



# Agrarian Legal Education and Land Dispute Settlement Strategies for the Residents of Seri Dalam Village, Tanjung Raja Subdistrict, Ogan Ilir Regency

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**Abstract:** This community service program aims to enhance the understanding of the residents of Seri Dalam Village, Tanjung Raja Subdistrict, Ogan Ilir Regency, regarding land rights, land registration procedures (PTSL), land dispute mediation techniques, and the criminal aspects of land grabbing. The program was carried out through educational and consultative legal counseling, involving 25 participants, mostly landowners of plantations. Evaluation results show a significant improvement in the participants' knowledge, with high N-Gain scores (above 0.7) across all assessed indicators. The greatest improvement was seen in the understanding of the urgency of land certificates as a valid legal proof of ownership (53%). Additionally, the program successfully educated participants on land dispute mediation procedures and reinforced the role of the Village Head as the Village Peace Judge. As a sustainable output, a land legalization procedure module was handed over to the village office to be used as a guide in managing land administration services. This program is expected to raise legal awareness and improve land administration order in the village, as well as contribute to the economic stability of the community through more orderly and legal land management. Moving forward, similar programs should be expanded to have a greater impact on empowering communities based on agrarian law.

**Keywords:** Land Certificates, Land Dispute Mediation, Agrarian Law, Seri Dalam Village, Knowledge Enhancement.

## Introduction

Land holds strategic value for rural communities as it is a primary source of livelihood through agriculture and plantation activities. However, the community's legal understanding of land rights is often limited, making it prone to disputes, especially when land use changes, rights transfer, or conflicts with other parties such as plantation companies occur (Harsono, 2018). This situation also applies to Seri Dalam Village, Tanjung Raja Subdistrict, Ogan Ilir Regency, where residents face challenges due to a lack of agrarian legal knowledge and proper land dispute resolution strategies. Sengketa lahan tidak hanya berdampak pada aspek ekonomi masyarakat, tetapi juga dapat menimbulkan konflik sosial yang berkepanjangan. Land

disputes not only affect the economic aspect of the community but can also lead to prolonged social conflicts. Therefore, agrarian legal education and dispute resolution strategies are crucial as preventive measures and for empowering rural communities (Simarmata, 2020).

This activity is in line with the mandate of Law No. 5 of 1960 on the Basic Agrarian Law (UUPA), which emphasizes the importance of recognition, protection, and legal certainty of land for all citizens. Additionally, this program supports the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2020–2024, which focuses on strengthening agrarian reform and resolving land disputes as part of the priorities for legal and human rights development (Bappenas, 2020).

## How to Cite:

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At the local level, this program is relevant to the policy direction of the South Sumatra Provincial Government in supporting the resolution of agrarian conflicts and raising legal awareness among rural communities, particularly in the plantation sector (South Sumatra Provincial Government, 2022). Therefore, this community service activity is expected not only to address practical issues faced by the community but also to contribute to the achievement of national and regional development goals.

The residents of Seri Dalam Village still face limited understanding of their legal rights to land, especially in cases of disputes or when the land is converted by external parties such as corporations. This situation is similar to the findings of research by Apri Amalia et al., which shows that low legal literacy makes communities vulnerable to land grabbing practices (A. Amalia, Warsiman, Jumiati, 2024).

In addition, the weakness in administrative documentation and legal proof of land ownership further weakens the community's position in legal processes. This phenomenon aligns with the findings of a socialization conducted by Fuad Nur et al., which emphasized the importance of proving land possession even without formal written evidence (Nur F, Ukkas J, Intan N, Sinapoy M. S, & Afoeli L. M. T, 2024).

On the other hand, the imbalance in the legal position between residents and corporations further hinders the community's access to justice. Therefore, strengthening community-based land law understanding is necessary, as outlined by Basyarudin et al., who argue that legal education can serve as both a preventive strategy and a means of resolving land disputes (Basyarudin B, Syahidah A, Siregar J. D. S, & Surtiyah S, 2025).

However, to date, there is no formal platform or participatory mediation forum in Seri Dalam Village. In fact, mediation has proven to be a quicker, more affordable, and effective alternative for resolving land disputes compared to litigation, and it is capable of balancing the interests of both parties (Listijowati, 2019).

