenrana District, Bone Regency, which is known for its extensive seaweed farming activities. Participants were selected using purposive sampling, focusing on individuals who are directly involved in seaweed cultivation, including small-scale farmers, processing artisans, and village officials. Inclusion criteria required participants to have at least three years of experience in seaweed cultivation and an active role in community economic activities. A total of 20–25 participants were involved to ensure sufficient depth of insight while maintaining manageability for qualitative analysis.

3.3 Data Collection

Data were collected through multiple techniques to ensure triangulation and comprehensive understanding:

1. In-depth interviews with farmers, processors, and village officials to capture their perspectives on economic benefits, challenges, and ethical practices.
2. Observation of cultivation processes, including planting, harvesting, and processing activities, to document practical behavior and compliance with Sharia-based practices.

3. Document review, including village reports, cooperative records, and policy documents, to provide contextual and supporting information.

3.4 Data Analysis

Data analysis followed a thematic analysis framework, allowing for systematic identification, coding, and interpretation of recurring themes related to economic welfare, ethical practices, and community development. The process involved:

1. Transcription of interviews and field notes.
2. Initial coding to categorize data into meaningful units.
3. Theme development, identifying patterns and relationships among participants' experiences.
4. Triangulation across interviews, observations, and documents to validate findings.

3.5 Validity and Reliability

To ensure credibility and trustworthiness, the study employed multiple strategies:

1. Member checking, where participants reviewed preliminary findings to confirm accuracy.
2. Peer debriefing, involving discussions with colleagues and experts to minimize bias.
3. Audit trail, documenting all research steps, including data collection and analysis, for transparency and reproducibility.

3.6 Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval was obtained from the relevant institutional review board. All participants provided informed consent prior to participation. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained by assigning codes to participants, and data were securely stored to prevent unauthorized access. Researchers ensured that participation was voluntary and that participants could withdraw at any time without any consequences.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Research Results

1. The Existence of Seaweed Cultivation and Its Contribution to the Community Economy in Bone Regency

a. Aesthetic Stage

The Aesthetic Stage, in the context of existentialist philosophy, represents an early stage in human development in which individuals prioritize pleasure and sensory gratification, often without consideration of deeper meaning or responsibility. This stage is characterized by avoidance of commitment and emphasis on freedom and immediate satisfaction.

Interview results regarding the Aesthetic Stage of seaweed cultivation and its contribution to the community economy in Bone Regency reveal the perspectives of seaweed cultivators. For instance, Mr. Rustan highlighted the importance of neatness and aesthetic arrangement of seaweed seedlings and ropes:

"Oh, of course, Sis. If the arrangement is neat, our seedlings grow better because water circulation is smooth and they do not overlap. From afar, our seaweed patches also look beautiful, like a green carpet on the sea." (Rustan, 2025)

Similarly, Mr. Kardika Siswan emphasized that the aesthetic appeal of cultivation attracts attention beyond the harvest itself:

"Besides the harvest, the scenery can also be attractive. When the water is clear, you can see the seaweed moving under the surface. This adds value beyond the harvest." (Kardika Siswan, 2025)

These results indicate that the aesthetic stage of seaweed farming in Bone Regency has significant potential to contribute economically beyond the primary harvest. The orderly and visually appealing arrangement creates a unique landscape that can attract tourism or external interest. Optimizing this contribution requires a holistic strategy, including farmer education on aesthetics and

the development of the seaweed farming sector.

b. Ethical Stage

The Ethical Stage follows the aesthetic stage, where individuals begin to consider moral values and universal principles, adhering to ethical conduct. Interviews with cultivators emphasized ethical considerations such as environmental preservation, coral reef protection, and respecting the rights of fellow fishermen. For example, Mr. Ambo Ufe stated:

"That's very important. Our parents taught us not to be greedy. When cultivating, we should not dispose of waste carelessly; otherwise, the sea becomes polluted and fish die. Do not destroy corals or occupy too much area so others cannot pass. As long as the sea is healthy, our seaweed grows well." (Ambo Ufe, 2025)

The findings demonstrate that the ethical stage significantly supports sustainable economic improvement. Ethical principles serve not only as moral guidance but also as a foundation for environmental sustainability and long-term business viability, making it a strategic imperative for community development.

c. Religious Stage

The Religious Stage refers to an individual's development in relation to spirituality and religious practice, influencing work ethic, honesty, and gratitude. Interviews revealed that religious values (predominantly Islamic in Bone) shape economic behavior. For instance, Ibu Nurhayati shared:

"We are always taught to be grateful for the blessings from Allah. Before going to sea, we pray for safety and smooth operations. When selling, we do not reduce the scale or lie about quality. Honesty and gratitude ensure that sustenance comes from Allah and is more abundant." (Nurhayati, 2025)

This stage demonstrates that religious principles deeply influence sustainable economic behavior, creating a moral and trust-

based economic ecosystem. Seaweed cultivation under this paradigm contributes holistically to community economic improvement.

