

Urban Development as the interface of Regional Development from Below in central Java - Indonesia THE CASE OF SEMARANG METROPOLITAN

Developing the bending of continuum rural-urban: *From agropolitan of rurbanization to the metropolitan area of Sub urbanization*

Introduction

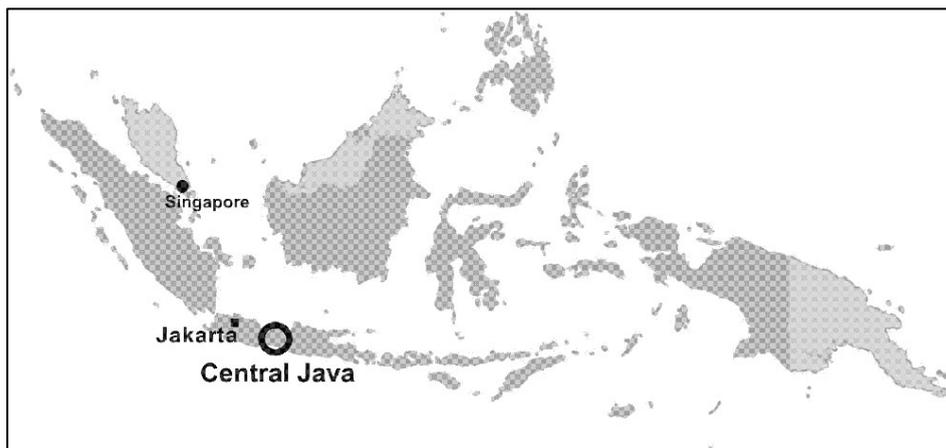
Central Java is the province in the island of Java in Indonesia, is known as “the Heart of Javanese”, is the region that has an abundant of historical and cultural heritage, which is originated in a long history of national rice production area. This culture develops various handicrafts, arts and cultural life as people call “The genius loci” in the urban life of small town and rural centers.

The long history of Central Java development and prosperity is based on the fertility of its land resource. As a most fertile island among the five big islands of Indonesia, the Island of Java that size less than 10% of the total Indonesian land area is a home for about 60% of Indonesian population (more than 2 hundred millions). Because of this feature, Central Java becomes the densest region in Indonesia with a rapid urbanization process in its big and small cities. With the faster urban population growth between 1990 to 2000, it has been taken place in the small towns that are known as ‘*kota kabupaten*’ or the cities in the regional districts instead of in the bigger cities that known as ‘*kota*’ or the municipalities. Central Java has a dispersed urbanization, with the various tiles of urban space from the dispersed rural centers and towns as agropolises in rural area, medium size or secondary cities in the coastal and inland region, a big city developed from the old palace of Surakarta, to the coastal metropolitan of Semarang as the capital of Java province.

Since the fell down of the New Order of Suharto’s administration in 1998, the paradigm of the Indonesian national development has been shifted: from the centralization to decentralization, and from the top-down approach decision-making process to bottom-up approach. These paradigms are arising as the influence of the mega-trend of globalization, the trend of postmodern era that is characterized by the willing of democracy, participation and transparency, as the consequences of information and communication technology revolution. The top-down approach of regional development that is represented by the development of growth centers has been revised by the development from below by the strengthening of local development with the local autonomy.

However, the promoting of local autonomy only is not enough. This phenomenon, which has been experienced more than 3 years in Indonesia, creates a tendency of disintegration of economic development as well as in political aspect in some cases. This situation endangers the national integrity. In order to overcome the regional disparity and reinforced the total regional development based on local and external resource, the strengthening regional linkage as well as promoting local development strategies are needed. To response this paradigm above, the regional development should be pushed from below with some characteristics below:

- strengthening the network from rural area up to the urban area, and from the small towns up to the metropolitan cities
- promoting local-resources-based development that is combined with the outside resources
- promoting rural area development that is supported by proper infrastructure and urban centers
- promoting agriculture development that is supported by non-agriculture activities in rural area: such as tourism, small scale industries, commerce, and transportation
- Promoting urban development as an interface of the whole regional development from agropolitan to metropolitan.



1. Sub Region of Semarang: a medium size of Metropolitan area with linkage of suburbanization to rurbanization

The city of Semarang is the capital of Java Central, with the 37.370,42 Ha of administrative boundary called Kotamadya (a Municipality), the urban space is close to 50% of this area, and the rest is the mix of rural urban area. This capital of province has 1.350.005 population with the annual growth of 1.27%, it is “a slowly growth metropolitan city”. However, the growing sprawl of housing estate and the spontaneous settlement in the periphery and the linier urban space along the regional axes bend the medium and small cities and rural area that form what we called “an urban region.” The surrounding capital of province are: the regency of Semarang in the south with the 1.345.675 of population and the 1.34% annual growth is the most dynamic metropolitan area, the regency of Kendal in the west coast with the 887.286 of population and the 0.68% of annual growth, and the regency of Demak in the east coast with 996.384 and the 1.8% of annual growth. The total three regions with the Semarang municipality cover the 4.074.812 population (2002) with the 310.697,63 Ha of administrative boundary.

