

# THE RELATION OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROGRAMS TO THE DYNAMICS OF PADDY RICE FARMERS GROUPS

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## ABSTRACT

*This research was carried out in Sri Makmur Farmers Group at Desa Durian Dusun Makmur, Kecamatan Medang Deras, Kabupaten Batubara. This study aims to determine the factors that influence group dynamics, and to find out whether there is a relationship between agricultural extension programs to farmer group dynamics. Data analysis method used is a Likert Scale and analyzed descriptively qualitatively. The results showed that the dynamics of the Sri Makmur Farmers Group were categorized as Less Dynamic. This is because the elements of the farmer group dynamics are not going well. Based on the results of a Likert Scale Research with Spearman Rank Correlation obtained a value of 0.221 at a confidence level of 95% ( $\alpha$  0.05). So that the value of  $0.221 > 0.0$ ,  $H_0$  is accepted which means that there is no relationship between the agricultural extension program to the dynamics of rice paddy farmer groups. In the closeness of the relationship between the two variables, the value of correlation coefficient is -0.453, based on the assessment criteria on the closeness of the relationship, the variable value is in a weak closeness position.*

**Keywords:** Agricultural Extension Program, Farmer Group Dynamics. Rice Fields

## A. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is an agricultural country, which means that agriculture plays an important role in the overall national economy. This can be seen from a large number of people who work in the agricultural sector. In Garis Besar Haluan Negara is explained that national development is directed at the development of advanced or efficient and resilient agriculture. Circumstances like this require agricultural sector policies that are adapted to the circumstances and developments that occur in the field in overcoming various problems concerning national welfare (Husodo, 2004).<sup>1</sup>

North Sumatra is one of the tropical regions that is very good for planting rice. According to BPS data for the last 5 years from 2012-2016 the land area and paddy production in North Sumatra in 2012 was 714,307.0 Ha and 3,552,373.0 tons of rice production, in 2013 the land area was 698,344.0 Ha and 3,571,141.0 tons of rice production, in 2014 the land area was 676,724.0 Ha and 3,490,516.0 tons of rice production, in 2015 the land area was 731,881.0 Ha and 3,868,880.0 tons of rice production, in 2016 the land area was 826,695.0 Ha and 4,387,035.9 tons of rice production. From these data that rice production must be maintained so that it always meets human needs. Therefore, the activities of agricultural extension workers are needed that are able to meet the needs of farmers in terms of agricultural activities.

Farmers are the main actors in agricultural production activities as well as from the Indonesian people who need to improve their welfare and intelligence, one of the efforts to increase intelligence is carried out through agricultural extension activities. The agricultural extension can

influence targets through their roles as education, innovation, facilities, consultation, supervision, monitoring, evaluation, as well as farmer advisors in accordance with the characteristics / characteristics of farmers including regional potential (Mardikanto, 2009).<sup>2</sup>

In order for agricultural extension can run productively, effectively and efficiently, it is necessary to identify resources and agricultural development programs, both carried out by the private and public governments. This is needed in the framework of preparing comprehensive agricultural extension planning plans by integrating all available resources. Therefore every agricultural extension must create work programs so that what he wants to achieve in the program is well achieved.

To increase the effectiveness of extension activities in order to grow and develop the participation of farmers in agricultural development, it is necessary to develop farmers' groups in the form so that later the farmer group will be able to grow and develop into adequate economic strength and will be able to sustain the welfare of the member farmers. The development of farmer groups is a series of processes that enable /empower groups of farmer groups to have a common goal.

Farmer groups are said to develop if they have characteristics that are characterized as follows: a) know each other, be familiar and trust each other among members, b) have the same views and interests in farming, c) have similarities in traditions or settlements, business scope, type business, economic and social status, language, education and ecology, d) there is a division of duties and responsibilities of fellow members based

on mutual agreement (Ministry of Agriculture, 2016).<sup>3</sup>

The more effective group is the better life of members in the group. A concept that shows the effectiveness of the group in achieving its goals is the concept of group dynamics. Groups or organizations can be said to be dynamic if the group or organization is effective in achieving its goals. This aspect of group dynamics provides maximum opportunities for members to collaborate and participate in group activities (Tuyuwale in Damima, 2005). Therefore, to find out whether a group is dynamic or not can be done by analyzing group members through the behavior of the members and leaders, it is necessary to conduct research, which is examined from the elements of group dynamics (Damima, 2005).<sup>4</sup>

Kecamatan Medang Deras, Kabupaten Batubara is one of the areas that have great potential for rice cultivation. The majority of the people there are farmers, especially in Desa Durian, Dusun Makmur. They formed a farmer group named Sri Makmur with 54 members and 32.5 hectares of land owned by them and supervised by agricultural extension which were sent by the local agriculture department.

Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in research entitled The Relation of Agricultural Extension Programs to the Dynamics of Farmers' Groups of Rice Fields (*Oryza sativa* L) Sri Makmur in Desa Durian, Dusun Makmur. Kecamatan Medang Deras, Kabupaten Batubara.

### Formulation of the problem

1. What are Factors Affect the Dynamics of Farmers' Rice Fields in Sri Makmur Research Areas?
2. How is the Relation of the Agriculture Extension Program to the Dynamic of Sri Makmur Farmer Group?

### B. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a case study method (case study), which is research conducted by looking directly at the field, because case study is a method that describes the type of research about a particular object for a certain period of time, or a phenomenon found in a place that is not necessarily the same as the area another.

The research area was determined by the purposive method. This research was conducted in Desa Durian Dusun Makmur Kecamatan Medang Deras Kabupaten Batubara using the purposive or deliberate method. The selection of this area because a lot of Desa Durian Dusun Makmur pursue Rice Cultivation.

The research sample was taken by Saturated Sampling (Census) method. According to (Sugiyono, 2016) Saturated Samples are sample

determination techniques if all members of the population are used as samples. So the researcher focuses on one farmer group, Sri Makmur, which is located in Desa Durian Dusun Makmur which consists of 54 farmers (Sugiyono, 2016).<sup>5</sup>

The data collected in this study consisted of primary data and secondary data. Analyzing problem I used qualitative descriptive analysis that is to provide a clear and in-depth description of problem information interpreted according to the results of research conducted based on theoretical support related to the object of research analyzed using a Likert scale with levels, 1 (Not Dynamic), 2 (Less Dynamic), 3 (Dynamic). Where **Dynamic** says (if the group dynamics pattern continues to change and develop activities in the group), and it is said to be **Less Dynamic** (if the group dynamics pattern changes slightly and develops actively in groups), it is said **Not Dynamic** (if the group dynamics pattern does not change and active development in groups). Data generated from a Likert scale in this analysis, it will be known the ability of each variable measurement concept. Furthermore, to find out the dynamics of the group, the calculation is done by summing each score of the elements of the group dynamics (Awar, et al, 2013).<sup>6</sup>

Based on the highest score, three categories are created, **Dynamic, Less Dynamic, and Not Dynamic** with the interval value (class) which will be determined from the reduction between the maximum score minus the minimum score divided by the number of categories.

According to (Junaedi, 2012) mathematically the group dynamics class interval is:

$$i = \frac{a - b}{k}$$

Description:

i = Class Interval

a = Maximum Score Total

b = Minimum Score Total

k = Number of Classes (Junaedi, 2012).<sup>7</sup>

Analyzing problem II used a Likert Scale data analysis. Where the results of the Likert Scale are calculated using Spearman Correlation Test using SPSS 19. Correlation Test aims to examine the relationship between two variables that can be seen from a significant level. By using this spearman correlation test to determine the relationship between agricultural extension programs to the dynamics of Sri Makmur farmer groups.

According to (Sujarweni, V.W 2015) the decision criteria of the spearman correlation test are:

- If Sig > 0.05 then Ho is accepted meaning there is no relationship.

- If Sig <0.05 then Ha is rejected meaning there is a relationship (Sujarweni, 2015).<sup>8</sup>

## - RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Factors Affecting the Dynamics of Sri Makmur Farmer Groups

From the results of research that has been done in the field, it can be seen that the dynamics of the Sri Farmers group are poor. Where to

complete this using the Likert Scale method which is analyzed using Qualitative Descriptive. The following are Distribution Tables of Farmer Groups According to the Elements of the Dynamics of the Sri Makmur Farmers Group in Desa Durian DusunMakmurKecamatanMedangDerasKabupaten Batubara.

