JURISTA: Jurnal Hukum dan Keadilan
Vol.8, No.2, December 2024
P-ISSN: 2502-8006 E-ISSN: 2549-8274
DOI: https://doi.org/10.22373/jurista.v8i2.185

STANDARDISING THE QUALITY AND PRICE OF RICE IN LANGSA ACEH: A STUDY OF LEGAL COMPARATIVE

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Abstract

The instability of rice prices can affect the purchasing power of the community and disrupt social and economic balance. This study aims to examine rice pricing in Kota Langsa, focusing on quality standardisation, the application of the Mabi' concept in Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqih muamalah*), and its relevance to *National Food Agency Regulation* No. 2 *of* 2023. The research employs a socio-legal approach with descriptive analysis, utilising primary data from interviews and secondary data from related documentation. The findings reveal that rice quality is the main factor in price determination, aligning with the Mabi' concept, which emphasises clarity of goods to ensure fair and transparent transactions. Quality standardisation based on government regulations ensures that products meet predetermined quality criteria. Additionally, factors such as production costs, distribution, and fluctuations in rice paddy prices also influence price dynamics. This study concludes that the integration of the Mabi' principle, government regulations, and a healthy market mechanism can create fair rice price stability, benefiting both consumers and producers while supporting the sustainability of the national food system.

Keywords: Islamic Economic Law, Rice price, Theory of Mabi', and National Food Agency Regulation

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P-ISSN: 2502-8006 E-ISSN: 2549-8274
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INTRODUCTION

Rice is one of the staple foods that are vital to the daily lives of Indonesians. As a staple food, the availability of rice must be well maintained in the market to avoid shortages that can result in price spikes and market instability. Rice shortages in the market are not only detrimental to consumers, but can also lead to social and economic instability, especially for people who rely heavily on rice as their main source of energy. Therefore, it is imperative for the government and relevant parties to take strategic actions to ensure sufficient rice availability at reasonable prices.[1]

The government, through the National Logistics Agency (Bulog) as an institution that has the duty and function of protecting the availability of staple foods, has an important role in ensuring that rice is always available in the market with various qualities that are suitable for consumption. Bulog is not only responsible for rice distribution, but also for regulating rice price stability. Without proper supervision, the rice market can become uncontrollable and rice can become a scarce commodity that is difficult to afford for consumers, especially low-income earners. Therefore, Bulog and the government as a whole must take strategic measures to ensure the availability of affordable and quality rice in the market.[2]

In addition, rice marketed by producers, both locally grown rice and imported rice, must meet the quality standards set by the government. The Indonesian government has issued various regulations to protect consumers in this regard, with the aim that rice circulating in the market is safe and suitable for consumption. One important step in realising this is to ensure that the rice production and processing process from upstream to downstream follows strict food safety standards. Farmers, as the main producers of rice, must use standardised production materials, such as superior rice seeds that are free from harmful chemical contamination. The rice harvest obtained by farmers must fulfil certain terms and conditions in order to be traded or traded to rice milling factories or agents who will process the rice into rice.[3]

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[1] G. Prayitno, A. W. Hasyim, A. Subagiyo, D. Dinanti, and F. Roziqin, *Food Security Space: Addressing the Challenges of Sustainable Food Production with Spatial Optimisation Towards a Sovereign Indonesia* (Malang: Universitas Brawijaya Press, 2022).

[2] S. Purwadinata and W. B. Ridolof, *Introduction to Economics: Theoretical and Practical Studies to Address Basic Economic Problems* (2020).

[3] Kusumah, F. P. Political economy in rice import policy: Reading the direction of government policy 2014-2019. *Politika: Journal of Political Science*, *10*(2), 137-162 (2019).

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P-ISSN: 2502-8006 E-ISSN: 2549-8274
DOI: https://doi.org/10.22373/jurista.v8i2.185

So are the processing factories and agents that collect paddy for processing into rice. These processing processes must be closely monitored to prevent the use of harmful chemicals such as rice bleach and preservatives that do not comply with standards. The use of unsuitable chemicals can endanger the health of consumers, which must be avoided. Therefore, every stage in the rice supply chain must be subjected to strict supervision, from farmers to distributors and traders who sell rice to consumers.[4]

In order to maintain the stability of rice prices and availability, the Indonesian government has issued several regulations aimed at ensuring that rice prices remain affordable to the public. One of the important policies issued is the regulation on government food reserves and food price stability, especially rice, corn and soya. This policy was created to ensure sufficient food availability in the market and prevent sharp price spikes that could reduce people's purchasing power. One of the regulations issued is the National Food Agency Regulation (Perbadan) No. 15/2002 on Stabilisation of Supply and Prices of Rice, Maize and Soybeans at the consumer level. This regulation aims to regulate the distribution and price of food to keep it affordable for people throughout Indonesia.[5]

The National Food Agency (Bapanas) has also announced the latest prices for the Government Purchase Price (HPP) of Grain/Rice and the Highest Retail Price (HET) of Rice. These announcements are important to provide a clear price reference to farmers, millers, distributors, and traders, so that there is price certainty in rice buying and selling transactions.[6] The government also divides Indonesia into several zones in setting the rice price ceiling, which is adjusted to market conditions in each region. For example, the HET price of rice in zone 1, which covers Java, Lampung, South Sumatra, Bali, NTB, and Sulawesi, may differ from the price in zone 2, which covers Sumatra (other than Lampung and South Sumatra), NTT, and Kalimantan. Zone 3 includes Maluku and Papua, where rice prices are also adjusted according to market conditions in the region. With this kind of price regulation, the government can ensure that the price of rice remains

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[4] Adhiningsih, D. L. Analysis of Rice Price Formation in Rice Distribution Channels Case Study of Cilacap Regency Rice Distribution Channels. (2018).