According to the map 1 we see the concentration of built up area in the capital of province and continued along the regional axes. The sprawl in the periphery is not all the dispersing of new urban settlement, but there are also the structure of the rural village surrounded by the agriculture land far from the regional axes and the development of central village with the dynamic change of rural settlement as a process of rurbanization. By the demographic data of occupation of the population in the sub district (see map 2) we can present the spatial continuum of rural to urban structure. The urban activities present also in the hinterland that indicates the process of rurbanization. The dispersion of small scales (house hold) rural “industries” dominate more in the rural area, and contrary with the medium and big industries, but some of this have penetrated in the rural area (see map 3 and 4).

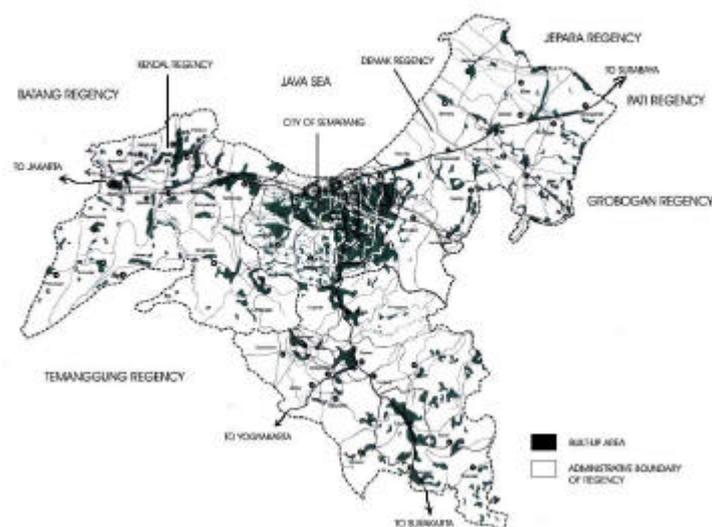
The linkage between suburbanization and rurbanization in the rural area creates the model of regional development that will be the focus discussed in the next chapter. These two terms of the conditions of semi urban are took from what Alain Garnier mentioned in the condition of semi urban in Europe (1984, Les Nouvelles cités dortoirs). Concerning the condition in Indonesia, we found that there is principally a similar condition with those mentioned in Europe. We identify this semi urban in Semarang (Indonesia) is:

- Sub urbanization is the phenomenon of urbanization pushed by the movement of population or urban activities from the city that expands to the rural area, and contrary.
- The rurbanization is the urban or non agriculture activities developed by local rural population like: the commerce activities, the traditional atelier or small scale “industries“, and other activities and urban life created by local population.

Arising the differentiation between the rurbanization and the sub urbanization is to find the role factors of urbanization concerning to the power of development. The idea of regional development from below can be created by supporting the rurbanization as the power of local rural development. The meeting, link aging or integrating these two semi urban spaces is the key factors to develop the metropolitan area in the frame of the development from below.

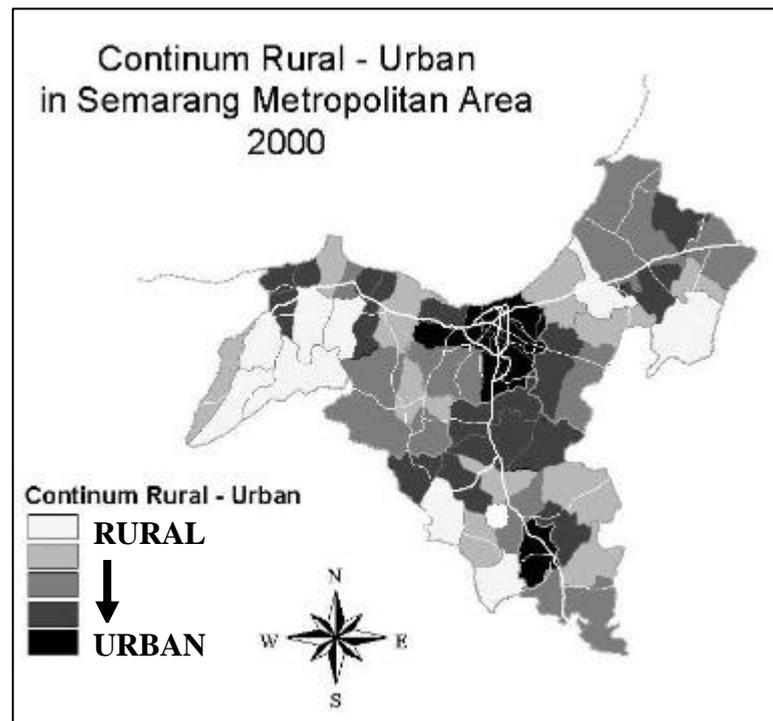
The south regional axe with the dense linier urban space developed by the mix of buildings of public facilities, commercial activities and foot loose industries is an expanding urban space from the metropolitan center. The distribution of population working in urban activities disperses close to the regional axe from the center of metropolitan to the periphery. The land use changes from agriculture to urban activities push the farmer entering into the informal sectors (the research of the periphery of Semarang held by soetomo1990). So is there a “trickles down development” from the center to periphery through the growth along the regional axe? However the linier development creates the traffic congestion, the project of regional toll road has been decided many years ago to overcome this problem, but since the monetary crisis this project has been postponed. The toll road is the by-pass highway; it could decrease the growth of linier urban activities in the traditional regional axe.