Table 1. Distribution of Farmer Groups According to the Dynamics Elements of Sri Makmur Farmers Group in Desa Durian, DusunMakmur,Kecamatan. MedangDeras, Kabupaten. Batubara.

Variable	Category	Score	Number of Farmer Group	Percentage (%)
Group Goals	Dynamic	8 – 10	13	24,08
	Less Dynamic	5 – 7	29	53,70
	Not Dynamic	2 – 4	12	22,22
Amount			54	100
Group Cohesiveness	Dynamic	6 – 7	11	20,37
	Less Dynamic	4 – 5	23	42,59
	Not Dynamic	2 – 3	20	37,04
Amount			54	100
Group Structure	Dynamic	9 – 11	19	35,18
	Less Dynamic	6 – 8	15	27,78
	Not Dynamic	3 – 5	20	37,04
Amount			54	100
Group Task Function	Dynamic	10 -13	15	27,78
	Less Dynamic	6 – 9	31	57,40
	Not Dynamic	2 - 5	8	14,82
Amount			54	100
Group Development and Maintenance	Dynamic	6 – 7	8	14,82
	Less Dynamic	4 – 5	26	48,15
	Not Dynamic	2 – 3	20	37,03
Amount			54	100
Group Atmosphere	Dynamic	8 – 10	30	55,56
	Less Dynamic	5 - 7	20	37,03
	Not Dynamic	2 – 4	4	7,41
Amount			54	100
Group Effectiveness	Dynamic	10 – 13	25	46,29
	Less Dynamic	6 – 9	26	48,15
	Not Dynamic	2 – 5	3	5,56
Amount			54	100
Group Pressure	Dinamis	10 -13	23	42,59
	KurangDinamis	6 - 9	21	38,89
	TidakDinamis	2 – 5	10	18,52
Amount			54	100
Covert Purposes	Dynamic	6 – 7	15	27,78
	Less Dynamic	4 – 5	20	37,03
	Not Dynamic	2 – 3	19	35,19
Amount			54	100

Source: Primary data processed, 2018.

From the table above it is explained as follows: The dynamics of the Less Dynamic Farmer Group elements are as follows:

#### 1. Group Purpose

In prosperous Sri Makmur farmer groups that are prosperous, Desadurian found that Sri

Makmur farmer group of the goal variables studied by the researcher was **Less Dynamic** at a score of 5–7 totaling 29 people with a percentage of 53.70%. This explains that more than half of the members of the farmer group are not aware of the objectives of Sri Makmur farmer group. Based on the information obtained in the field that members

of the prosperous Sri Makmur farmer group who do not know about the goals of the farmer group are because members rarely attend meetings or meetings made by group administrators and are less compliant about group goals made by the group. There are also group goal variables that are dynamically categorized with a score of 8-10 totaling 13 people with a percentage of 24.08%. This explains that there are some members of the farmer group who know about the purpose of Sri Makmur farmer group. Based on the information obtained in the field, the members of the prosperous Sri Makmur farmer group who know about the goals of the farmer group are members' contributions to the group, both attending meetings and other meetings related to the group and members strongly adhering to and implementing group goals made by the group. In the same time there is also a group goal variable which is **Not Dynamic** in the score 2-4 totaling 12 people with a percentage of 22.22%. This explains that there are some members of the farmer group who have no idea about the purpose of Sri Makmur farmer group. Based on the information obtained in the field, the members of Sri Makmur farmer group who have no knowledge of the objectives of the farmer group are the absence of member contributions to the group and never follow the activities made by the group.

## 2. Group cohesiveness

Sri Makmur farmer group in the prosperous hamlet, Desa durian found that Sri Makmur farmer group from the group compactness variables studied by the researcher was **Less Dynamic** in the score 4-5 totaling 23 people with a percentage of 42.59%. This explains that almost half of the members of the farmer group lack cohesiveness between members and group managers. Based on the information obtained in the field, the members of the Sri Makmur Farmer Group from the group cohesiveness variable are **Less Dynamic** because of the lack of contribution of members in the group, causing a lack of sense of unity and unity, a sense of belonging, respect, trust, and lack of cooperation in groups. There are also **Dynamic** categories with scores of 6-7 totaling 11 people with a percentage of 20.37%. This explains that there are some members of Sri Makmur farmer group undergoing good group cohesion relationships. Based on the information obtained in the field that the members of the prosperous Sri Makmur farmer group were found there were some good relations and cohesiveness towards the group management, this was due to good interaction with the group, the existence of members' agreement on group goals and the existence of good treatment or attitude among members and group administrator. There are also categories that are **not Dynamic** in scores 2-3 totaling 20 people, with a Percentage of