[5] Suryana, A. Dynamics of grain and rice price policies in supporting national food security. *Agricultural Innovation Development*, *7*(4), 30887. (2014).

[6] Adam, L., & Suryana, A. Food System Development through Strengthening the National Food Agency. *Kajian*, *26*(1), 1-20. (2023).

P-ISSN: 2502-8006 E-ISSN: 2549-8274
DOI: https://doi.org/10.22373/jurista.v8i2.185

affordable for people in various regions, despite price differences that are adjusted to local market conditions.[7]

In addition to the regulations set by the government, the principle of MABI' (Maka' Bil'Ijab Wa Qabul) in muamalah fiqh also influences rice trading transactions. In this context, MABI' emphasises the importance of clarity and agreement regarding the goods to be traded, both in terms of type, quality, and quantity. For example, in a rice sale transaction, if there is no clarity regarding the quality of the rice, then the rice sold must meet the standards agreed upon between the seller and the buyer. If the sale and purchase transaction does not explain in detail the quality of the goods, then according to the MABI' principle, the goods sold must comply with the applicable regulations.[8]

The MABI' principle is also applied to rice trading practices, for example at the Kilang Padi Cemerlang rice processing plant. This factory produces two variants of rice with different qualities, namely super medium rice and medium rice. Super medium rice usually has more intact grains, fewer fractions, and better quality than medium rice. Medium rice, on the other hand, has more skin fragments and is slightly lower in quality. This classification not only affects the selling price of the rice, but also determines how marketable it is in the wholesale or retail market. The price of rice in the market is usually influenced by the quality of the grain used by the mill, where better quality grain will produce higher quality rice, which will be more expensive.[9]

Rice prices are also affected by supply fluctuations, which are often influenced by external factors such as weather. For example, during the rainy season, when grain production decreases, rice prices may rise due to limited supply. Conversely, when harvests are abundant, rice prices tend to fall.[10] Rice milling factories such as Kilang Padi Cemerlang usually adapt to these price fluctuations by organising rice stocks and buying unhulled rice when

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[7] Saputra, D. *Analysis of Bulog Commercial Rice Procurement and Sales System in Jambi City* (Doctoral dissertation, Jambi University).(2024).

[8] Habibullah, E. S. Principles of Muamalah in Islam. *Ad-Deenar: Journal of Islamic Economics and Business*, *2*(01), 25-48. (2018).

[9] Oktiawati, H., Astuti, H. D., & Sona, A. (2022). Implementation of Rice Buying and Selling in Review of Islamic Economics in Metro Market. *Mau'idhoh Hasanah: Journal of Research*, *1*(7), 91-105.

[10] Oktiawati, H., Astuti, H. D., & Sona, A. Implementation of Rice Buying and Selling in Review of Islamic Economics in Metro Market. *Mau'idhoh Hasanah: Journal of Research*, *1*(7), 91-105.

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prices are still low. Thus, the mill can stabilise the selling price of rice despite price instability in the market.

Based on this background, the author is interested in conducting further research on the standardisation of rice quality and its relation to pricing in the market mechanism, especially in accordance with the principles of MABI' and National Food Agency Regulation No. 2 Year 2023. This research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of how the price structure of rice is formed and how the principles of fiqh muamalah are applied in rice buying and selling transactions to ensure fairness and transparency in the rice market. In addition, this research also aims to provide insight into the contribution of government policies in creating stable rice prices in Indonesia and protecting consumer rights.

DATA AND METHODS

Research methods are essential to ensure that the research process takes place in accordance with applicable standards and the research objectives are achieved. In this research, the author will use relevant methods to examine the problems that have been formulated in order to produce solutions that are in accordance with the predetermined objectives. The approach used is juridical sociological, which is based on applicable regulations. This approach is expected to provide an understanding of how the law functions in society empirically and how legal variables affect social life.[11] The type of research applied is descriptive analysis, which aims to describe or describe existing phenomena systematically, accurately, and objectively. The main focus of this research is to examine the effect of rice pricing in Langsa City on market mechanisms in determining the standard price of rice in the area.

This research uses two categories of data sources, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data is obtained through field research conducted directly on the object being researched,[12] This data is obtained through direct interviews with relevant parties, such as rice factory owners, as well as through documentation related to the standardisation of rice quality and the price set. Meanwhile, secondary data was collected through library research, namely relevant reading materials that can support the analysis and interpretation of primary data that has been obtained. For data

[11] Muhammad Siddiq-Armia, *Determining Legal Research Methods and Approaches*, ed. Chairul Fahmi (Indonesia: Lembaga Kajian Konstitusi Indonesia (LKKI), 2022).

[12] Sujarweni, V. W. Research methodology. *Yogyakarta: New Library Perss*. (2014).

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collection, the author used two main techniques, namely interviews and documentation.[13] Interviews were conducted by having direct dialogue with relevant respondents, such as the owners of rice factories in Langsa City, to obtain information on the standardisation of rice quality and the price set. In addition, documentation techniques were used to collect secondary data in the form of documents relevant to the research topic, which can support and strengthen primary data obtained through interviews.