The rural district along the regional axe has changes into linier urban space and forms the various tiles of centers of activities, from the big central market to the concentration of small scales economic informal activities. The developments of regional income per capita arises in the regional axe of urban corridor, and also push the back area of rural region in the dynamic economic network of rurbanization. The rurbanization is the dynamic of urban-rural life participated by the non-agricultural activities of local population, this traditional activities rooted in the history of rural life as a formal activities. But when this rurban space (traditional) became urban space (modern), those formal traditional activities are then categorized as informal sectors. The urbanization became then the producer of the dualistic phenomenon of formal and informal sectors and the modernization of urban space could threat the existence of informal sectors. There is no benefits to differentiate or categorize the informal and formal sectors, the launching of the terms of formal and informal is only pushing the segregation, the conflict and the development of social justification for the marginalize. The most important think is how to linkage and synergize all the condition of economic activities: from the smallest, weakness to biggest activities, from the rural, traditional to urban or modern activities, by the empowerment and harmonious of the plurality of socio-economic and cultural process of development.

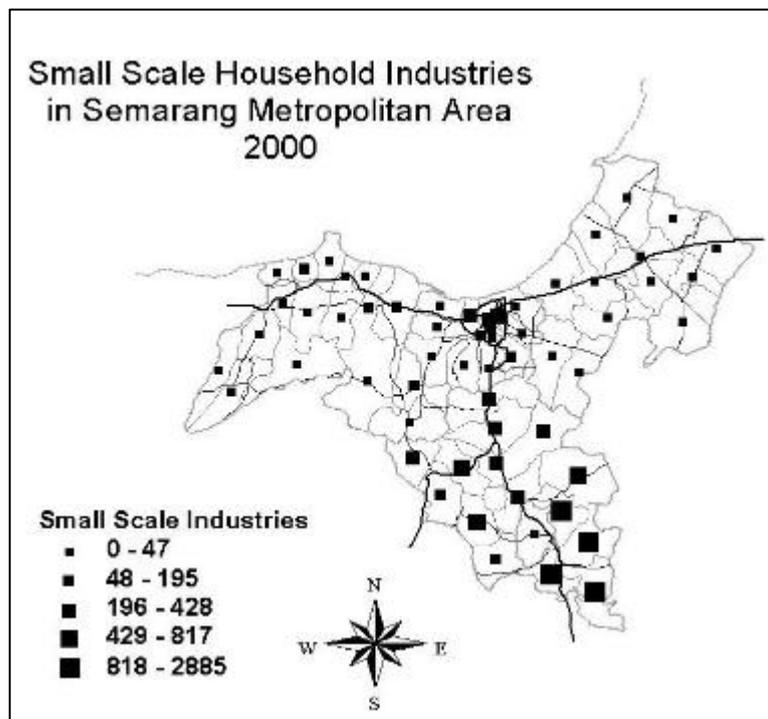


MAP 1, BUILT- UP AREA OF SEMARANG-METROPOLITAN

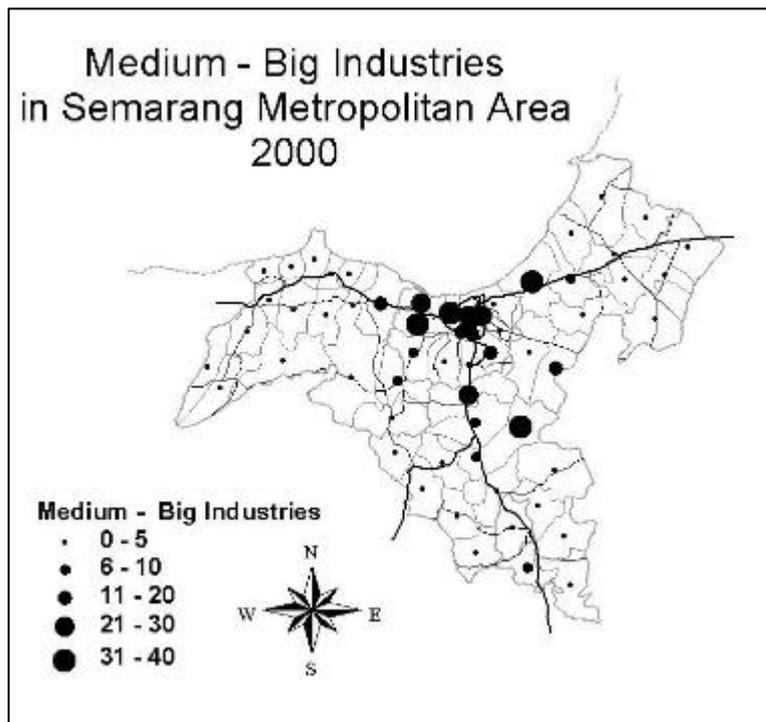
Source: The Base Map of Regencies (Semarang, Kendal, Demak) & Municipality (Semarang City)



MAP 2, Source: Geographic Continuum of rural to urban occupation of population of sub districts



MAP3, Source: Geographic distribution by sub districts of the number of small scale (household) industries in Semarang metropolitan (3 regencies and 1 municipality)



