

Preparation of a Thematic Map of Agrarian Conflict Based On Digital Database of Conflict Distribution in North Sumatra

Tappil Rambe
Departement of History
Education
Universitas Negeri Medan
Medan, Indonesia

Denny Setiawan
Departement of PPKN
Education Universitas Negeri
Medan
Medan, Indonesia

Pidia Amelia
Departement of History
Education
Universitas Negeri Medan
Medan, Indonesia

Abstract: Agrarian conflict in North Sumatra Province has a very long history. Starting from the mid-19th century to the current modern era, it takes place in eight areas such as Batubara Regency, Asahan Regency, Deli Serdang Regency, North Padang Lawas Regency, Serdang Bedagai Regency, Simalungun Regency, South Tapanuli Regency, and Toba Samosir Regency. Therefore, it is important to develop a database of agrarian conflicts in North Sumatra Province in the form of a thematic map of conflict distribution so that the history and existing conditions of existing conflicts can be easily understood. The development of this digital database also aims to ensure that existing conflicts can be identified systematically, with the aim that conflict resolution policies can be made optimally. Eight districts in North Sumatra which have a history of quite complex agrarian conflicts, some of which have received solutions that are acceptable to all parties. However, in several other districts, agrarian conflicts continue to this day. The large number of actors who have their own interests in a land and the absence of a common opinion results in continuous conflict. Therefore, it is very important for all data on agrarian conflicts that have occurred to be compiled in a digital database, namely in the form of a thematic map, so that the formula for conflict resolution over land in an area can be prepared more comprehensively.

Keywords: Digital Database, Agrarian Conflict, Thematic Map

1. INTRODUCTION

The agrarian conflict in North Sumatra Province has a very long historical background. History records that agrarian conflicts in North Sumatra began to emerge in the mid-19th century when foreign plantation companies began to establish themselves in the East Sumatra region (currently part of North Sumatra Province). The beginning of plantation companies in North Sumatra began in 1864, when Jacobus Nienhuys, a Dutch foreign private entrepreneur, tried to plant tobacco on Deli land after obtaining permission from the Sultan of Deli. Nienhuys' business was successful where Nienhuys harvested 50 bales of tobacco. This marks the presence of Deli tobacco which is growing rapidly in East Sumatra, which in a short time has become very popular in the European tobacco market as the best cigar wrapper in the world. The widespread opening of tobacco plantations immediately transformed empty lands or jungles in East Sumatra into areas with the most productive economy and provided large profits to plantation or plantation entrepreneurs (Stoler, 2005, p.2).

Several recorded plantation companies include Deli Batavia Maatschappij (1875), Arensburg (1876), Amsterdam Deli Compagnie (1879), Rotterdam Deli Maatschappij (1881) and Harrison & Crossfield (1906). It was recorded that from 1863 – 1906 there were around 170 plantations. One factor in the rise of tobacco plantations is, among other things, the granting of permits or concessions by the Sultanate of Deli to use land or land in its "territory". The Sultanate of Deli was lured by even more fantastic economic profits by attracting it to the capitalist economic system, among other things, by controlling land (Anderson, 1862).

The impact of unilateral control of community land into plantations led to the emergence of agrarian conflicts which manifested in several battles or wars such as the Single War in 1872 - 1879 (Pelzer, 1985, p. 62-63). In 1873, there was also a battle between the Karo Batak or Datuk Penghulu Batak Karo and the Dutch because the Deli Sultanate unanimously determined land use, economic and political spaces in Karo (Ratna, 2004).

The political phenomenon that occurred in 1872 showed that there was enormous turmoil in rejecting intimidation or colonialism in both the political and economic fields. The presence of plantation companies actually destroys the existence and authority of local residents in managing their economy which originates from pepper plantations. At the same time destroying land which was originally a pepper plantation area which was then converted into a tobacco plantation.

