Enhancing Sustainable Palm Oil Production in West Kalimantan: Paradiplomacy and Solidaridad's Role in Achieving Environmental Goals

Hafis Asiraf1*, Halifa Haqqi1, Ganjar Widhiyoga2

1 International Relation Department, Universitas Slamet Riyadi Surakarta, Indonesia
2 Government and International Affairs, Durham University, United Kingdom

*Corresponding author, e-mail: hafisasirafwork@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The global palm oil industry, particularly in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, faces significant environmental scrutiny, with deforestation for oil palm plantations adversely impacting its reputation. This challenge is compounded by the European Union's regulations against products causing environmental harm, pressuring regional governments to safeguard the sustainability of local agriculture. This study examines the West Kalimantan government's collaboration with Solidaridad Indonesia, a renowned educational and cooperative agency, in transforming the local palm oil industry towards sustainability. Employing a qualitative methodology with a focus on secondary data, the research explores West Kalimantan's paradiplomatic initiatives in the global market through its partnership with Solidaridad. This collaboration is analyzed through the lenses of paradiplomacy and sustainable development goals (SDGs). The findings reveal that West Kalimantan's paradiplomacy has significantly enhanced the image of its palm oil commodities. Key strategies include educational programs for local farmers, promotion of certified palm oil standards, and alignment with SDGs. The study highlights the success of this collaborative approach in meeting the aspirations of West Kalimantan's government towards sustainable development, offering a model for other regions facing similar environmental challenges in the palm oil sector.

Keywords: Sustainable Palm Oil, West Kalimantan, Paradiplomacy, Solidaridad Indonesia, Environmental Diplomacy

ABSTRAK


Kata Kunci: Kelapa Sawit Berkelanjutan, Kalimantan Barat, Paradiplomasi, Solidaridad Indonesia, Diplomasi Lingkungan
1. Introduction

Deforestation, defined as the permanent reduction or loss of primary or secondary forest cover for non-forestry purposes, is a critical environmental issue (FAO, 2020). This phenomenon contributes to global warming by increasing carbon dioxide emissions from forest fires and reducing the forest's capacity to absorb this gas. In Indonesia, a significant percentage of rainforests, mangrove forests, and peatlands lack protection from deforestation, primarily due to palm oil plantation activities (Sheffield, 2023). Notably, the practice of land clearing, often involving forest burning for palm oil cultivation, has raised concerns globally, particularly in the European Union.

Responding to these environmental concerns, the European Union introduced regulations on June 29, 2023, targeting deforestation-free products. These regulations mandate companies to ensure their commodities do not contribute to deforestation, impacting global trade in agricultural and derivative products (EU n.d.). Concurrently, the Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) focuses on mitigating the adverse impacts of palm oil plantations, highlighting the need to protect local ecosystems (RSPO n.d.). Such policies pose significant implications for palm oil farmers in Indonesia, particularly in regions like West Kalimantan. West Kalimantan, ranking fourth in palm oil production in Indonesia, significantly contributes to the region's Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) through its vast plantation area and substantial labor force engagement in agriculture (BPS 2022). The potential impact of the EU's palm oil ban on the economy and livelihoods in West Kalimantan is profound, necessitating sustainable agricultural practices.

Recognizing the need for sustainability, the West Kalimantan Provincial Government collaborated with Solidaridad Indonesia, an organization dedicated to promoting environmental sustainability and resilience in agriculture. This partnership, formalized on April 8, 2019, focuses on sustainable development in the oil palm sector in West Kalimantan, particularly in Sintang. Solidaridad's expertise in enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of local farmers aligns with the goals of the National Initiatives for Sustainable & Climate-Smart Oil Palm Smallholders (NISCOPS) program.

This research delves into the efforts of the West Kalimantan government and Solidaridad Indonesia to promote sustainable practices in oil palm plantations. The study examines the impact of the NISCOPS program on local communities and its role in aligning West Kalimantan's palm oil production with international standards, particularly those of the European market. The overarching goal is to explore how this initiative can improve livelihoods, reduce deforestation, and contribute to the global demand for sustainable palm oil.