In this study, to ensure the validity and objectivity of the data, the authors used triangulation techniques. Source triangulation was conducted to check the credibility of data by assessing information obtained from a variety of different sources. This approach helps ensure that the data collected is more accurate and can be scientifically accounted for.[14] The data collected will be more accurate and scientifically accountable. The instruments used to collect data include paper, pen, and recording device. The recording device was used to record and transcribe the information provided by the interviewees during the interview, to ensure that the data obtained was accurate and accountable. After all the data has been collected, it will be analysed using the qualitative descriptive analysis method. This method aims to organise data systematically and present relevant information in narrative form. Through qualitative analysis, researchers can explore phenomena that occur in the field and provide a clear picture of the relationship between the data collected. Thus, the research results are expected to produce appropriate conclusions and can serve as guidelines for future actions.[15]

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. The Concept of MABI' in Buying and Selling and Its Relevance to Rice Quality Standardisation

This study aims to examine how the concept of Mabi' (goods traded in a sale and purchase transaction) is applied in setting the price of rice in Langsa City and how this is relevant to the standardisation of rice quality

[13] Muhammad Syahrum, S. T. *Introduction to Legal Research Methodology: Normative, Empirical Research Studies, Proposal Writing, Thesis and Thesis Reports*. Dotplus Publisher. (2022).
[14] Purwono, F. H., Ulya, A. U., Purnasari, N., & Juniatmoko, R. *Research Methodology (Quantitative, Qualitative and Mix Method)*. Guepedia. (2019).
[15] Saleh, S. Qualitative data analysis. (2017).

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and applicable regulations. Based on the results of interviews with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City, it can be concluded that the pricing of rice is strongly influenced by various factors, especially the quality of the rice itself, which is in accordance with the principles in Islamic muamalat and government regulations related to food quality.[16]

One of the main findings in this study is that the price of rice in Kota Langsa is highly dependent on its quality. This reflects the application of the principle in Mabi', whereby the quality of the goods being traded should be clear, and the price should be proportional to the quality offered. The mill owners explained that premium quality rice, such as rice with intact, clean grains and ideal moisture content, is priced higher than low quality rice, such as that with broken grains or more impurities. The quality of the rice is the main indicator in determining its selling price, and this factor is closely related to the Mabi' principle, which prioritises clarity in buying and selling transactions. In this context, the price differentiation between premium and low-quality rice indicates the application of the principle of fairness reflected in the transaction.[17]

Pricing based on quality is in line with Islamic economic theory, which emphasises the importance of clarity of traded goods (mabi') in transactions. As explained in fiqh muamalat, in every sale and purchase transaction, buyers must know clearly what they are buying, including the quality of the goods, so that there is no element of fraud (gharar) or injustice in the transaction.[18]

Factors influencing the price difference between different rice qualities in Kota Langsa include the quality of the rice grains, cleanliness, moisture content, and processing. According to interviews, higher quality rice has more intact grains, is free from impurities, and has a balanced moisture content. This suggests that better quality rice requires a more rigorous

[16] Chairul Fahmi and Syarifah Riyani, 'ISLAMIC ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE ACEH SPECIAL AUTONOMY FUND MANAGEMENT', *Wahana Akademika: Journal of Islamic and Social Studies* 11, no. 1 (2024): 89–104, https://doi.org/10.21580/wa.v11i1.20007.

[17] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

[18] Fikri, M. F. *Price stability in traditional markets from the perspective of Law No. 8 Year 1999 on Consumer Protection and Fiqh Muamalah: Study in Sumenep District* (Doctoral dissertation, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University).(2024).

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selection and processing process, which of course affects the cost of production and, in turn, the selling price.[19]

In addition, production costs are a significant factor in rice pricing. Rice mills in Langsa revealed that high-quality rice requires higher production costs, including the cost of selecting better raw materials, a more thorough cleaning process, and more careful drying and processing. On the other hand, lower-quality rice is usually produced at a lower cost due to simpler processing and less selective raw materials.[20] Therefore, the cost of production directly affects the selling price of rice in the market.

In the context of Mabi', which means the goods exchanged in a sale and purchase transaction, this concept ensures that the quality of the traded goods has a clear and measurable standard. In this case, rice as a mabi' (traded item) must meet the quality requirements that are acceptable to the buyer and in accordance with the price offered. This concept encourages transparency between the seller and the buyer in the rice sale and purchase transaction.

The factory owner emphasised that to ensure the quality of the rice sold is in line with the set standards, the factory conducts a strict selection, which includes checking for cleanliness, grain size, moisture content, and good processing. Rice that has been carefully processed, both in terms of raw material selection and packaging, of better quality and can be sold at a higher price.[21]

In the context of Mabi', which requires the traded goods (mabi') to fulfil an agreed quality, this also reflects the application of the principles of transparency and fairness in Islamic muamalat. Therefore, determining the price of rice based on the clear and measurable quality of the goods, without any fraud or cheating, is very important in maintaining fairness for both parties in the transaction.

One important finding in this study is how the standardisation of rice quality regulated by the National Food Agency Regulation No. 2 Year 2023

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[19] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

[20] Chairul Fahmi et al., 'The Role of Local Government in Maintaining Coffee Prices Volatility in Gayo Highland of Indonesia', *PETITA: Journal of Legal and Sharia Studies (PJKIHdS)* 8 (2023): 40, https://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/petita8&id=48&div=&collection=.