MAP 4, Source: Geographic distribution by sub districts of the number of medium and big industries in Semarang metropolitan (3 regencies and 1 municipality)

2. Semarang Metropolitan Development: *the bending of continuum rural- urban, from agropolitan to metropolitan*

The tendency of the linkage development in the regional axe of metropolitan region from the center to the periphery can be regarded as a potential factor of the development of consumption movement to the rural area. The diffusing urban life must be responded by supplying the rural products for domestic services supplied by the rural population in the periphery (metropolitan area). Strengthening the rurbanization in the model of agropolitan development is very important to push the regional development from below. The model of linier corridor sub urbanization with the centers along the regional axe as a TOD (Transit Oriented Development) limits the tendency of sprawl in the hinterland (back area) and conserve the rural area. The center in the corridor regional receives the rural product for local sub urban consumption. The empowerment of agriculture as an integrated economic of agropolitan district has been pushed by the national project.

The spatial dynamic chain from rural to urban in the metropolitan area can be created through the spatial model of development from agropolitan of rurbanization to the metropolitan of sub urbanization presented in the scheme below (Figure1):

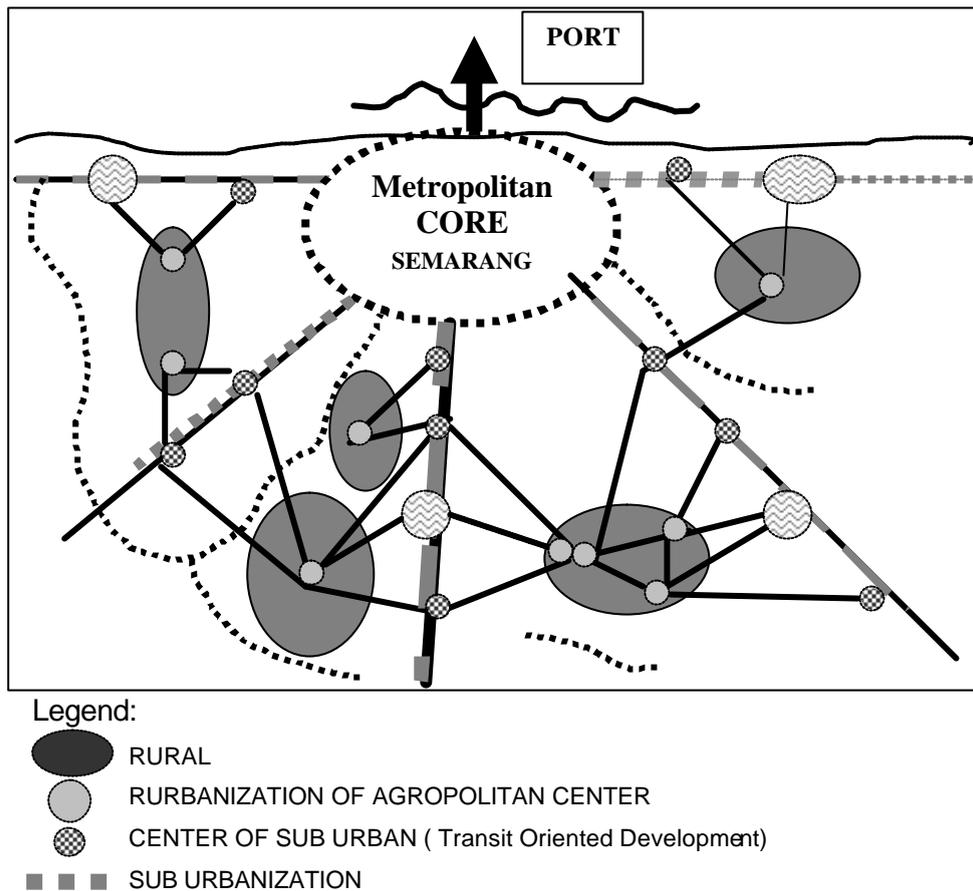


Figure 1, Source: 2002, Sugiono Soetomo

The corridor sustainable development of sub urbanization with the TOD and the conservation of agriculture and natural resources in the back area and supported by the urban activities in the center of rurbanization is the macro model. The integrated network of rural area with the urban center of rurbanisation develops what we called an agropolitan district as a micro model.