2. Theoretical framework

The concept of Paradiplomacy, as a theoretical framework, is pivotal to this research, which aims to elucidate the role of subnational governments in diplomatic activities. Defined by Gilson (2012) as the involvement of subnational governments in foreign policy, paradiplomacy encapsulates international activities that extend to other countries or international organizations. Mukti (2013) further elaborates on this concept as a decentralization of political power and administrative authority within processes...
involving subnational actors and institutions. The study evolves to encompass climate
paradiplomacy, highlighting the role of subnational entities in diplomatic activities and
climate policy-related actions at an international level. This approach, exemplified by
Frank Cownie, Mayor of Des Moines, Iowa, and President of Local Governments for
Sustainability (ICLEI), underscores the active role of subnational actors in climate
improvement campaigns, emphasizing the vested interest of communities, local
businesses, and particularly community members who are most vulnerable to climate
change impacts (Crownie, 2022). The government of West Kalimantan has undertaken a
parallel approach aimed at fostering an environmentally friendly palm oil industry in
collaboration with Solidaridad.

The active involvement of regional governments in international collaborations,
such as the partnership between the West Kalimantan Government and Solidaridad
Indonesia, exemplifies the practical application of paradiplomacy. This collaboration, in
alignment with Regulation No. 25 of 2020 from the Ministry of Home Affairs,
emphasizes empowering local communities, preventing environmental damage, and
promoting sustainable palm oil production. It showcases how paradiplomacy facilitates
subnational governments in partnering with international organizations to achieve
sustainable development goals, particularly in environmental conservation. The study
will broaden its scope by including diverse international examples, thus providing a
comprehensive understanding of paradiplomacy's global applicability and its policy
implications on national and international levels.

Tracing the rise of environmental awareness since the 1960s, the research
connects historical developments in global environmental consciousness to the evolution
of paradiplomacy. Key milestones like the 1972 United Nations Conference on the
Human Environment in Stockholm and the introduction of sustainable development by
Gro Harlem Brundtland in 1987 (Jarvie, 2023) are critically analyzed to understand their
influence on current sustainable development practices and paradiplomacy. The 'Earth
Summit' in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 further emphasized the role of governments at various
levels in promoting sustainable development, a concept that has become a common goal
worldwide. This historical perspective enriches the understanding of how changing global
environmental landscapes have contributed to the emergence and evolution of
paradiplomacy.

The research framework underscores the necessity of multifaceted contributions
towards sustainable development, especially in the context of deforestation and palm oil
plantation activities. The integration of local contexts in implementing sustainable
practices and the evaluation of public-private partnerships are emphasized. This approach
highlights the significance of diverse actors – governments, private sectors, and
communities – in implementing sustainable development concepts. The negative impacts
of unsustainable development, such as reduced biodiversity and environmental
degradation, are discussed in relation to economic progress and human resource
development.

In analyzing the sustainability efforts of the West Kalimantan government and
Solidaridad, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are utilized as a critical
analytical tool. This analysis will assess the extent to which sustainable development
principles are integrated into their collaborative programs, evaluating the progress and
outcomes with a focus on environmental preservation. The study will explore how the SDGs provide a framework for evaluating the effectiveness of paradiplomacy in achieving sustainable outcomes and consider a comparative analysis of different regions or countries using the SDGs. This approach will offer insights into the variability and effectiveness of paradiplomacy strategies in diverse settings, enhancing the understanding of the intentions, objectives, and roles of the involved parties.

3. Research Method

This study employed a qualitative research methodology, as defined by Creswell and Poth (2017), to gain an in-depth understanding of the efforts in sustainable palm oil diplomacy in West Kalimantan. This approach was particularly suitable for exploring the complexities and nuances of the experiences and actions of individuals, groups, and cultures involved in this field. The qualitative method was chosen to elucidate the intentions and diplomatic efforts of the West Kalimantan government, a key substate actor in this scenario. Denzin and Lincoln (2018) described qualitative research as an effort to understand the meanings contained within human experiences, actions, and behaviors in specific social contexts, making it ideal for this study.

The research methodology focused on the observation of phenomena occurring in the field. This was conducted by collecting and sorting information from various sources, thereby providing a multiperspective understanding for the researcher. The parties involved were the European Union, the Government of Indonesia, the Government of the Netherlands, the Provincial Government of West Kalimantan, Solidaridad, and the local community. By understanding the motivations and goals of each of these parties, derived from observations of various sources, a contextual framework was constructed to examine the behavior of the involved parties. Consequently, the analysis exhibited a high level of objectivity and minimized bias.