During the Japanese occupation, empty land was planted with food crops to support the war waged by Japan, which was implemented by inviting immigrants to plant empty plantation land, resulting in the existing order being destroyed. Many tract lands are occupied by illegal immigrants. After the 1946 Social Revolution, several plantation areas were controlled by people's troops. The control of plantations by these irregulars then turned into an arena of attraction in fighting over sources of economic production (Agustono, 1997). This illegal cultivation of tobacco plantation lands is becoming increasingly unstoppable by the government. Meanwhile, the local people (indigenous

residents) themselves do not involve themselves in reducing the land for tobacco plantations because they still adhere to customary law and only manage tract lands.

This long historical background shows evidence that North Sumatra has very strong agrarian conflict roots and continues to develop in the contemporary context. It is recorded that 8 districts in North Sumatra Province have strong agrarian conflict data with different characters. Some of them have found solutions, but some of them still continue to struggle in the midst of conflict. Therefore, it is important to develop existing conflict data into conflict distribution maps that can be accessed digitally. From the existence of this digital database in the form of a map, it is hoped that all interested stakeholders can formulate an appropriate conflict resolution.

2. METHOD

By using quantitative descriptive methods, data analysis is carried out through interpretation based on intellectual understanding built by empirical experience, interpretation and data analysis are carried out in the following steps:

- a) Data collection, through documentation techniques to obtain secondary data as well as interview and observation data to obtain primary data.
- b) Data assessment by paying attention to the principles of validity, objectivity and reliability. For this reason, the following procedure is carried out:
 - Categorize primary data and secondary data with relevant recording
 - Evaluate the data that has been obtained with the aim of controlling whether the data is relevant for use.
- c) Interpretation and presentation of data is carried out by analyzing data and facts through careful intellectual understanding and must be equipped with a set of relevant theories.
- d) Inference, namely drawing conclusions based on interpretation and analysis of data in the form of compiling a digital database of agrarian conflicts in North Sumatra.

3. RESEARCH RESULT

Land Disputes Are the Root of Agrarian Conflict

North Sumatra Province has an area of 71,680.68 km². In its development, recently it has experienced many changes, especially in terms of land use. This occurs in line with the increasing implementation of development and the economy in the region, causing an increase in land conversion changes which result in land use no longer being appropriate as determined in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

Land disputes that often arise in people's lives are partly due to struggles over land rights which result in the destruction of harmonious social relations. In customary law communities, disputes often occur regarding customary lands, including ulayat land. The causes of ulayat land disputes include: lack of clear boundaries regarding customary land, lack of awareness of customary law communities, and the role of traditional heads in customary law communities.

The agrarian conflict in North Sumatra is one of the largest in Indonesia, KPA (Consortium for Agrarian Reform) noted throughout 2020. Agrarian conflict is interpreted as conflict related to land. There are several factors that cause this conflict to occur, including issues of land control or land disputes and competition for natural resources. Agrarian conflicts arise as a result of gaps in agrarian resources, for example plantation land or customary land. In agrarian conflict, many parties are involved in it and it is characterized by the presence or implementation of regulations and decisions that are not balanced so that the conflict becomes more complex (Sumarjono, 2013).

North Sumatra Agrarian Conflict Digital Database

Dietz said that in general the symptoms of conflict in natural resource relations are rooted in conflicting claims regarding three things, namely: (1) who has the right to control agrarian resources and the natural wealth contained therein; (2) who has the right to utilize agrarian resources and natural wealth; (3) who has the right to make decisions regarding the control and utilization of agrarian resources and natural wealth (Dietz, 1988. p. 8).

The distribution of conflicts and the causes of agrarian conflicts in 8 districts in North Sumatra can be seen in the recapitulation data on land conflicts in Sumatra which have been compiled in a digital database.