2. The Impact of Seaweed Cultivation on Increasing Production Yields in Bone Regency

Seaweed cultivation in Bone Regency positively affects production yields, income, employment, and environmental sustainability. It provides new economic opportunities and supports regional growth. Potential exists for further development through modern techniques, value-added processing, and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

a. Poverty

Poverty among seaweed farmers is linked to limited capital, insufficient technology, and lack of knowledge on effective farming techniques. Interview data show positive impacts on poverty reduction. Mr. Amir stated:

"In the past, as a fishing laborer, my income was uncertain, often insufficient even for daily meals. After switching to seaweed farming ten years ago, our lives improved significantly." (Amir, 2025)

Seaweed farming has become a reliable economic backbone, helping families escape poverty and achieve stable income. Challenges such as price fluctuations and climate effects remain and require attention.

b. Inequality

Inequality arises due to differences in land size, capital, and technology. Mrs. Ramlah noted:

"Seaweed cultivation helps our family's economy for daily needs, but our production is less than those with larger land or more capital. We still use traditional methods, so production remains limited." (Ramlah, 2025)

While overall production increases, benefits are unevenly distributed, favoring well-capitalized farmers. Policy interventions and empowerment programs are necessary to reduce disparities.

c. Labor

Labor availability and skill significantly impact production. Mr. Rahmatang explained: *"Seaweed cultivation requires extensive labor—from preparing ropes and tying seedlings to harvesting and drying. With a larger cultivation area or high orders, I employ neighbors in addition to family members."* (Rahmatang, 2025)

Seaweed farming generates employment, improves welfare, and supports economic inclusivity. Enhancing labor skills and diversifying products can further increase impact.

d. Economic Growth

Economic growth is reflected in increased community income and expanded economic activities. Mr. Muh. Tahir stated: *"After seaweed cultivation expanded, our village experienced more economic activity. Shops are busier, construction has increased, and transportation services earn more—all thanks to the income from seaweed."* (Muh. Tahir, 2025)

Seaweed farming serves as an economic driver, stimulating regional growth and improving micro-level welfare.

e. Inflation

Rising production can indirectly influence inflation due to increased demand for inputs. Mr. Muh. Tahir noted: *"Prices for necessities, fuel, ropes, and seeds rise, increasing production costs. If seaweed prices do not adjust, income decreases."* (Muh. Tahir, 2025)

While increased production can pressure inflation, it also signifies economic growth. Local policies are required to manage price stability and support sustainable expansion.

3. Sharia Economic Perspective on Seaweed Cultivation and Community Economic Improvement in Bone Regency

a. Tauhid

Applying the principle of Tawhid promotes responsible resource management and sustainable economic practices. Mr. Ambo Ufe shared: *"Aquaculture is part of worship. Sustenance comes from Allah, not seaweed. Belief in Tawhid helps us remain patient and grateful, even if harvests fail or prices drop."* (Ambo Ufe, 2025)

Tawhid serves as a moral and ethical foundation that enhances sustainable economic behavior.

b. Justice and Balance

Fair distribution of benefits and environmental stewardship are critical. Mrs. Nurhayati observed: *"While grateful for cultivation, smallholders face challenges in pricing and capital access. This limits expansion and keeps small farmers behind those with more resources."* (Nurhayati, 2025)

Justice and balance are prerequisites for equitable and sustainable economic development, requiring stakeholder collaboration and supportive policies.

c. Free Will

Individual initiative and entrepreneurial spirit drive economic improvement. Mr. Irman noted: *"I chose to start seaweed cultivation independently, motivated to change my family's fate. This free will encouraged me to learn and take risks."* (Irman, 2025)

Free will, supported by access to resources and training, is fundamental for innovation and community empowerment.

d. Responsibility

Responsible management ensures quality, sustainability, and social trust. Mr. Jumair explained: *"We are taught to care for seedlings, replace dead seaweed, and collect leftover ropes. Responsibility ensures high-quality output and buyer trust."* (Jumair, 2025)

Responsibility underpins sustainable growth, production quality, and market credibility, making it a cornerstone of economic improvement in Bone Regency.