Secondary data served as the primary source material in this research, with the intention of acquiring comprehensive information by leveraging diverse sources from various periods. The inherent breadth of secondary data allowed researchers to attain a broader scope, not confined to a single perspective. The research also incorporated findings from related research, official government regulations, and collaborations, as well as field evidence derived from press releases and official statements from the local government and Solidaridad. These data were expected to possess a high level of veracity that was justifiable and capable of elucidating the intentions and objectives of each action taken. Observations conducted through the collection of secondary data were intended to provide a natural portrayal of subject behavior without influencing information and behavior.

Academic papers and journal articles have been chosen to explore various data sources related to the efforts to achieve sustainable palm oil in West Kalimantan. These sources will provide a deeper understanding of issues such as deforestation, environmentally friendly palm oil, and the impact of international image on the purchasing power of palm oil commodities. Aspects of empowering local communities and job creation are also of concern in this study. Additional sources include official government websites, general news platforms, and social media from both the government of West Kalimantan and Solidaridad Indonesia, which will be utilized to
understand the programs that have been implemented and their impact and benefits on local farmers.

In the data collection process, various data and explanations might have the potential to be contradictory or differ from one another. Therefore, this research prioritized the use of data from sources considered credible. The study emphasized the utilization of data from official sources such as relevant ministries, institutions under the auspices of local government, quotes from statements by regional heads or government officials, and previous research that had been conducted. To ensure data validity, triangulation was conducted by cross-checking the obtained data against other sources. This process validated the accuracy of the data through multiple sources, making it accountable and justifiable. Triangulation in qualitative research is deemed crucial because the interpretation and understanding of phenomena are often susceptible to subjectivity. Hence, triangulation serves to reduce the level of bias, enhance data reliability, and sharpen the analysis.

4. Research Findings

In the context of paradiplomacy, the alignment of local government initiatives with the central government's broader objectives underscores a multifaceted strategy toward sustainable development. The Indonesian central government's commitment to utilizing the agricultural sector as a lever for economic advancement is intricately linked with its dedication to enhancing farmer welfare and environmental sustainability. This dual focus is manifest in the implementation of regional autonomy, aimed at empowering local governments to optimally exploit regional potentials for local populace benefit, as reflected in the efforts of the West Kalimantan government to balance agricultural productivity with community welfare and environmental conservation.

The partnership between West Kalimantan and Solidaridad, a Dutch-based international NGO specializing in sustainable supply chain management, represents a strategic endeavor to reposition Indonesian palm oil within the global market. This collaboration is set against the backdrop of European preferences for environmentally friendly oils, with palm oil often perceived unfavorably in environmental terms (Suwarno, 2019). The Netherlands, a critical voice within the EU against the outright banning of palm oil products, emerges as a pivotal ally for Indonesia. Through this collaboration, both parties aim to navigate the complex landscape of international trade and environmental policy, ensuring the sustainability of the palm oil supply chain to meet not only Dutch but broader European market demands.

The West Kalimantan government's engagement with Solidaridad reflects a conscious effort to align local agricultural practices with international sustainability standards. By fostering programs and collaborations aimed at economic growth, community welfare, and environmental sustainability, West Kalimantan aspires to transform the global perception of palm oil from an environmentally detrimental commodity to a symbol of sustainable agriculture. This initiative not only seeks to comply with European Union sustainability criteria but also aims to stimulate international market demand for sustainably produced palm oil.
4.1. Legal Framework and Agreements

The legal framework governing sustainable agricultural practices in Indonesia, as outlined in Law No. 12 of 2019, establishes a comprehensive set of principles and objectives aimed at promoting sustainability, local wisdom, and environmental conservation within the agricultural sector. These regulations are pivotal in guiding the collaborative efforts between West Kalimantan and Solidaridad, providing a robust foundation for the pursuit of sustainable palm oil development (Perekonomian, 2021).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Government of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, along with subsequent technical agreements, underscores the international dimension of Indonesia's commitment to sustainable development. The designation of implementing partners, Indonesia Distribution Hub (IDH) and Solidaridad, for the NISCOPS program reflects a targeted approach to enhancing sustainable palm oil cultivation practices across key Indonesian provinces, including West Kalimantan (IDH, 2020; Andilala, 2019).

