

**Community Local Wisdom in the Management of Shifting Cultivation
Practices in Latugho Village, Lawa District, West Muna Regency**

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ABSTRACT

The abstract should be written in standard English consistently (either American or British English). It must be composed as a single paragraph without references, citations, tables, or figures, and should not exceed 250 words. The content must include the key problem to be solved, objectives, methods, results, and conclusions, without being overly dense with numerical data. Abbreviations are not allowed unless they appear more than once. (*Times New Roman, 10pt, Single Line Spacing, Justify*)

Keywords: Each keyword should not exceed five words and should preferably differ from those in the manuscript title. (*Times New Roman, 10pt, Bold*)

INTRODUCTION

Shifting cultivation management as a traditional practice still maintained by many agrarian communities in indonesia, including rural areas directly dependent on natural resources. this system is recognized for its ability to sustain soil fertility naturally through land rotation and providing rest periods for the land before reuse (Putri & Wicaksono, 2023). Shifting cultivation functions not only as a farming technique but also embodies

local wisdom values that play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem balance and the livelihood of communities dependent on the land (Firdaus et al., 2021). This practice reflects a harmonious and interdependent relationship between humans and the natural environment established over centuries, making the embedded local wisdom important to understand and preserve (Santika & Pratama, 2022).

In latugho village, lawa subdistrict, west muna regency, shifting cultivation remains the primary livelihood source for the community to meet their food and economic needs. The villagers apply various customary rules and traditions in managing shifting cultivation, passed down through generations (nugroho et al., 2024). This local wisdom encompasses not only technical agricultural guidelines but also traditional rituals believed to maintain harmony with nature and ancestral spirits. These rituals and social norms form the foundation for land management, making shifting cultivation not merely an economic activity but also a cultural practice that strengthens community identity (sari & hidayat, 2023).

The management of shifting cultivation in Latugho Village incorporates principles oriented toward environmental sustainability, such as rotating field locations to allow the soil to recover and restore its fertility (Wahyudi & Ambarwati, 2020). Additionally, the system involves clear task divisions based on age and gender, along with prohibitions designed to prevent excessive exploitation of natural resources (Rahmat & Lestari, 2022). This local wisdom indirectly supports the preservation of the surrounding ecosystem, including flora and fauna, which are integral to the ecological balance in the area (Puspitasari & Widodo, 2021).

Previous studies have shown that shifting cultivation provides significant ecological benefits, including biodiversity conservation and soil erosion prevention. The local wisdom-based management of shifting cultivation creates an environmentally friendly agricultural system without dependence on synthetic fertilizers or chemicals (Kusuma & Hartono, 2022). Beyond ecological benefits, the system strengthens social structures by emphasizing cooperation, solidarity, and mutual aid in farming activities and land conservation (Aditya & Fauziah, 2023). This indicates that shifting cultivation represents a complex interaction between ecology and culture supporting sustainable livelihoods.

However, development progress and modernization pose major challenges to the preservation of shifting cultivation. Lifestyle changes, land conversion for non-agricultural uses, and the introduction of modern agricultural technologies threaten the continuation of

this tradition (Sutrisno & Dewi, 2024). These pressures often lead to a decline in the amount of land managed through shifting cultivation, negatively impacting the ecological and social balance of the community. Therefore, it is crucial to study existing local wisdom to integrate it into development policies that are more responsive to local contexts (Fadhilah & Nur, 2023).

Local wisdom in shifting cultivation relates not only to agricultural techniques but also to value systems and norms shaping the community's worldview regarding nature and fellow humans (Suryani et al., 2021). The system contains moral and spiritual messages guiding communities to conserve nature as a heritage for future generations. Hence, strengthening local wisdom in Latugho Village can serve as a cultural preservation model and a strategic adaptation to increasingly complex environmental and social changes (Maharani & Yusuf, 2022).

Specifically in West Muna Regency, in-depth studies on shifting cultivation and its local wisdom remain scarce. This creates an urgent need for research that can provide empirical insights and appropriate recommendations for preserving this tradition (Halim et al., 2024). This study is expected to become a valuable reference for local governments and stakeholders in designing sustainable development policies integrating community local wisdom.

Through a comprehensive understanding of shifting cultivation practices in Latugho Village, it is hoped that collective awareness will arise to preserve this tradition as part of cultural heritage and environmental conservation efforts (Yuliana & Ramadhan, 2023). Therefore, this study aims to describe the local wisdom of the community in managing shifting cultivation and analyze its social and ecological implications to support sustainable development in the region.