No	Lokasi	Luas Lahan	Aktor	Faktor Konflik
1	Kabupaten Asahan	1650 Ha	Masyarakat PTPN II Kelompok Tani Mekar Jaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pemerintah tidak tegas • Pemerintah belum mengambil keputusan penerapan hukum
2	Kabupaten Batubara	5720 ha	Masyarakat Kelompok tani Perusahaan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BPN tidak menyelesaikan masalah sertifikasi tanah • Pemeirnatah tidak memiliki kesamaan pandangan • Pengambilan dan perebutan

3	Kabupaten Deli Serdang	12.570 ha	Masyarakat Kelompok Tani PTPN II Perusahaan Forum Komunitas Indonesia Bersatu	lahan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pengambilan dan perebutan lahan • BPN belum memastikan batas wilayah yang tepat • Adanya pihak-pihak yang ingin memperkeruh suasana, seperti mafia tanah • Adanya aturan hukum yang tidak dapat diterapkan di lapangan
4	Kabupaten Padang Lawas Utara	9020 ha	Masyarakat Perusahaan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belum ada kejelasan dari pemerintah • Pihak BPN masih mengadakan pengukuran • BPN tidak transparan dalam pengurusan surat
5	Kabupaten Serdang Bedagai	6780 ha	Majelis Adat Melayu Masyarakat PTPN II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pemerintah belum mengambil keputusan penerapan hukum • Adanya peraturan yang belum dapat diterapkan di lapangan • BPN tidak menyelesaikan masalah sertifikasi tanah
6	Kabupaten Simalungun	1570 ha	Masyarakat Perusahaan Komunitas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pengambilan dan perebutan lahan • BPN belum memastikan batas wilayah yang tepat • Adanya pihak-pihak yang ingin

				memperkeruh suasana, seperti mafia tanah
7	Kabupaten Tapanuli Tengah	2030 ha	Masyarakat Kelompok Tani Perusahaan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pemerinatah diduga membacku beberapa perusahaan yang HGUnya belum diperpanjang • Administrasi pertanahan kacau
8	Kabupaten Toba	2367 ha	Masyarakat Perusahaan Kertas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pemerinatah diduga membacku beberapa perusahaan yang HGUnya belum diperpanjang • Administrasi pertanahan kacau

Table 1. Database of the Extent and Distribution of Agrarian Conflict in North Sumatra (Source from Interviews and Analysis of Various Sources, 2022)

The database on the extent and distribution of conflict shows that the district with the greatest conflict conditions is Deli Serdang Regency, namely with an area of 12,570 ha spread over 35 cases in various sub-districts. Meanwhile, the district with the smallest conflict conditions is Simalungun Regency with an area of 1,570 ha spread over only 6 cases.

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the oldest land conflict problem, which started from 1942 to 2022, is the land conflict problem between the V Jati Mulyo Hamlet Community Group, Tebing Tanjung Selamat Village, Kec. Padang Tualang with a conflict area of 23.6 ha, this problem has not yet been resolved, the reason is that the community is still ensuring the completeness of documents from residents.

Based on the table above, it can also be seen that the parties involved in land conflicts can be grouped into several categories, namely:

1. Land conflicts between community groups and state-owned companies and private companies.
2. Land conflicts between farmer groups and state-owned companies and private companies.
3. Land conflicts between traditional councils and state-owned companies.

Based on this fact, society is the party most disadvantaged, especially farming communities who, with all their limited abilities, are always burdened by economic poverty, lack of legal ability to fight for their rights, lack of access to support and a myriad of other weaknesses, putting them in a very difficult position and In fact, it is not uncommon for them to become victims of tyranny and greed by the management of plantation companies (PTPN & Private Plantations) who, with their abilities, easily use the hands of those in power (Government Bureaucrats, Security Authorities/Polri, TNI, Judicial Institutions, even thugs) to beat and muzzle the community. poor poor farmers who fight for their rights. The land conflicts tabulated in the table are land conflicts that have not been resolved. Therefore, to find out how to resolve the land conflict, it is done by comparing it with other cases, especially those related to land conflict issues.

Conflicts of interest arise between the parties involved, where each of them acts as a sharecropper (horizontal conflict) and there is an interest on the part of the plantation entrepreneur to defend their concession area or Erfacht/HGU rights, which has economic nuances to gain profit (vertical conflict). Apart from that, there is an interest of entrepreneurs to regulate the cultivators on plantation land. In order to develop the economy as a newly independent country, the government tends to protect the plantation entrepreneurs rather than the farming people. This fact ultimately gave rise to disputes between the cultivators, the government and plantation entrepreneurs.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of statistical data analysis, the factors that cause conflict are used as research objects, namely community, government, law, culture, law enforcement, land administration bodies simultaneously influence the number of land conflicts in North Sumatra. This means that these six factors can simultaneously influence the size of the number of land conflicts in North Sumatra.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank LPPM Universitas Negeri Medan for funding our research and all participants and supervisors that contributed to the work in this study.