[21] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

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affects the price of rice sold by the mills. According to interviews, rice mills in Langsa ensure that the quality of the rice they sell meets the standards set by the government and the quality standards desired by consumers. Good rice processing, such as proper drying, selection of quality raw materials, and regular quality checks, are important factors in maintaining the consistent quality of the rice that is marketed.[22]

This is directly related to the concept of Mabi', which requires the quality of traded goods to have a clear standard.[23] In this context, the standardisation of rice quality becomes a legitimate basis for determining the selling price, as better quality entails higher production costs, which in turn affects the selling price in the market.[24]

With this standardisation, rice mills in Langsa can ensure that the price paid by consumers reflects the quality of the goods they receive, thus complying with the principles of fairness and transparency in transactions. In addition, the implementation of rice quality standards also helps in maintaining consumer satisfaction and encourages the sustainability of a healthy rice market in Langsa City.

Overall, the interview results can be concluded that the pricing of rice in Kota Langsa is strongly influenced by the quality of the rice produced and sold. This demonstrates the application of the Mabi' concept in rice transactions, where the quality of the goods (rice) being traded is the main factor in determining the selling price. The quality standardisation applied by rice mills in accordance with government regulations ensures that the rice sold meets the desired quality criteria, and the price offered reflects this quality. In the context of Islamic muamalat, the application of the Mabi' principle indicates that rice buying and selling transactions should be conducted with the principles of fairness and transparency, and ensure that the quality of the rice sold is in accordance with the set price. Thus, this study reveals that the application of Mabi' in the sale and purchase of rice in Langsa City is not only relevant to the quality standards set by the

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[22] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

[23] Aruna, M. A. The *Sale and Purchase Transaction of Second Car Tyres in the Perspective of Mabi'on Akad Musawamah (Case Study of Safaraz Tyre Shop in Batoh)* (Doctoral dissertation, Ar-Raniry State Islamic University).(2023).

[24] Chairul Fahmi, *INDONESIAN TRADE LAW* (Banda Aceh: Bandar Publishing, 2023), https://bandarpublishing.com/hukum-dagang-indonesia/.

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government, but also in line with the principles of Islamic economics that emphasise fairness, transparency and sustainability in trade transactions.[25]

B. Rice Quality Standardisation Process Based on National Food Agency Regulation No. 2 Year 2023

In interviews with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City, it has been found that the implementation of the rice quality standardisation stipulated by the National Food Agency Regulation No. 2 Year 2023 greatly affects the price and quality of rice produced and sold in the market. The regulation stipulates the moisture content, grain size, and cleanliness of rice, which are the main parameters in determining the marketable quality of rice.

The factory owner explained that to ensure that the rice produced complies with the standards set out in the regulations, the factory conducts accurate measurements of the moisture content, ensuring that the moisture content does not exceed the maximum permitted limit of 14% for milled rice. The quality of the rice grains is also an important focus, with the mill conducting sorting to ensure that only rice that is uniform in size, free from impurities, and meets the desired hygiene standards is sold. [26] This shows that rice mills not only ensure that their products meet government standards, but also strive to maintain quality so that consumers are satisfied with the goods they purchase.[27]

The implementation of these quality standards has a significant impact on the sustainability of rice supply in the market. By following strict government regulations, mills ensure that their products meet consumer expectations, which in turn affects market demand. Mills must also maintain the quality of the rice to remain competitive in the market with high-quality rice, which will affect the selling price of the rice.[28]

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[25] Wahyu Akbar et al., 'Optimisation of Sharia Banking Regulations in Developing the Halal Cosmetic Industry in Indonesia', *Al-Syir'ah Scientific Journal* 22, no. 1 (2024): 1-12, https://journal.iain-manado.ac.id/index.php/JIS/article/view/2611.

[26] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

[27] Chairul Fahmi, 'Tax in Islamic Law: A Normative Study of the Position of Muslim Taxpayers', *Ekbisi* 5, no. 1 (2010), https://ejournal.uin-suka.ac.id/syariah/Ekbisi/article/view/2648.

[28] Sandopart, D. P. Y. A. L., Permana, D. S., Pramesti, N. S., Ajitama, S. P., Mulianingsih, A. T., Septia, D. N., ... & Juman, M. F. Analysis of Production Cost Efficiency in Manufacturing Company Activities with Artificial Intelligence Technology. *Journal of Accounting and Business Management*, 3(1), 25-37.

P-ISSN: 2502-8006 E-ISSN: 2549-8274
DOI: https://doi.org/10.22373/jurista.v8i2.185

Rice quality standards set by the government provide clarity in the buying and selling of rice. The implementation of such standards plays a role in maintaining price stability in the market by ensuring that the quality of the rice being traded is clear and measurable. This quality standardisation also prevents quality degradation that could harm consumers, leading to decreased demand and unstable selling prices.

The mill owner explained that the positive impact of implementing quality standardisation is increased consumer confidence in the products sold, which in turn promotes the stability of the rice market in Langsa. When the quality of rice is guaranteed, consumers are more likely to buy rice from the mill even though the price may be slightly higher compared to rice that does not meet the standard.[29] This shows that quality standardisation is not only beneficial for consumers, but also for producers who can maintain the selling price according to the quality of the goods they produce.[30]

As part of the marketing strategy and price management, government regulations related to rice prices also greatly influence the setting of selling prices at the factory. The mill owners revealed that the price of rice is not only determined by production costs, but also by reference prices set by the government, which aim to maintain price stability in the market. For example, the government-regulated purchase price of rice from farmers and the fair retail price become the reference for factories in determining their selling prices.[31]

This regulation also involves fairness in trade, so that the selling price offered is not only favourable to the producer, but also meets the consumer's purchasing ability. However, other factors such as market demand and stock availability still play an important role in the final pricing. In practice, although mills endeavour to comply with price regulations, external factors such as fluctuations in demand and distribution costs can affect the selling price of rice in the market.[32]

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[29] The results of the interview with the owner of the Cemerlang Rice Mill Factory in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

[30] The results of the interview with the owner of the Cemerlang Rice Mill Factory in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

[31] Maulida, D., Yulianti, F., & Maulida, N. Analysis of Marketing Strategies in Increasing Rice Sales at Iful Rice Shop in Kelayan Banjarmasin. *Proceeding: Islamic University of Kalimantan* (2023).