CORRIDOR URBAN RURAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

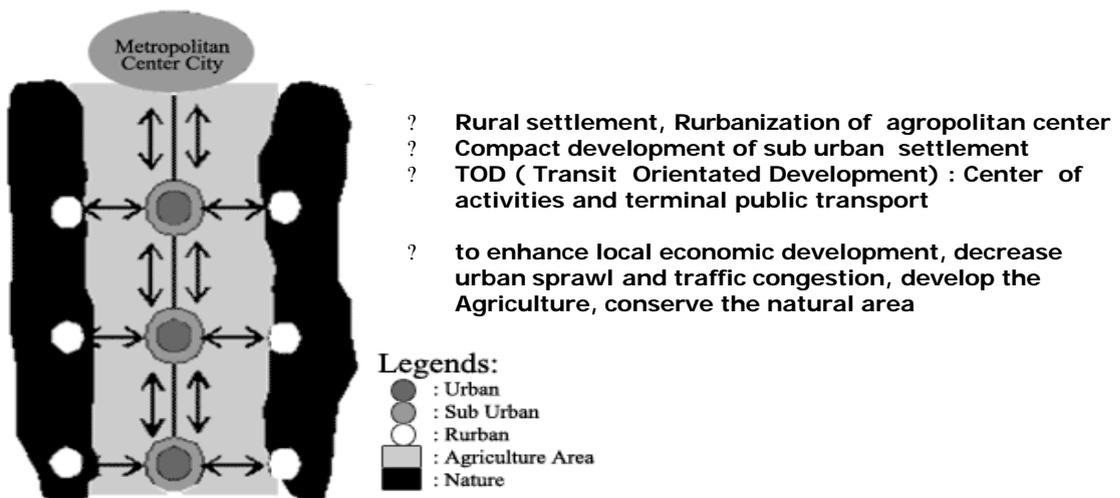


FIGURE 2 , Source: 2002, Sugiono Soetomo

3. The “Agropolitan development“ and the rurbanization in the metropolitan region of Semarang regency: *The development of a center of regional market network*

The Semarang regency is the rural region with a medium city of Ungaran as a capital and several small towns, rural center of rurbanization. This capital is located not in the center of region but closed to the boundary of the Semarang City and together with the small cities and urban centers bending along the south regional axe form an urban corridor. (See the map 5), so the capital of Regency is close related to center of province.

The local agropolitan project as the action of rural development is implemented in part of the regional integrated economic development (KAPET: Kawasan Pengembangan Ekonomi Terpadu) that have identified 11 sub regions of KAPET in the Semarang regency. The KAPET of Bandungan is oriented to the development of agropolitan districts and situated in the back area of urban corridor closed to the Semarang city. (See the map 5). The agropolitan district of Bandungan covers 26 villages in the preliminary planning and stressing in the development not integrated agriculture. The national project has commenced with the stimulation of the construction of several agriculture facilities and small markets.

The region of Bandungan is a famous mountainous tourist resort in the 300-2000 m height of the sea level, supported by the good climate with the fresh air, the medium temperature (15-20 C degree), the scenic beautiful regional landscape and the nine pre historic of the exotic Hindu temples located in the nine top of the hills. The traditional cultivation of flowers in the small area of household in the village and the informal flower market rooted in the history of Bandungan present also the beautiful scenic of village -scape. The local resources that support the tourism life are also the production of small-scale “industries“ of traditional foods, the fruits and vegetable market and the traditional horse riding services. The tourism activities develop the hotels and restaurants and other tourism facilities that change the village center to become an urban agglomeration. The rurbanization as the urban activities in the rural area far from the extending of the city is developed by **the local power** of the attraction of tourism. The development of tourist resort creates the market forces in the village and attracts the products from the outside region. The flowers market becomes the melting pot of several souvenirs products and flowers come from the regions out of the central Java. Since several years ago the investors began starting to develop the large scale of the flowers agribusiness.