4.2. Discussion of Research Results

1. The Existence of Seaweed Cultivation on Community Economic Contribution in Bone Regency

a. Aesthetic Stage

The aesthetic dimension of seaweed cultivation regarding the community's economic contribution refers to the aspects of beauty, organization, and visual appeal of seaweed farming activities, which can indirectly (through tourism, value-added products, and branding) or directly (through work comfort) positively impact and enhance the community's economy. This perspective encourages a holistic approach in developing the fisheries and marine sector, emphasizing not only production quantity but also quality of experience and image. This finding aligns with Assagaf (2014), who reported that seaweed farming positively impacts local community welfare. However, challenges such as natural resource management and environmental sustainability remain critical for maintaining long-term benefits.

The results indicate that the aesthetic stage of seaweed farming in Bone Regency holds considerable potential to enhance the local economy beyond the primary harvest. The orderly and visually appealing layout of seaweed farms creates a distinctive landscape that can attract further economic opportunities. Optimizing this contribution requires holistic strategies, including

educating farmers about the value of aesthetics and developing integrated seaweed aquaculture. This result differs from Semaun (2018), who emphasizes that cooperatives serve primarily as forums for women to improve family economy and self-actualization.

b. Ethical Stage

Poverty, characterized by low income, limited capital, and low educational levels, significantly affects community welfare, social behaviors, and mental patterns. Social deviance, resignation, feelings of inadequacy, and low productivity are often consequences of prolonged poverty. According to Greetz, poverty does not necessarily stem from laziness; rather, prolonged poverty can lead to behavioral stagnation.

The findings reveal that the ethical dimension of seaweed cultivation substantially contributes to sustainable economic improvement in Bone Regency. Ethical principles in farming not only reflect moral values but also serve as a foundation for marine ecosystem sustainability and business continuity. Ethical practice in seaweed cultivation is therefore a strategic imperative to ensure long-term economic benefits for the community. This result contrasts with Ariwibowo (2025), who notes that while seaweed cultivation has high potential, local communities underutilize this resource, often selling seaweed without accounting for production yields.

c. Religious Stage

The religious stage involves guiding life, decisions, and behaviors according to religious principles. Spirituality and divine guidance serve as central determinants in shaping actions and understanding the world. Findings show that religious values in seaweed farming in Bone Regency significantly contribute to community economic improvement. Islamic values guide work ethics and promote sustainable and productive economic behavior. Seaweed

farming in this context creates an economy grounded in morality, trust, and blessing, enhancing holistic and sustainable community welfare. This finding aligns with Syafrudin, emphasizing the integration of ethical and religious values into economic activities. The Qur'an (Q.S. Ibrahim [14]:34) reinforces the abundant potential of natural resources as a source of human benefit (Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2018).

2. The Impact of Seaweed Cultivation on Increasing Production Yields in Kab. Bone

a. Poverty

Poverty is a multidimensional condition reflecting insufficient access to material and non-material resources necessary for a decent life (Mukherjee, 2022). Seaweed cultivation in Bone Regency significantly contributes to poverty alleviation by increasing production yields. This sector provides stable income, particularly compared to the volatility of capture fisheries, enabling families to improve their standard of living. Challenges such as price fluctuations, climate impacts, and capital access need to be addressed to ensure equitable economic benefits. This finding is consistent with Tejasinarta (2021), who reports that productivity improvement, superior seed selection, intensive care, value-added innovations, and government pricing policies enhance seaweed farmers' incomes.

a. Inequality

Income inequality arises from uneven income distribution and, in some cases, inadequate property rights protection (Utami, 2019; Kuncoro, 2021). Although seaweed farming increases overall production in Bone Regency, benefits are unequally distributed. Large-scale farmers gain disproportionately compared to smallholders. Addressing this requires targeted policies and collaborative interventions to empower small-scale farmers. This finding aligns with Rahma and Salim

(2020), noting income disparities among coastal workers and entrepreneurs.