[32] Hadi, S. Commodity Pricing Strategy in the Perspective of Sharia Economics. *Al-Kharaj: Journal of Islamic Economics, Finance & Business*, *1*(2), 175-193 (2019).

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In the perspective of Islamic muamalat, the concept of Mabi' or goods exchanged in a sale and purchase transaction must be clear in quality, so that there is no element of gharar (uncertainty) or fraud in the transaction.[33] In this context, the implementation of rice quality standardisation is very relevant to the Mabi' principle, which requires clarity of the goods being traded.[34]

Rice mills in Langsa ensure that the goods sold meet the quality standards agreed upon by both consumers and the government, as stipulated in the National Food Agency Regulation No. 2 of 2023. This ensures that there is no fraud in the transaction, as the quality of the rice being marketed is clear and measurable.[35] The application of Mabi' in this context creates fairness in the transaction, which is highly valued in Islamic economics, where the price of goods must match the quality received by consumers.[36]

Mill owners also talked about how they overcome difficulties if they face obstacles in following government regulations, both related to rice quality and price. If there are problems in maintaining rice quality according to standards, they organise regular training for staff and make technological upgrades to maintain rice quality. For example, more modern equipment is used for moisture content measurement, which helps them reduce errors in the rice processing process.[37]

Regarding prices, mill owners stated that they try to manage production costs as efficiently as possible without sacrificing rice quality. They keep abreast of market developments and government policies, and communicate with relevant parties to adjust prices in line with prevailing regulations.[38] This shows that rice mills have a high awareness of complying

[33] Muchtar, E. H. Forbidden Muamalah: Maysir and Gharar. *Journal of Asy-Syukriyyah*, *18*(1), 82-100. (2017).

[34] Abidin, Z., & Kadarsih, S. *Islamic Market: Implementation of Islamic Business Ethics for Groceries Traders*. Zabags Qu Publish.(2024).

[35] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

[36] Septiani, S., & Hadziq, M. F. Implementation of Islamic Business Ethics in the Sale and Purchase System: Case Study in Traditional Market. *Scientific Journal of Islamic Economics*, *9*(3), 4060-4066.

[37] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

[38] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

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with regulations, aiming to maintain operational sustainability and consumer confidence.[39]

Overall, the implementation of rice quality standardisation in accordance with the National Food Agency Regulation No. 2 Year 2023 has a positive impact on creating clarity and fairness in rice trading transactions. The concept of Mabi' as a traded good with clear quality is very relevant in this context, where rice mills ensure that the quality of the rice sold is in accordance with the standards set by the government.[40] In addition, rice prices are also influenced by government regulations on purchase and retail prices, as well as other factors such as production costs, market demand, and stock availability. With the implementation of the Mabi' principle and the standardisation of rice quality, rice mills in Langsa are able to conduct their business in a fair and transparent manner, in accordance with the principles of Islamic muamalat and applicable regulations.

C. Implementation of Rice Quality Standardisation in Regulatory Pricing

1. Rice Pricing Process Based on Quality in Langsa City

This study analyses how rice quality standardisation affects rice pricing in Langsa City. In this context, there are two main factors that influence rice prices, namely rice quality and market conditions, both of which relate to relevant economic theories, particularly Islamic economics, which emphasises the principles of fairness, transparency and certainty in trade transactions.

Rice pricing in Kota Langsa is strongly influenced by the quality of the rice itself, as well as supply and demand in the market. Based on interviews with mill owners, the price of rice is first determined by the cost of production and the quality of the product produced. Although the rice mill sets the initial price, the price received by consumers is determined by dynamic market conditions.[41]

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[39] Hasmauna, H. *Legal Protection of Good Faith Business Actors for Losses Due to the Actions of Persons Conducting Unfair Business Competition Practices in Food Circulating in the Market* (Doctoral dissertation, National University).(2023).

[40] Chairul Fahmi and Wira Afrina, 'ANALYSIS OF LEGAL ASPECTS ON DEBT TRANSFER FROM CONVENTIONAL BANK TO SHARIA BANK POST THE APPLICATION OF QANUN ACEH NO. 11 OF 2018', *Al-Mudharabah: Journal of Islamic Economics and Finance* 4, no. 1 (23 July 2023): 28-39, https://www.journal.ar-raniry.ac.id/index.php/mudharabah/article/view/3047.

[41] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

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This pricing process can be explained by the theory of supply and demand in conventional economics, which also applies in Islamic economics.[42] In this case, the supply of rice in the Langsa market will be heavily influenced by the quality of rice produced and the availability of goods in the market. When rice supply is limited and demand is high, prices will rise. Conversely, when supply is abundant and demand is low, prices will fall.[43] This principle reflects fiqh muamalat which emphasises fairness and certainty in transactions. In line with the principles of Islamic economics, fair transactions must take into account the balance between sellers and buyers, and there is no element of exploitation in pricing.[44]

While production costs play a role in setting the initial price, market mechanisms determine the actual selling price of rice. The selling price of rice tends to follow the principle of supply and demand, which explains that despite high production costs, the price may fall if there is an abundant supply of rice in the market.[45]

This phenomenon is in line with price theory in Islamic economics, which teaches that market prices should be determined by market needs and availability of goods, not solely by the internal costs of producers.[46] In this case, Islamic muamalat theory teaches the importance of fairness in transactions, which not only considers production costs but also market conditions. Naturally formed market prices based on supply and demand demonstrate the application of the principles of transparency and **fairness.**[47] In this context, although production costs play a role, fair prices are still influenced by healthy market dynamics.