METHODS

Research Approach and Type

This study employs a qualitative approach with a case study method to gain an in-depth understanding of local wisdom in the practice of shifting cultivation in Latugho Village, Lawa District, West Muna Regency. The qualitative approach is chosen because it is suitable for exploring complex and contextual social phenomena and uncovering the meaning embedded in cultural practices (Creswell & Poth, 2023). The case study method enables the researcher to focus on a single, information-rich setting to obtain comprehensive and holistic data (Yin, 2022).

Research Site and Participants

The research was conducted in Latugho Village, selected purposively due to the continued presence of active shifting cultivation practices involving broad community participation. The research participants include various community groups involved in the management of shifting cultivation, such as local farmers, traditional leaders, and village officials who understand and practice local wisdom. The number of participants was determined based on the principle of data saturation, which is reached when the data collected sufficiently represent the phenomenon being studied (Merriam & Tisdell, 2021).

Data Collection Techniques

The data were collected using three primary techniques:

1. In-depth Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with traditional leaders, experienced farmers, and village officials to explore knowledge, practices, and the meanings behind local wisdom in shifting cultivation. The semi-structured format allows for both depth and flexibility in data collection (Rubin & Rubin, 2021).

2. Participant Observation

The researcher engaged in direct observation at cultivation sites to examine the process, social interactions, and traditional rituals involved. This participant observation facilitated the collection of contextual data and validation of interview findings (Emerson et al., 2020)

3. Documentation

Supporting data were collected through field notes, photographs, audio recordings, and documents such as customary records and village reports related to land management. These documents served to complement primary data and provide corroborative evidence (Creswell & Creswell, 2024).

Data Analysis Technique

The collected data were analyzed using thematic analysis, which includes the following steps:

1. Transcribing interview and observation data in detail.
2. Reading and familiarizing with the data to identify meaningful patterns and key themes related to local wisdom and cultivation practices (Braun & Clarke, 2022).
3. Categorizing data into relevant themes such as customary rules, social values, agricultural techniques, and ecological or social impacts.

4. Interpreting and triangulating data by comparing interview results, field observations, and documentation to enhance the validity and reliability of findings (Flick, 2023).

Validity and Trustworthiness of Data

To ensure the validity and trustworthiness of the findings, this study applied several strategies, including:

1. Data Triangulation, by collecting data from multiple sources and using various methods (Denzin, 2021).
2. Member Checking, by confirming the interpretations and findings with the participants to ensure shared understanding (Lincoln & Guba, 2021).
3. Audit Trail, by documenting the research process in a detailed and systematic manner, allowing the study to be reviewed and verified by other researchers (Shenton, 2020).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

A. Selection of Shifting Cultivation Sites

The selection of shifting cultivation sites in Latugho Village is based on deep ancestral knowledge of soil characteristics and the surrounding environmental conditions. Farmers do not randomly clear land, but instead choose plots that have been left fallow for an extended period to ensure optimal soil fertility. As explained by a local customary leader:

“We have learned from our ancestors that land which has been abandoned for a long time becomes fertile again due to natural soil regeneration. Therefore, we do not immediately open new or recently used land, but look for areas that have been left idle for a considerable time so that crops can grow well and produce maximum yields. This knowledge is passed down through generations and is highly valued.” (Informant 1, 2025)

A senior farmer echoed this sentiment, adding:

“In selecting a site, we also observe natural signs, such as the presence of certain plant species that indicate fertile soil. We believe that nature provides clues to help us determine the right place. This way, we can minimize crop failure and preserve the surrounding environment.” (Informant 2, 2025)

Moreover, a younger farmer noted that the selection of cultivation areas is influenced not only by experience but also by social and cultural considerations:

“We exchange information and experiences with village elders regarding lands that have not been used for a long time and are potentially good for cultivation. In addition,

customary rules define which lands may or may not be opened to avoid damaging the ecosystem.” (Informant 3, 2025)

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

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The conclusion presents the research findings, highlighting their novelty, originality, pioneering aspects, universality, and scientific contributions to the advancement of knowledge and technology.

Authors should explain the implications of their research findings for scientific development and their impact on the environment, society, culture, economy, politics, and/or law. These implications should be presented in simple language to ensure accessibility for non-academic readers. (12pt, Times New Roman)

REFERENCES

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of all referenced sources listed in the References section and cited in the text. It is highly recommended to use recent publications (within the last 5 years). References should be presented in alphabetical order and formatted according to the name-year system. Formatting guidelines and examples can be found in the writing manual.

APA Style as in the example below:

Sugiyono. (2008). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, kualitatif dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta

Sumantri, M. S., & Rachmadtullah, R. (2016). The effect of learning media and self regulation to elementary students' history learning outcome. *Advanced Science Letters*, 22(12), 4104–4108. <https://doi.org/10.1166/asl.2016.8140>

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