The vegetable market does not only create the tourist attraction, but it pushed the grosser activities of agriculture products supplying the metropolitan region of Semarang. These rural grosser activities grew together with the famous of the Bandungan tourism region and attract the agricultural product from the outside region. The role of vendors is the important key that makes the chain of market activities from rurban to urban area. The agropolitan project has commenced three years ago by the construction of a big and modern grosser market called Terminal Center of Agribusiness in the village of Jetis of Bandungan district held by the local and state government. The new centre market is responded by the fast growth of vendors that came from the out side region. The outside agriculture product today has covered more than 70 % of the grosser activities and came from the regions of Java central, even from the others provinces and out the Java Island, even though the outside products are different kinds from the local product. The metropolitan region of Semarang with the most concentration of population of central Java is the big market forces of agriculture product. (See the figure 7) The “traditional” network of distribution of agriculture product is an interesting factor that we never think in the rural life activities; we have never yet understand the reason why the sub region rural of Bandungan could be chosen by the vendors to become a central grosser of the wide range of metropolitan region.

The successful of the big grosser market in the rural area of Bandungan region poses a big question; the problem is the role of external product that dominates this grosser market. The question arises from the point of view of the weakness of the role of local resource using the market. There are many possibilities that the local product is directly brought from the farm, so the center market is mostly used by the outside product. The analysis of Location Quotient of the local products present that most of the local agricultural product is the basic

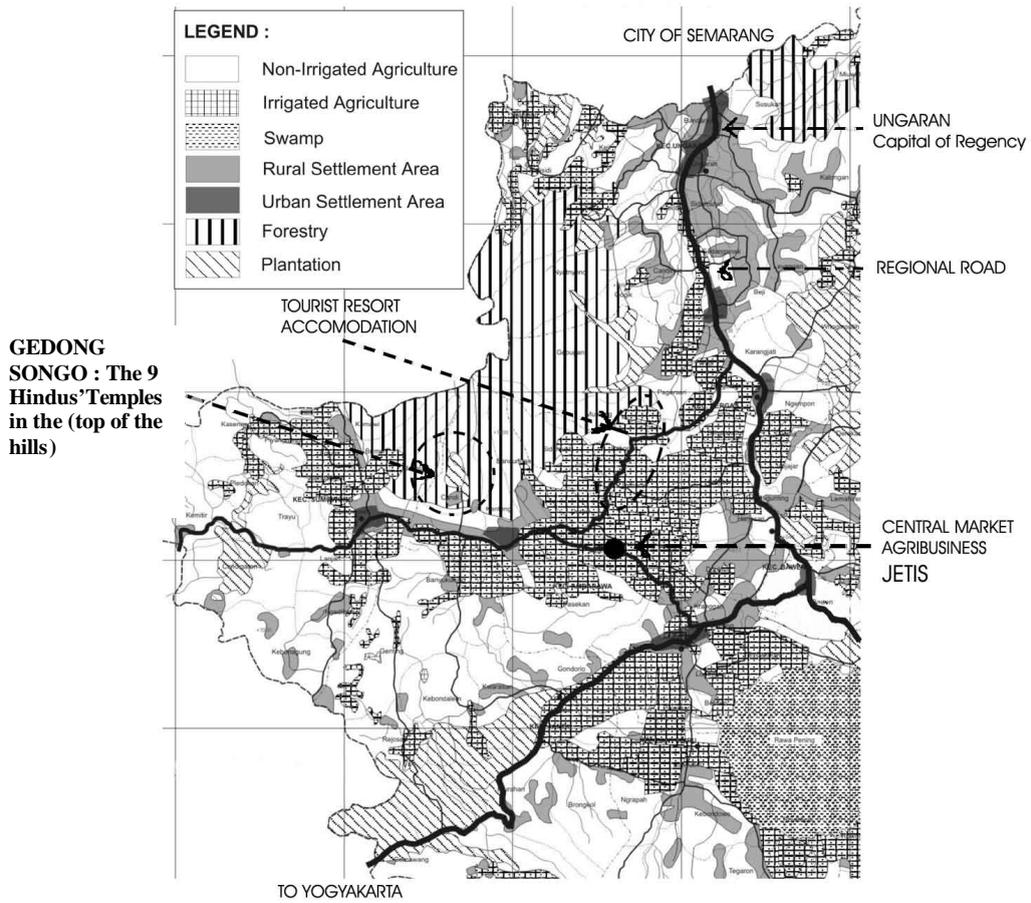
commodities that mean the export activities is dominate for this local products (2003, Report of the Study of Integrated Economic Region of Bandungan, Diponegoro University). The role of outside product in the center market attracts the outside population that has the strong economic capacity; they could become the dominant role of the economic activities of the region. The domination of central grosser shifts the role of small grosser markets that become the sub ordinance. The role of local resource and local population face the competition and this condition became the attention for the paradigm of agropolitan development.