b. Labor

Seaweed farming positively impacts labor absorption by generating employment opportunities, particularly in coastal areas. Increased production correlates with higher workforce involvement, enhancing family welfare. Sustainable production growth, skills training, and price stability are essential to maximize these benefits. This finding aligns with Bauto (2024), who reports that seaweed cultivation improves local living standards and creates jobs, though challenges remain regarding climate change and technical cultivation issues.

c. Economic Growth

Economic growth reflects the increased capacity to produce goods and services, typically measured by GDP (Boediono, 2001). Seaweed farming drives economic growth in Bone Regency by increasing production and serving as a catalyst for other economic sectors. Maintaining this growth requires managing price volatility, environmental sustainability, and downstream development.

d. Inflation

Inflation denotes a sustained general rise in prices (Kartini, 2019). Seaweed production growth indirectly impacts inflation positively by increasing income and welfare. Managing potential inflationary pressures requires government intervention through supply stability and investment diversification. This finding aligns with Parakkasi (2016), emphasizing the role of Islamic economics in regulating monetary systems and spending behaviors to control inflation.

3. Sharia Economic Perspective on Seaweed Cultivation Towards Improving the Economy of the Community in Kab. Bone

a. Tawhid

Tawhid, the oneness of Allah SWT, is the core Islamic doctrine that shapes all aspects of a Muslim's life, including economic behavior (Muslich, 2004; Djakfar, 2021). Belief in Tawhid positively impacts seaweed cultivators' economic behavior in Bone Regency. It fosters a strong moral and ethical foundation, guiding farmers to pursue sustainable and blessed economic activities. This finding aligns with Suarni (2020), highlighting women's significant role in seaweed cultivation and income generation.

b. Justice and Equilibrium

Islamic teachings emphasize fairness and balance in human interactions and resource management (Muslich, 2010; Beekun, 2004). These principles are crucial for ensuring sustainable economic contributions from seaweed farming. Ignoring them may hinder growth and cause social or environmental issues. Policy interventions and stakeholder engagement are essential. This aligns with Lusiana (2024), who stresses economic balance and justice as prerequisites for stability and welfare.

c. Free Will

Free will entails the capacity to make independent, responsible choices (Zebua, 2024). Findings show that individual initiative and entrepreneurial spirit significantly drive community economic improvement in Bone Regency. Supportive environments enhance the manifestation of free will, maximizing economic impact.

d. Responsibility

Responsibility in managing entrusted resources is central to Islamic ethics, linking human actions to accountability before God (Beekun, 2004). Findings indicate that responsibility underpins sustainable and

ethical seaweed cultivation, directly influencing production quality and market trust. Greater accountability leads to higher economic contributions. This contrasts with Zebua (2024), who discusses social responsibility practices in the banking sector.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Contribution of Seaweed Cultivation to Community Economy

Seaweed cultivation in Bone Regency positively affects the local economy through aesthetic, ethical, and religious dimensions. Well-organized cultivation areas enhance economic value, ethical practices ensure marine ecosystem sustainability, and Islamic values guide productive and moral economic behavior. Seaweed farming provides stable income opportunities, contributing significantly to poverty alleviation. However, challenges such as price volatility, climate risks, and limited access to capital require continuous attention.

5.2 Impact on Production, Employment, and Economic Growth

Seaweed cultivation has increased production yields and generated employment for coastal communities. Despite overall growth, the economic benefits are unevenly distributed, with large-scale farmers benefiting more than smallholders. Targeted policy interventions, empowerment programs for small-scale farmers, sustainable production strategies, and skills development are necessary to ensure equitable distribution of benefits. The sector contributes to regional economic growth while also requiring attention to downstream development and environmental sustainability.

5.3 Sharia Economic Perspective

From an Islamic economic perspective, core principles such as Tawhid, justice, balance, free will, and responsibility strongly influence economic behavior in seaweed farming. Entrepreneurial initiative, combined with access to capital, training, information,

and fair markets, enhances productivity and equitable wealth distribution. Sharia principles ensure that economic growth aligns with moral, social, and environmental sustainability.

5.4 Theoretical and Practical Implications

This study contributes to the literature on Islamic economics, maritime resource management, and community development. Practically, it provides guidance for policymakers and stakeholders to implement sustainable, inclusive, and ethical strategies for enhancing coastal economies.

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