6. REFERENCES

- 1) Anderson, John. 1971. *Mission to the Eastcoust of Sumatra in 1823*. Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press.
- 2) Armani, Hamidah, dkk. 2020. *Konflik Agraria Pada Masa Revolusi Sosial Di Sumatera Timur 1946-1955*. Jakarta: Jurnal Historia.
- 3) Creswell, J.W. 1998. *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing among Five Tradition*. London: Sage Publications.
- 4) Nurhasim, Moch. 2008. *Konflik dan Integrasi Politik Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.
- 5) Pelzer, Karl J. *Toean Keboen dan Petani, Politik Kolonial dan Perjuangan Agraria di Sumatra Timur, 1863-1947*. Jakarta: Sinar Harapan, 1985.
- 6) Ratna. Aceh, “*Deli dan Perang Sunggal*”. *Papers in Perang Sunggal Seminars*, Medan, 2004.
- 7) Stoler, Ann Laura. 2005. *Kapitalisme dan Konfrontasi di Sabuk Perkebunan Sumatera, 1870 – 1979*. Jakarta: Karsa.
- 8) Sumarjono. 2013. *Konflik Agraria: Pengelolaan Sumber Daya Air*. Yogyakarta: APMD Press

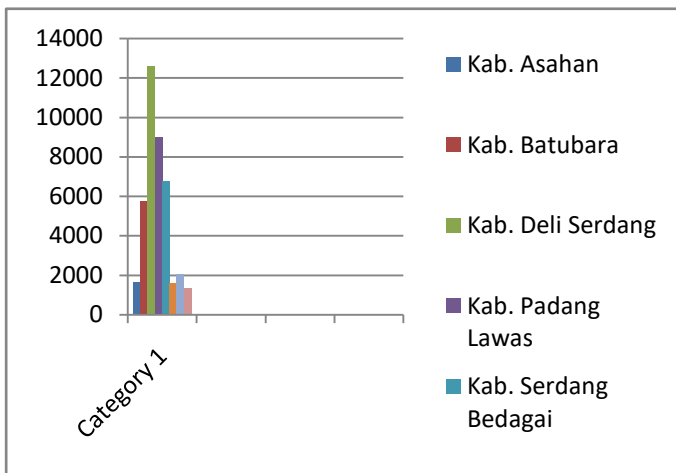


Diagram 1. Calculation of the Extent of Agrarian Conflict in North Sumatra Based on Digital Agrarian Conflict Data.

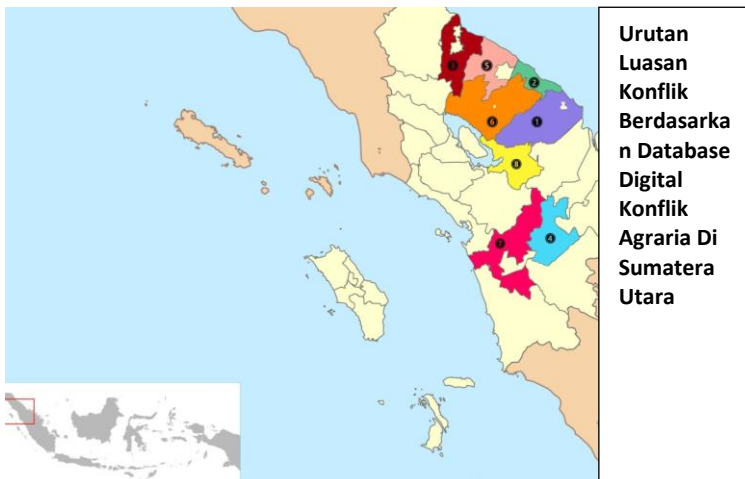


Figure 1. Distribution of Agrarian Conflict in North Sumatra Based on Digital Database