The strategic partnership between the West Kalimantan government and Solidaridad, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding, lays the groundwork for a series of initiatives designed to promote sustainable development within the region. These initiatives, ranging from landscape mapping and planning to the development of climate-friendly oil palm farms and community-building programs, exemplify a comprehensive strategy aimed at reconciling economic growth with environmental stewardship (Soraya, 2019).

Through these collaborative efforts, West Kalimantan and Solidaridad endeavor to set a precedent for sustainable palm oil cultivation that not only meets international sustainability standards but also serves as a model for other regions and countries grappling with similar environmental and economic challenges.

4.2. ISPO Sertification

Deforestation, peatland conversion, land degradation, greenhouse gas emissions, fire disasters, and declining biodiversity are often associated with palm oil exports from Indonesia. The negative image of palm oil is frequently cited as a reason for other countries' reluctance to import it. With growing international awareness of environmental sustainability, producers are increasingly expected to prioritize ethical considerations in their production processes. European Union regulations on palm oil commodities are becoming stricter. Palm oil's versatility, being processed and utilized in various products, including biofuels, food and feed markets, chemicals, cosmetics, and lubricants, provides the European Union with multiple avenues to impose restrictions.

In response to commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation, the Indonesian government launched the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) certification scheme in March 2011, which became fully effective on April 1, 2011 (Ditjenbun, 2014). According to the 2019 Annual Report of the Directorate General of Plantation, ISPO certification achievement is predominantly by companies, with a breakdown of 604 ISPO certificates held by companies, 10 by self-help cooperatives, and 4 by Plasma Cooperatives (KUD Plasma). The total certified area amounts to 5,185,544
hectares, covering 5,179,308 hectares owned by companies and 6,236 hectares owned by self-help cooperatives and KUD Plasma (Ditjenbun, 2019)

The government has officially established the ISPO certification as a mandatory legal infrastructure for palm oil industry players. To obtain this certification, entrepreneurs must meet various indicators, including legal compliance, assurance of the business's contribution to the local community, effective waste and pollution management, conservation-oriented activities, and an understanding of sustainable development concepts. The difference between ISPO and RSPO lies in the scope and details of the certification, where ISPO requires more detailed and technical criteria, while RSPO is broadly based on the ethical norms prevailing in the international community. This certification is crucial as it has become a standard in the production of globally exported commodities. With this certification, palm oil commodities from Indonesia are expected to be more readily accepted in the international market.

The implementation of the ISPO certification scheme often encounters various challenges, as exemplified in the case of Bonti District. In this district, there are 4,679 households engaged in independent oil palm farming. Within the ISPO certification process, adherence to four principles is mandatory: land legality, farmer institutionalization, cultivation techniques, and environmental monitoring. The institutional deficiency is identified as a major obstacle to the certification efforts. The majority of institutions in the district are limited to working groups and social funds that generally lack legal foundations, thus failing to meet the ISPO certification requirements (Sabinus, Yurisinthae, and Oktoriana, 2021). The limited understanding among local farmers regarding the significance of farmer institutions, coupled with a lack of awareness about sustainable development, underscores the pressing need for educational programs.

Recognizing the lack of public knowledge regarding ISPO certification and the various obstacles encountered, the West Kalimantan government has devised an acceleration strategy for the certification of both ISPO and RSPO, particularly targeting independent farmer groups, as outlined in the Fortasbi report (Fortasbi, 2022). The key objectives include:

a. Issuance of a Governor Regulation for the Sustainable Oil Palm Plantation Action Plan in West Kalimantan, Action Plans at the District Level for Sustainable Oil Palm, and the establishment of a Regional Implementation Team involving multiple stakeholders (government, private sector, universities, farmer associations, NGOs-CSOs, and development partners).

b. Formulation of policies and budget priorities at the regional level related to the implementation of sustainable palm oil certification for independent farmers.

c. Streamlining the ISPO certification process for independent farmers based on Minister of Agriculture Regulation No. 38 of 2020. This includes aspects such as the issuance of STDB (Smallholder Replanting Data), SPPL (Land Use Plan), and land legality documents for farmers.

d. Provision of incentives and priorities for farmers preparing for the ISPO/RSPO certification process, such as prioritizing them in the TORA (Land Registration) program for farmer-owned land.

e. Consolidation and synergy of programs/activities conducted by NGOs, CSOs, and development partners for data collection, mapping, capacity building for
independent farmers, and strengthening farmer organizations contributing to the acceleration of ISPO/RSPO certification for independent farmers, prioritized for the relevant plantation authorities at the district level.

