

## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is an agricultural country where most of the population works as farmers. Farmers are a profession that is mostly owned by Indonesians compared to other professions, namely as much as 29.75% or 38,224,371 Indonesians working in agriculture (BPS, 2020b). The 2017 Ministry of Agriculture also stated that the harvested area for Indonesian food crops for rice in 2017 was 31,424,050 hectares from a total of 38,773,166 hectares or about 81% of the total harvested area for food crops, meaning that the agricultural sector, especially rice, still plays an essential role in the national economy. Indonesia is the number 3 rice producer in the world after China and India. Indonesia's rice production in 2018 reached 83,029,057. This shows how much rice yields Indonesia produces. With this production, Indonesia can become the largest rice exporter country. However, in contrast to China and India, which are net rice exporters, Indonesia, with a high level of national rice consumption that is not matched by an adequate increase in production, has made Indonesia one of the largest net rice importers world since 1998 (Firdaus et al., 2019).

One of the factors affecting rice imports in Indonesia is the population of Indonesia. Most of the Indonesian population consumes rice. Because rice has become a staple food, it is not easy to replace it with other food ingredients. The population of Indonesia continues to increase every year. In the last five years, Indonesia's population has increased by an average of 2,000,000 each year (BPS, 2020a). A large number of people in Indonesia can increase the need for food in Indonesia. Most of the Indonesian population consumes rice because rice has become a staple food that cannot be easily replaced with other foodstuffs. In meeting food needs, domestic rice production is expected to be able to meet the rice consumption needs of the Indonesian people. The population of Indonesia is the largest rice consumer in the world with a consumption of 114 / kg/capita/year, while China only consumes as much as 90 / kg/capita/year, India as much as 74 / kg/capita/year, Malaysia 80 / kg/capita/year and Thailand as much as 70 / kg/capita/year, and the average world consumption of rice is 60 / kg/capita/year.

So far, rice production in Indonesia has not been able to meet the needs of its people in line with the increase in population, which means an increase in rice consumption. This is in accordance with what was stated (Kumala Sari, 2014) that with the increasing population, the demand for rice also increases. This causes a country to be unable to meet the rice needs of its people if it only relies on domestic rice production. In the last 5 years Rice production has increased every year. However, rice production is still insufficient to meet domestic rice needs, making Indonesia still dependent on rice imports from other countries.

The price issue is the main factor for rice. The Republic of Indonesia cannot compete with neighboring countries such as Vietnam and Thailand. The difference in the price of domestic rice compared to the two countries is around IDR 2,900 per kilogram (kg). According

to international rice prices quoted from the Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO). The international price of low-quality export rice from Thailand is around IDR 5,395 / kg for June 2019. Then Vietnamese-quality rice is around IDR 5,324 / kg. Meanwhile, according to data from the National Strategic Food Price Information Center, domestic rice prices of lower quality I are currently the cheapest, namely in the DKI Jakarta area of IDR 9,500 / kg (Pemprov DKI Jakarta, 2021).

Based on the problems and facts obtained above, the authors are interested in research to determine the extent of the factors influencing rice imports in Indonesia with the title "ANALYSIS OF FACTORS AFFECTING RICE IMPORT IN INDONESIA 1990-2019".