Research shows that rice prices in Langsa are influenced more by market policies than internal factory costs. This market policy is heavily

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[42] Adawiyah, A. L., Kustiawati, D., Nuha, G. A., & Ajijah, N. The Concept of Economic Equilibrium towards Market Mechanism and Price Setting in Islamic Perspective. *Journal of Education and Counselling (JPDK)*, 4(6), 3309-3316 (2022).

[43] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

[44] Zuhdi, M. H. Principles of Akad in Islamic Economic Transactions. *Iqtishaduna*, *8*(1), 78-115. (2017).

[45] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024

[46] Fitriani, H. *Microeconomics: Measuring the Paradigm through an Islamic Perspective*. NEM Publisher. (2021).

[47] Abdurrahman, K., Nurdiansyah, I., & Hasanah, S. N. N. Market Price Determination Theory Viewed from the Perspective of Conventional Economics and Islamic Economics. In *Gunung Djati Conference Series* (Vol. 43, pp. 71-82).(2024).

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influenced by supply and demand factors, which are the dominant factors in rice pricing.[48]

This is in line with Islamic economic theory that encourages efficient and fair markets. In Islamic economics, the principles of tawarruq and istihlak (consumer needs) emphasise that prices should be formed based on the principles of fairness and certainty.[49] For example, in fiqh muamalat, buying and selling transactions must avoid gharar (uncertainty) and ikhtilaf (disagreement) between the parties involved. Transparent and open market policies provide consumers with certainty about the price that corresponds to the quality of the goods they buy.[50]

Rice mills in Langsa set prices based on the quality of the rice produced. High-quality rice, such as rice with intact grains and appropriate moisture content, is priced higher, while low-quality rice is priced more reasonably. This pricing largely depends on the quality standardisation applied in rice production.[51]

The concept of mabi' in fiqh muamalat can be used to explain how the quality of rice affects its selling price. In Islamic buying and selling transactions, mabi' (traded goods) must have a clear and measurable quality. This avoids the occurrence of gharar or fraud in buying and selling. Therefore, the quality standards applied in rice production demonstrate the application of the principle of clarity in transactions.[52] The standardisation of rice quality applied by rice mills in Langsa ensures that the price consumers pay corresponds to the quality they receive, which is one aspect of the principle of fairness in Islamic muamalat.

Islamic economic theory provides a relevant framework to explain this pricing mechanism. In Islamic muamalat, every sale and purchase transaction must be conducted with the principles of fairness, transparency,

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[48] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024.

[49] Nurwahida, N., Sugianto, S., & Jannah, N. The Effect of Exports, Islamic Mutual Funds and Foreign Debt on National Economic Growth for the Period 2012-2020. *Scientific Journal of Islamic Economics*, *8*(2), 1584-1597 (2022).

[50] Pardiansyah, E. The Concept of Usury in Fiqh Muamalah Maliyyah and its Practice in Contemporary Business. *Scientific Journal of Islamic Economics*, *8*(2), 1270-1285 (2022).

[51] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024.

[52] Khasanah, U. *Review of Islamic Law on the Sale and Purchase of Rice with Coconut Shell Measuring Tools (Case Study of Sumberbening Village, Balerejo Subdistrict, Madiun Regency)* (Doctoral dissertation, IAIN Ponorogo) (2023).

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and certainty, which avoid fraud (gharar) and injustice (zhalim).[53] The concept of mabi' in fiqh muamalat emphasises the importance of clarity on the quality of goods in a sale and purchase transaction. As such, the price of rice set in Langsa reflects the application of these principles, ensuring that the price paid by consumers reflects the quality received and avoids exploitation. [54]

In addition, the supply and demand theory also shows how rice prices can fluctuate based on market conditions, despite fixed production costs. This shows that while internal producer costs are important, a transparent and fair market mechanism remains the dominant factor in price setting.[55]

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that the price of rice in Langsa City is influenced by a combination of rice quality, production costs, and market mechanisms influenced by supply and demand. In this case, the application of rice quality standardisation is essential to ensure that the price set is in accordance with the quality of the product being sold, as well as creating transparency and fairness in the transaction. Thus, this study shows that the application of rice quality standardisation in rice pricing in Langsa City is not only relevant to conventional economic principles, but also very much in line with Islamic economic principles that emphasise fairness, transparency, and certainty in trade transactions.

2. Factors Affecting Rice Pricing in the Market

This study aims to identify and analyse the factors that influence rice pricing in Langsa City, focusing on aspects that affect production costs, distribution, and market dynamics. Based on interviews with mill owners and traders, several key factors have been identified, which will be further explained below, linking the findings to relevant economic theories.

The quality of the paddy is a factor that greatly influences the selling price of rice in the market. High-quality paddy, which has intact grains and ideal moisture content, will produce premium rice that can be sold at a higher price. Conversely, low-quality paddy, such as those with high

[53] Mahipal, M., Wahyudin, Y., Zahara, A. E., & Patahuddin, A. *Reference Book of Sharia Economic Law: Theory and Implementation*. Sonpedia Publishing Indonesia (2024).