These efforts are supported by the enactment of Presidential Regulation (PERPRES) Number 44 of 2020 regarding the Sustainable Oil Palm Plantation Certification System in Indonesia. This regulation brings changes to the national ISPO certification scheme, extending the certification obligation from companies to all stakeholders. The government has also been facilitating financial matters by allocating initial ISPO certification costs from the State Budget (APBN), Regional Budget (APBD), or other legitimate sources since the enactment of this regulation.

Solidaridad, in collaboration with the West Kalimantan government, conducted socialization sessions on ISPO certification and its urgency among oil palm farmers in West Kalimantan. One example of such an initiative took place during the ISPO socialization at the Mukok Sub-District Office in Sanggau Regency in December 2019. It was noted that 23 oil palm entrepreneurs participated in this guidance program (Pontianak, 2019). This socialization activity falls under one of Solidaridad's key programs, namely the ISPO certification strengthening scheme for Indonesian oil palm entrepreneurs, which directly targets the micro-level, specifically small-scale farmers. The goal is to build awareness of sustainable development starting from the grassroots level. Understanding sustainable development at the grassroots level will provide a strong foundation for the palm oil industry in Indonesia to compete with foreign products.

Solidaridad has carried out another socialization effort in collaboration with the West Kalimantan government. The socialization activity, held in January 2020, took the form of a workshop seminar targeting oil palm farmers in the Nanga Taman Sub-District, Sekadau. The education on the importance of ISPO certification and the procedures to obtain it was conducted with the aim of raising awareness among farmers about the principles of sustainable development in the palm oil sector. The objectives of the program include urging plantation efforts to comply with government regulations, fostering awareness of environmental conservation, implementing sustainable palm oil development, and enhancing the competitiveness of Indonesian palm oil products in the international market. This was highlighted by I Nyoman Oka Tridjaja, Secretary of Solidaridad Network Indonesia, during the ISPO certification socialization program (BorneOne, 2020).

Another challenge in the ISPO certification process lies in the limited financial literacy among the community. The ISPO certification is often perceived as a lengthy and costly procedure, a challenge that can be mitigated through existing financial instruments. An example is the Keling Kumang Credit Union Movement (GCUKK). In rural-dominated regions of West Kalimantan, the local community generally lacks awareness of the benefits and opportunities offered by such financial instruments. Solidaridad, in collaboration with GCUKK, has introduced financial literacy trainers for the community in the Kelam area of West Kalimantan. The training, conducted over 2 months with 4 modules and 12 sessions, successfully educated the community about financial literacy, achieving a 70% success rate (Susiana, 2022). This training serves as an example of Solidaridad's role in enhancing the quality of local farmers to achieve sustainable plantations.
The research findings presented above indicate that various sectors within the palm oil industry still require improvement. Aspects such as farmer education, organizational structures, bureaucracy, certification awareness, and financing still demand special attention from relevant authorities to realize ISPO certification. The foundation of cooperation, in the form of regulations, memorandum of understanding (MoUs), and other agreements between West Kalimantan and Solidaridad, has been established effectively. However, tangible outcomes from farmers and the community are essential. The limited number of micro farmers registered under ISPO highlights that efforts to build a positive image of palm oil internationally still face significant challenges. Nevertheless, these initiatives represent a good starting point for West Kalimantan to achieve the recognized international sustainable palm oil development.

5. Discussion

The discussion of the strategic efforts undertaken by the government of West Kalimantan, in collaboration with Solidaridad, to navigate the complex challenges faced by the palm oil industry, especially in relation to the European market, reveals a multifaceted approach to sustainable development and international diplomacy. Recognizing the critical implications of potentially losing access to the European market, West Kalimantan has been motivated to not only protect its local palm oil industry but also to enhance its standards to meet the stringent environmental and ethical expectations of international markets. This ambition extends beyond Europe, aiming for global market expansion and diversification, which in turn promises substantial socio-economic benefits for local palm oil farmers and the regional economy.