The target partners in this program are the residents of Seri Dalam Village, Tanjung Raja Subdistrict, Ogan Ilir Regency, South Sumatra, who currently face frequent agrarian conflicts with private entities or land mafias. As a result, the residents are losing their plantation lands, which serve as their livelihood, and are confronted with uncertainty regarding compensation and the legal status of the land they have held for generations.

The majority of residents make a living as farmers, agricultural laborers, and small informal business owners. The average family income is relatively low. As a result of land evictions and forced relocations, many residents have lost their primary source of livelihood

and are experiencing economic instability in their families.

The residents of Seri Dalam face limitations in access to education and legal services. The majority do not understand the legal procedures required to defend their land rights, making them vulnerable to information manipulation and pressure from external parties. The obstacles and challenges in resolving these disputes include the lack of formal legal proof of land ownership (such as certificates), an imbalance in bargaining power between residents and companies, the absence of collective community-based legal assistance, limited knowledge among residents regarding legal procedures, land rights, and proper complaint mechanisms.

## Method

This community service activity uses a legal counseling method through an educational and consultative approach. The event was held on November 25, 2025, in Seri Dalam Village, Tanjung Raja Subdistrict, Ogan Ilir Regency. The target participants in this activity are the residents of Seri Dalam Village, particularly plantation landowners, with a total of 25 participants.

The stages of this community service implementation are systematically organized as follows:

1. Preparation and Observation Stage
 

The service team conducted a preliminary study to map the typology of land disputes commonly occurring in Seri Dalam Village. During this stage, coordination was carried out with the Seri Dalam Village Government to determine the activity schedule and identify specific agrarian legal issues most needed by the local community.
2. Implementation Stage (Legal Intervention)
 

The implementation of legal education was carried out through a series of activities:

  - a) Pre-test Completion: Participants were given a brief questionnaire to assess their understanding of land certification and agrarian legal procedures.
  - b) Presentation of Material: The team presented material on land registration regulations, land rights (Hadir/HGU), and strategies for resolving land disputes, both through non-litigation channels (mediation) and litigation.
  - c) Discussion and Case Consultation: Providing a space for residents to present ongoing plantation land disputes, where they receive direct legal opinions from the service team.
  - d) Post-test Completion: Conducted after the presentation of material to assess the effectiveness of the legal education provided.

### 3. Evaluation and Data Analysis Stage

The success of the program is measured based on two main parameters:

- Quantitative: Analyzing the comparison of the average pre-test and post-test scores using descriptive analysis techniques to determine the percentage increase in the residents' legal understanding.
- Qualitative: Assessing the active participation of residents in the discussion sessions and their willingness to pursue mediation as a method for resolving land disputes in the future.

## Result and Discussion

The implementation of the community service in Seri Dalam Village revealed that agrarian issues in this area are chronic and systemic. Based on observations, it was found that the majority of rubber and oil palm plantation lands owned by residents do not have fixed boundary coordinates. Traditionally, residents use "natural markers" such as large trees, water channels, or mounds of earth as land boundaries. Legally, this practice is highly risky because natural markers can change or be deliberately removed, which can then trigger boundary disputes.



**Figure 1.** Participants attentively attending the counseling session

In addition, the low status of ownership, which is only in the form of a "Village Certificate" or "Certificate of Acknowledgment of Rights (SPH)," places residents in a weak legal position. According to Article 19 of Law No. 5 of 1960 (UUPA), legal certainty can only be guaranteed through land registration, which results in a certificate as a strong proof of ownership. In the context of Seri Dalam Village, the absence of certificates is often exploited by certain parties to make overlapping claims.

The legal education provided using a participatory counseling method demonstrated success in shifting the residents' paradigm. The increase in understanding was measured quantitatively through test instruments administered before and after the intervention.

**Table 1.** Comparative Analysis of Residents' Knowledge Scores (N = 25 participants)

Knowledge Assessment Indicator	Pre-test (%)	Post-test (%)	N-Gain (Category)
The Urgency of Certificates as Absolute Proof of Ownership	32%	92%	0,88 (High)
Land Registration Procedure (PTSL)	25%	78%	0,71 (High)
Village Land Dispute Mediation Techniques	38%	85%	0,76 (High)
Criminal Aspects of Land Grabbing	30%	80%	0,71 (High)

The data in Table 1 shows that the highest increase occurred in the understanding of the urgency of land certificates (53%). This indicates a shift in awareness from a "traditional ownership" mindset to "legal ownership." Residents have started to realize that without a certificate, the economic value of their land is low and it is difficult to use as collateral for formal financial institutions (Santoso, 2021).