In the other point of view, the market activities generate the urban activities and create the jobs in rural area, the small scales services, the transport activities are increasing. Therefore, the role of the outsider actors is not the problem if they could develop the dynamic activities and creation the employment. The urban activities as the capitalistic life always creates the open market, competition, heterogeneity of activities and the emergence of "informal sectors" (for developing country).

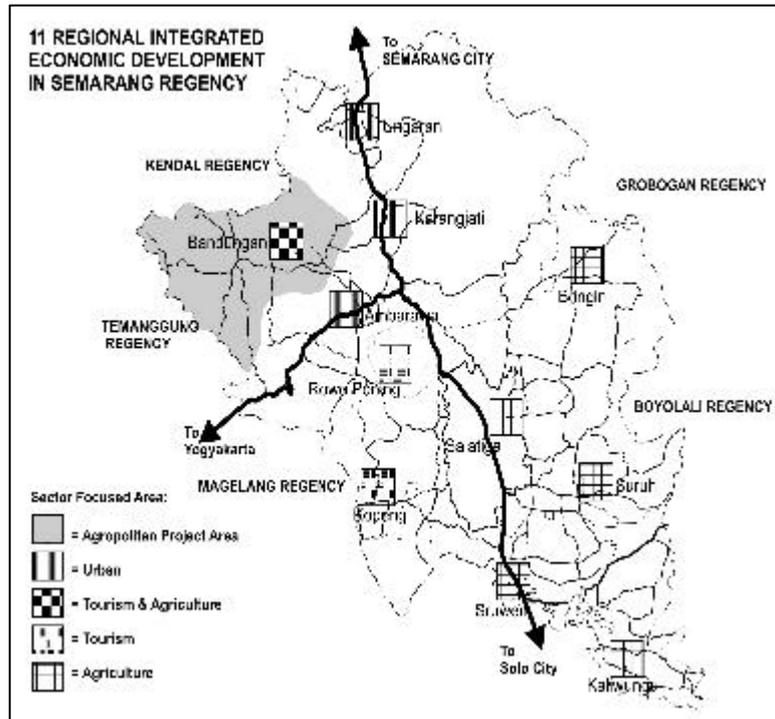
The agriculture vendors has an important role to the development of market activities they are the persons who decide to receive the product from several regions out of the Bandungan region, because they have a chain of market to distribute to the capital of province city of Semarang. The market network established by the mobile traditional vendor that is not always base on the system of hierarchies market, the competition of the price of agriculture product, the role of small-scale transport network as an economic generating factor, and the role of "informal sectors", all are the factors that create the system of market network.

- *The dominant of market activities push the development of village centers, a lot of number of small public transport served by the individual entrepreneur or small private enterprise is an economic opportunities for the local population. The market activities with their multiplier effects develop the rurbanization in the rural area of metropolitan region.*
- *The strengthening the linkage between local agriculture production and the market activities must be pushed. The enhancing of the quality and the quantity of local agriculture production and the role of local population must become the attention for the local and center government projects. The agropolitan project as the presentation of the paradigm of development from below has an objective for empowering the local resources and population. But the external penetration is can not be prevented, the competition is the way to empower the local population.*

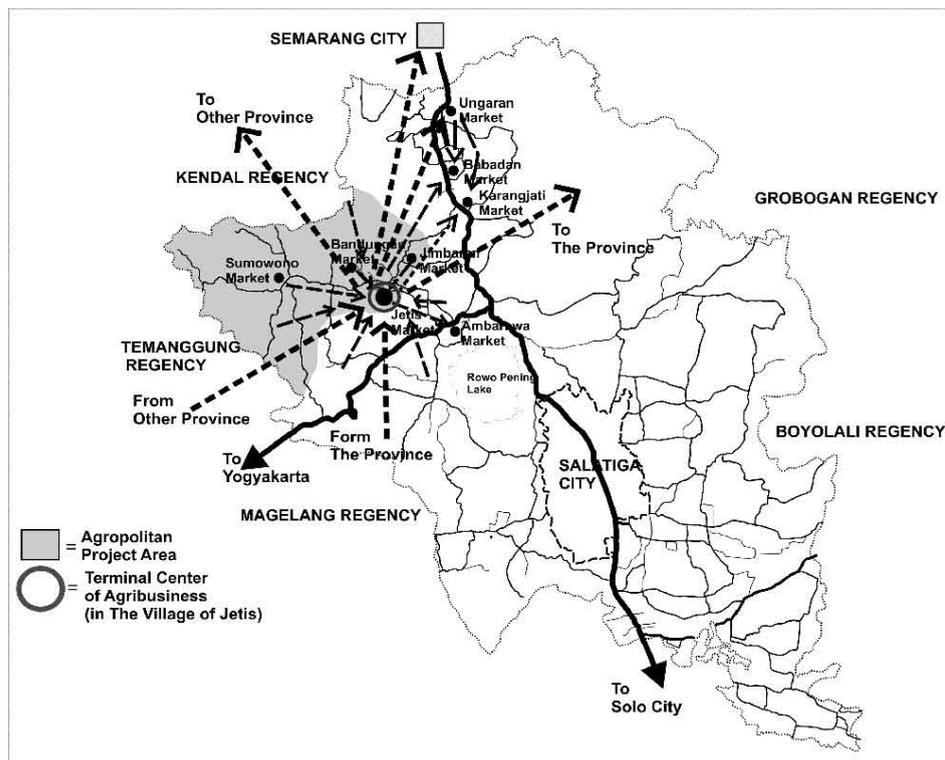
BANDUNGAN DISTRICT: SUB-REGION OF AGROPOLITAN



