



Empowering Communities and Strengthening Policy Synergy for Sustainable Lake Management: An Agribusiness Approach in Environmentally Degraded Areas

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Abstract. Sustainable lake management requires more than just ecological considerations—it necessitates active community involvement and effective policymaking. This study aims to explore the role of agribusiness in enhancing community engagement and aligning policy frameworks for sustainable lake management in environmentally vulnerable areas facing issues such as sedimentation, land conversion, and declining water quality. A descriptive qualitative approach was employed, using a case study of Lake Limboto in Gorontalo Province, Indonesia. The results indicate that community-based agribusiness initiatives—such as environmentally friendly aquaculture and agro-ecotourism—can significantly improve local livelihoods while fostering ecological awareness. However, policy implementation remains largely top-down, with limited cross-sectoral participatory forums. This study highlights the need for a multidisciplinary approach that integrates agribusiness, public policy, and ecological science to foster stronger collaboration between communities and policymakers. Key recommendations include strengthening local institutions, promoting green economic incentives, and establishing inclusive stakeholder dialogue mechanisms to support sustainable and participatory lake governance.

Keywords: Sustainable lake management, Agribusiness, Community empowerment, Public policy, Multi-stakeholder collaboration