The collaboration between West Kalimantan and Solidaridad signifies a sophisticated diplomatic effort aimed at altering the negative perceptions surrounding palm oil production in the European community. By promoting sustainable palm oil development programs, this partnership seeks to rebrand palm oil as an environmentally sustainable commodity. This indirect diplomacy effort highlights the potential of sustainability as a bridge between economic interests and environmental stewardship, aiming to shift the European society's perception of palm oil from a contentious commodity to one that is viable and responsible. Integral to these efforts is the implementation of the ISPO certification, which serves as a critical regulatory tool to address environmental concerns traditionally associated with palm oil production. Similar to Malaysia's MPOCC, the ISPO certification underscores a regional commitment to adhering to stringent sustainability standards that are crucial for accessing sensitive markets like Europe. The government of West Kalimantan's recognition of the ISPO certification as a diplomatic tool illustrates a strategic approach to enhancing the competitiveness and acceptance of its palm oil industry on the global stage.

Aligning the development of the palm oil industry with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represents a strategic framework for achieving positive environmental and social outcomes. This alignment not only facilitates the building of a positive international image for palm oil but also promotes the creation of environmentally healthy conditions within West Kalimantan. Education and awareness campaigns focused on ISPO certification and sustainable practices play a vital role in fostering public support for the SDGs. The vision of revitalizing Kalimantan's ecological significance through sustainable development initiatives enhances the prestige of
commodities produced in the region, ensuring their alignment with global environmental and ethical standards.

In essence, the initiatives and strategies deployed by West Kalimantan, in close collaboration with Solidaridad, reflect a comprehensive and forward-looking approach to overcoming the challenges faced by the palm oil industry. These efforts are not merely about securing market access but also about positioning West Kalimantan as a leading example of sustainable palm oil production, thereby contributing constructively to the global discourse on this essential commodity.

6. Conclusion

The practice of paradiplomacy, as demonstrated by West Kalimantan's engagement with Solidaridad Indonesia, underscores a nuanced approach to international relations at the sub-national level, particularly in the promotion of sustainable palm oil commodities. This collaborative effort is framed within the National Initiatives for Sustainable and Climate-Smart Oil Palm Smallholders (NISCOPS) program, initiated by Solidaridad, which positions education and community awareness at the forefront of its strategy. Solidaridad's role transcends that of a mere collaborator; it acts as a bridge, conveying the complexities and demands of the European market to the local palm oil producers in West Kalimantan. By focusing on grassroots-level education, the initiative aims to cultivate a community ethos that is acutely aware of the environmental repercussions of unsustainable palm oil cultivation, particularly the issues surrounding deforestation and land-clearing practices.

This partnership is further formalized through a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, reflecting a mutual commitment to ensuring the sustainability of the palm oil supply chain to Europe. The emphasis on ISPO certification within this framework is a testament to Indonesia's, and by extension, West Kalimantan's, dedication to aligning with international sustainability standards. However, the path to achieving widespread ISPO certification and thereby ensuring the acceptability of West Kalimantan's palm oil in the European market is fraught with challenges. These challenges underscore the necessity for concerted efforts from both governmental and private sectors to educate and support the community towards sustainable practices.

The strategic use of ISPO certification in branding West Kalimantan's palm oil commodities is aimed not just at market acceptance in Europe but also at elevating the operational standards and quality of local agriculture. This endeavor is vital for the economy of West Kalimantan, given the palm oil sector's significant contribution to employment and the well-being of its residents. Through its paradiplomacy efforts, West Kalimantan exemplifies a commitment to sustainable development that supports local farmers' empowerment and economic growth without resorting to environmentally destructive practices.

Moreover, the initiative taken by West Kalimantan represents a broader trend of regions leveraging paradiplomacy to forge their path in international relations, creating positive images and opening markets independently of central government actions. This localized approach to diplomacy affords regions like West Kalimantan greater flexibility.
and adaptability in showcasing their products on the global stage, allowing them to tailor their strategies to the unique challenges and opportunities they face. It is a clear indication that when local governments are empowered to engage in diplomatic activities, they can devise innovative and effective solutions to promote their interests and products internationally, thereby enhancing their overall diplomatic presence and effectiveness.

In essence, West Kalimantan's collaboration with Solidaridad within the NISCOPS framework exemplifies the potential of paradiplomacy in fostering sustainable development, enhancing local economies, and navigating the complex landscape of international trade and environmental stewardship. It highlights the importance of education, community involvement, and strategic international collaborations in achieving these goals, setting a precedent for other regions navigating similar challenges.

Funding

This research received no specific funding from public, commercial, or not-for-profit funding agencies.

References