[54] Sa'diyah, M. *Fiqh Muamalah II: Theory and Practice*. Unisnu Press (2019).

[55] Sugiyanto, F. X., & Romadhina, A. P. Introduction to Micro and Macro Economics. *Banten: Yayasan Pendidikan dan Sosial Indonesia Maju (YPSIM)*. (2020).

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moisture content or a lot of broken rice, will require more intensive processing and produce lower quality rice, which is priced lower.[56]

Production Cost Theory in economics explains that production costs, including raw material costs, will affect the selling price of goods.[57] In this case, the quality of paddy received by the rice mill directly affects production costs, which in turn affects the selling price of the rice. Rice mills must adjust the selling price of rice to the quality of the raw materials used to ensure that the price of rice offered reflects the quality received by consumers. This also relates to the Islamic principle of muamalat which emphasises fairness in transactions, where the price should reflect the value of the goods sold, and there should be no element of gharar (uncertainty) or cheating in pricing.[58]

Fluctuations in the price of paddy raw materials greatly affect the price of rice. In Langsa, rice price fluctuations are influenced by geographical factors and dependence on rice imports from outside the region. This dependence adds to transport costs, which contributes to the higher selling price of rice in Langsa compared to other areas that have more farmland.[59]

Aceh province consists of 23 districts/municipalities, and rice prices may vary across these regions. This requires more research as rice price data can differ depending on the season, distribution, and market policies in each district. The following is data related to rice prices by district/city in Aceh.

Table 1. List of Latest Rice Prices by District/City in Aceh in 2024

District/City	**Premium Rice (IDR per kg)**	**Medium Rice (IDR per kg)**
West Aceh	15.100	13.300
Aceh Barat Daya	15.300	12.500
Aceh Besar	15.200	13.000
Aceh Jaya	15.000	13.100
South Aceh	15.300	13.200
Aceh Singkil	15.400	14.600
Aceh Tamiang	15.100	13.400

[56] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024.

[57] Jannah, M. Analysis of the effect of production costs and sales level on gross profit. *Banque Syar'i: Scientific Journal of Islamic Banking*, 4 (1), 87-112.

[58] Mardiansyah, A., & Syafril, R. Analysing Economics in Islam Relating to Legal Aspects in Business. *Journal of Economics and Business*, 4(5), 673-678.

[59] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024.

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Aceh Tengah	15.200	13.500
Southeast Aceh	15.200	13.300
East Aceh	15.100	13.400
North Aceh	15.100	13.300
Bener Meriah	15.100	13.000
Bireuen	15.200	13.400
Gayo Lues	15.000	13.400
Banda Aceh City	15.300	13.500
Subulussalam City	15.200	13.300
Langsa	15.000	13.200
Lhokseumawe	14.900	13.300
Nagan Raya	15.200	13.300
Pidie	15.300	13.000
Pidie Jaya	15.000	13.200
Sabang	15.300	14.000
Simeulue	15.400	14.000

The table above shows the prices of premium and medium rice in 23 districts/cities in Aceh, including Langsa, with the price of premium rice ranging from IDR 14,900 to IDR 15,400 per kilogram, while the price of medium rice varies from IDR 12,500 to IDR 14,600 per kilogram. The average price of premium rice in Aceh is IDR 15,150 per kilogram, while the average price of medium rice is IDR 13,250 per kilogram. These prices are influenced by various factors, such as the quality of raw materials, distribution costs, and market demand, which can vary from region to region, reflecting the diverse market dynamics throughout Aceh.[60]

Supply and Demand Theory explains that the price of goods in the market is influenced by the availability of raw materials (supply) and market demand.[61] When the price of rice rises due to limited supply or price fluctuations in local and international markets, the cost of producing rice will also increase. This causes the selling price of rice to rise, as producers can no longer maintain a low selling price without incurring losses.[62] In the context

[60] National Food Price Panel, *National Food Price Panel: Commodity Prices of Medium and Premium Rice in Aceh Province*, accessed 24 November 2024, https://panelharga.badanpangan.go.id.

[61] Lola Rahmadona, S. P. Demand and Supply Theory. *Introduction to Economics*, *25*.

[62] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024.

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of Islamic economics, this is related to the principle of istihsan (fairness in trade), which requires rice prices to be set by taking into account honest and transparent cost fluctuations.[63]

Although labour costs affect rice prices, they are not as influential as other factors, such as the price of rice raw materials and distribution costs. In factories, although labour costs are part of operational costs, efficiency in the production process can reduce the impact of rising salaries or labour costs. However, in the long run, if labour costs continue to increase, this may affect the selling price of rice.[64]

In variable cost theory, labour costs are one of the factors that affect production costs, but their impact is relatively smaller than fixed costs such as raw materials and distribution.[65] Nonetheless, the principle of efficiency in production applied by rice factories in Langsa reflects the principle of tawazun in Islamic economics, which is a balance between costs and results, as well as efforts to maintain price stability without overburdening consumers.

The rice harvest season significantly affects the price of rice. During the harvest season, the supply of paddy is abundant, so the price of raw materials becomes cheaper. This allows rice mills to lower the selling price of rice. Conversely, in the off-harvest season, paddy supply is more limited and paddy prices tend to rise, causing rice prices to increase.[66]

This phenomenon can be explained by the theory of seasonal cycles in economics.[67] This theory explains that the availability of goods (in this case, rice) follows a seasonal cycle that affects prices. When supply is abundant, prices will decrease, and conversely, when supply is limited, prices will increase. In the context of Islamic economics, this is related to the principle of

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[63] Maulana, R. A. *Determination of the Highest Retail Price (HET) on the Sale and Purchase of Subsidised Fertilisers in the Perspective of Islamic Law (Case Study in Gembongan Banyusari Village, Karawang)* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Islam Indonesia) (2024).