MAP 5, Source : Base Map of Semarang Regency



MAP 6, Source: 2003, the Agropolitan Project of Regional Integrated Economic Development, Diponegoro University-The Planning Board of Semarang Regency



MAP 7, Diffusion of agriculture products to and from the grosser Center Market of Agribusiness Jetis Bandungan, Source : Field research, Soetomo.

4. The Glocalization and the Empowerment of Local Resources

The concept of agropolitan even as the paradigm of development from below now can not be oriented as an isolative or closure development in the first phase as like as its original concept in the years of seventy (1981, Stohr). The open orientation of regional development cannot be prevented in the communication and information era of globalization. The Glocalization (global local linkage), the attraction of global resources is to empower the local resources, or the synergize of local resources could attract the global power finance and market, and all is the successful of urban rural linkage.

The condition of local resource and the penetration of capitalist power from the outside are the factors that the objectives of agropolitan paradigm are not easy to be achieved. The development of integrated local resource and the connectivity with the global resource in the same time are the strategy of agropolitan development. The key points are the empowering and the participation planning and development of the local population and other local resources. This year the action program empowerment for the agriculture is commenced by the establishment of local population forum, facilitated by the local government and the Diponegoro University. The establishment of local community forum with the member of representation of the entire stakeholder concerning the rural economic activities is the regular forum to develop the participation approach for planning and action development in agropolitan project. The discussion in the forum results the program needed to develop the economic activities of the district of Bandungan, this program will became the base for the planning program project by the central government (represented by the province). The participation of local stakeholder takes in the planning as well as in the implementation and operation process. The sustainability of empowering and conserving the local resources is the crucial factors to develop the agropolitan district. The system of project with the limit time

and budget must be managed very carefully, so the development of participation action of local resources must be sustained in the day to day life. The role of University and other research institution must become a “parents” for encouraging, educating in the day life of the population of the region in the part of the model “Participation Action Research” program and the student’s academic activities could be implemented.

The tourism sector is the connection of local resource and global resource are supported by the potential local economic and cultural factors such as agriculture, small rural home industries, cultural asset of pre historic temples and the rural dances.

The location of Bandungan at the metropolitan region of Semarang central Java is the potential factor that can realize the concept of Glocalization :

“The rurbanization of the agropolitan as the local rural empowerment links with the sub urbanization of metropolitan city as the global entrance.”

5. The Regionalization of the Local Autonomy as the Regional Development from Below

The shift from centralization to decentralization has been declared by the law of 22 of 1998 about the political decentralization and the law of 25 of 1999 about the balance of finance between the center and local government. The decentralization is represented by the political decision of regional development by the local authority of the regency or mayor as well as the legislative council and the distribution of revenue from the national to the local authority. The government of province is the representative of central government in the regional development. The concept and program of agropolitan project is decided from the bottom, the role of local authority coordinate the village forum of several stakeholders, and propose the action of development direct to their need. The national project of agropolitan development is the centralize budget, but the action program is decided by the village forum. The local authority (the regency) of Semarang has prepared also the Integrated Regional Economic Planning to establish the basic policy of regional development. The planning process is always base on people participation.

The regional linkage policy has been created also by the local authorities of self regionalization as the cooperation between the regencies or municipalities. Several sub regional cluster of regionalization has been successfully established and operated in the three clusters of region in central Java facilitated effectively by Diponegoro University, The Master Program School of regional Development. Now Regionalization as the autonomous cooperation of regional cluster has been facilitated by the governor of Central Java Province, and it becomes the policy to infill and operates the sub regional cluster in Java Central. The department of Human Settlement and regional Development of central government also respond the initiative of self-regionalization by facilitating the spatial Planning projects. Regionalization is the objectives of synergizing the local powers to attract global power, and to approach the public policy to the real sectors. The Regional Manager have been established as the professional manager to move and operate the policy decided by the elective executive Director of Regionalization represented by one of the head of the local authorities.

The regional development from below in Semarang the metropolitan area must be organized by the regionalization of local authorities, to get the win - win solution to the development of center of regional growth and sustainable development for the province of Java.

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