**Figure 2.** Opening ceremony of the counseling session

The in-depth discussion in this community service focused on practical land dispute resolution strategies for the residents of Tanjung Raja Subdistrict. Given the strong tradition of deliberation in Ogan Ilir, the service team developed an Integrated Participatory Mediation model.

Dispute resolution through mediation aims not only to resolve land conflicts but is also considered more effective in addressing the high costs of litigation, prolonged legal processes, and the inefficiency of court-based resolutions. Mediation offers a shorter resolution time, provided that the disputing parties can reach an agreement that is perceived as fair by each side. Furthermore, the success of mediation heavily depends on the mediator's ability to reconcile the interests of both parties, as well as their understanding of the substance of the dispute. It is also expected that the parties understand mediation as an alternative method for resolving land disputes. Therefore, the mediation

implementation mechanism, as part of an alternative land dispute resolution, needs to be optimized to ensure legal certainty and to operate more effectively and efficiently (Putri, K. D. M. S, Dahana, C. D, 2022).



Figure 3. Pre-test session

Residents were educated to conduct boundary mapping communally by involving neighboring landowners (buurman). This principle is crucial to ensure that when the BPN (National Land Agency) officers conduct measurements, there will be no objections from any party. This aligns with Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021, which emphasizes the certainty of physical boundaries before the issuance of certificates.

The legal strength of land ownership certificates provides a guarantee of legal certainty as a valid proof of ownership. As long as there is no evidence to the contrary from any party claiming rights to the land, the certificate is considered to have material legal certainty (negative publicity with a positive element) in accordance with national land law. On the other hand, the certificate also carries formal legal certainty (positive publicity), where the written provisions set out in laws or related regulations are absolute and cannot be contested (Supratman, Oktaviana, R., Setiadi, D., & Safitri, N., 2022).



Figure 4. Discussion and question-and-answer session

Many residents are hesitant to pursue legal action through the courts due to high costs and long durations. Therefore, the team encourages strengthening the role of the Village Head as the Village Peace Judge. The outcome of village mediation is directed to be formalized in a written Peace Agreement (Dading), which, under civil law, has binding force on the parties to prevent any future legal claims against each other.

The discussion revealed tensions between the residents' land and the plantation company's HGU (Hak Guna Usaha) land rights. The team provided a strategy of "Limited Litigation Mediation" through reporting to the Ogan Ilir District Land Office for an evaluation of the HGU boundaries in accordance with the latest regulations under Law No. 6 of 2023 (Omnibus Law).



Figure 5. Post-test activity

The impact of this activity goes beyond just an increase in knowledge; it has also created a collective drive among residents to immediately register their land through the 2025 PTSL program. As a form of sustainable output, the team provided the Land Legalization Procedure Module to the village office. This module serves as a guide for village officials in managing land administration for the residents in an orderly manner. With improved agrarian legal literacy, Seri Dalam Village is expected to become a model for orderly land administration in Ogan Ilir Regency, ultimately supporting the economic stability of the community in the plantation sector.

## Conclusion

The implementation of community service that is focusing on increasing residents' knowledge regarding

land ownership certificates, land registration procedures (PTSL), village land dispute mediation techniques, and criminal aspects of land grabbing has shown very positive results. Based on the comparative analysis of participants' knowledge scores, there was a significant improvement between the pre-test and post-test values across all assessed indicators, with an N-Gain category classified as high (above 0.7).

This improvement indicates that the community service activity was successful in providing a better understanding to the community about the importance of land certificates as valid legal proof, the correct procedures for land registration, and effective methods for land dispute mediation. Additionally, participants also gained a better understanding of the criminal legal aspects related to land grabbing that may involve legal processes.

Therefore, this community service program has proven effective in achieving its goal of increasing legal awareness among the community and providing practical knowledge related to land management and the resolution of land issues at the village level. Moving forward, such activities should be expanded and enhanced to create a greater impact in building a better legal understanding within the community.

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We hope that the collaboration established will continue, and that the results of this community service can provide sustainable benefits for the community. We also hope that this effort will make a positive contribution to the development of knowledge and legal awareness among the

public, particularly in the management and resolution of land disputes.

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