[64] Interview results with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024.

[65] Aprilia, M. *The Effect of Production Costs and Selling Prices on Farmers' Income from an Islamic Economic Perspective (Study of Corn Farmers in Komering Putih Village, Gunung Sugih District, Central Lampung Regency)* (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Raden Intan Lampung).

[66] Interview results with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024.

[67] Fajar, M. Markov switching model of Indonesian business cycle (2017).

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is (justice) which requires prices to be influenced by real factors present in the market, such as seasonality and availability of goods.[68]

Distribution cost is a factor that greatly affects the selling price of rice, especially in relation to distribution distance and infrastructure**.** The longer the distribution distance from the mill to the market, the higher the transport costs that must be borne by the mill. Fluctuations in fuel prices and logistics costs can also affect distribution costs.[69]

The theory of transport costs and distribution costs in conventional economics explains that logistics costs affect the price of goods.[70] In Langsa, which has limited agricultural land and relies on out-of-region supplies, high distribution costs will increase the price of rice.[71] Islamic economics emphasises fairness in distribution (is) and transparency in setting prices so as not to burden consumers with unreasonable additional costs.[72]

Market demand for rice in Langsa greatly affects the selling price of rice. When demand is high, for example ahead of Ramadan or holidays, rice prices tend to rise as consumers buy more to stock up. Conversely, if demand decreases, prices may fall.[73]

The Supply and Demand Theory is the basis for explaining rice price fluctuations in the Langsa market. When demand is high, rice prices will rise, and conversely, when rice supply is abundant, prices tend to fall.[74] Fiqh muamalat in Islamic economics teaches that sellers should not take excessive advantage of high demand conditions (avoid istighlal), and prices should be

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[68] Hidayati, S. The *Potential of the Market in Improving the Community Economy Reviewed in Islamic Economics* (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Ar-raniry).(2019).

[69] Interview results with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024.

[70] Syakir, A. *The effect of production costs and distribution costs on sales volume according to a sharia perspective on trasi selok jaya langgen harjo pati* (Doctoral dissertation, STAIN Kudus).(2016).

[71] Interview results with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024.

[72] Basri, B. Market of Mechanism and Fair Pricing in Islamic: Nejatullah Siddiqi Persfective A Study of Modern Economic Phenomena. *Scientific Journal of Islamic Economics*, *9*(3), 3771-3786.

[73] Interview with the owner of Cemerlang Rice Mill in Langsa City on 23 November 2024.

[74] Fatmawati, A., Mulyanti, D. R., Hasmidar, H., Nasution, A. H., & Muala, B. *Agricultural Economics: Introduction and Basic Concepts of Agricultural Economics in Indonesia*. Sonpedia Publishing Indonesia. (2023).

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set with due regard to the balance between supply and demand, to maintain fairness in trade.[75]

Based on the results of the study, it can be seen that the factors affecting rice prices in Langsa are interrelated and inseparable. The quality of paddy raw materials, distribution costs, paddy price fluctuations, labour costs, and changes in market demand all play a role in determining the selling price of rice in the market. Overall, rice pricing in Langsa is influenced by various factors that are both external (such as distribution costs and paddy price fluctuations) and internal (such as labour costs and quality of raw materials). Within the framework of Islamic economics, all of these factors must consider the principles of fairness, transparency, and certainty in transactions. Sellers and buyers must be on equal footing, and the price set must reflect the real value of the goods being traded, without any element of deception or unfairness.[76]

CONCLUSIONS

This study concludes that the pricing of rice in Langsa City is strongly influenced by the quality of the rice produced and sold, which reflects the application of the Mabi' concept in buying and selling transactions. This concept emphasises the importance of clarity on the quality of goods as the basis for pricing, making the transaction fairer and more transparent. The standardisation of rice quality in accordance with National Food Agency Regulation No. 2 Year 2023 plays an important role in ensuring that marketed rice products meet the quality criteria set by the government. In addition, this regulation encourages the integration of healthy market mechanisms and Islamic values that prioritise justice and sustainability. In this context, the implementation of Mabi' is not only relevant to quality standards and government regulations, but also demonstrates alignment with the principles of Islamic economics, which is to create a trading system that is transparent, balanced, and beneficial to all parties.

In addition to quality, this study identified other factors that influence rice prices, such as production costs, distribution, labour, rice price fluctuations, and market demand. All these factors are interrelated and contribute to a dynamic pricing mechanism. Within the framework of Islamic

[75] Prasetyo, Y. *Islamic economics*. Aria Mandiri Group Publisher (2018).

[76] Chairul Fahmi, 'PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE APPLICATION OF ISLAMIC SYARIAT (Critical Analysis of the Implementation of Islamic Shari'at in Aceh)', *Al-Manahij: Journal of Islamic Legal Studies* 6, no. 2 (2012): 167-76.

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muamalat, rice pricing should consider the aspect of fairness, where the price reflects the real value of the goods without any element of fraud or injustice. With the implementation of rice quality standardisation, rice mills in Langsa City can run a transparent business, comply with government regulations, while supporting justice for consumers and producers. This research confirms that the integration of government regulations and the Mabi' principle can create an equitable trading system, maintain price stability, and fulfil people's basic needs in a sustainable manner.

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