37.04%. This shows that there are some members of Sri Makmur farmer group who do not establish good group cohesion relationships. Based on the information obtained in the field that there are some members who are **Not Dynamic** in group cohesiveness, this is due to the absence of member contributions in the group as well as the absence of agreement and understanding of members towards the group's goals so that there is no sense of unity and unity, a sense of belonging, respect, trust, and there is no cooperation in the group.

## 3. Group Task Function

Sri Makmur farmer groups in the Desadurian found that Sri Makmur farmer group of the group function variables examined by the researcher was **Less Dynamic** at a score of 6-9 totaling 31 people with a percentage of 57.40%. This explains that more than half the members of the farmer group do not understand the group task function. Based on information obtained in the field that the lack of participation of members in group assignment, as well as the lack of a group structure that involves members so that some members do not contribute to the tasks and problem-solving in groups. There are also **Dynamic** categories in scores of 10-13 totaling 15 people with a percentage of 27.78%. This explains that there are some group members who are aware of group task functions. Based on the information obtained in the field that there is participation of members in the group so that the group administrator always informs / coordinates information about the group and there are members who always give ideas / ideas about the group's progress. And there are also categories that are **not Dynamic** in scores of 2-5 totaling 8 people with a percentage of 14.82%. This shows that there are some group members who do not understand the functions of the farmer group. Based on the information obtained from the field that the absence of group members is involved in the group structure so that members do not have duties, status, and authority within the group that causes members to have no contribution and provides ideas or ideas to the group.

## 4. Group Development and Maintenance

Sri Makmur farmer groups in Desa durian found that Sri Makmur farmer group from the group development and maintenance variables studied by the researchers was **Less Dynamic** in the score 4-5 totaling 26 people with a percentage of 48.15%. This explains that there are some members of the Sri Makmur farmers group who do not understand group development and maintenance. Based on the information obtained in the field that the group members are not comprehensive in the assignment of tasks, authority, and status within the group structure, it causes a lack of participation of

members in the group due to lack of division of tasks within the group. And there is a **Dynamic** category in the score of 6-7 totaling 8 people with a percentage of 14.82%. This explains that there are some group members and administrators such as chairmen, secretaries, and group treasurers who understand group development and maintenance. Based on information obtained in the field that there are some members of the group who establish communication between members and administrators of a good group, the same purpose in the group that has been agreed upon, the existence of respect in the group that creates a sense of wanting to fight and maintain the group well and participation group members towards the group. There are also categories that are **not Dynamic** in scores 2-3 totaling 20 people with a percentage of 37.03%. This shows that some members of the Sri Makmur farmer group do not understand the elements of group development and election. Based on the information obtained in the field that no member has ever joined the group so that there is no sense of wanting to develop and maintain groups because there are some groups that cannot be invited to discuss in the group and there is no understanding between members and group managers, and the absence of norms or rules made in groups for members who break it.

#### 5. Group Effectiveness

Sri Makmur farmer groups that are in Desadurian found that Sri Makmur farmer group of the group effectiveness variables investigated by the researcher was **Less Dynamic** in the score 6-9 totaling 26 people with a percentage of 48.15%. This shows that almost half of the members did not understand the effectiveness in the group. Based on information obtained in the field that there are some members who are less active in the group so that there is less activity in the form of meetings and making ideas or ideas so that the group can progress and develop and can achieve the goals made by the group. There are also **Dynamic** categories in scores of 10-13, totaling 25 people, with a percentage of 46.29%. This shows that there are some members understand about group effectiveness. Based on information obtained from the field that some members are very enthusiastic to make activities in the group in the form of discussion or meeting in the group and there are targets designed in the group and create ideas or ideas in the group so that group goals can be realized properly. And there are also categories that are **Not Dynamic** in scores of 2-5, totaling 3 people, with a percentage of 5.56%. This shows that there are some group members who do not understand the effectiveness of the group. Based on the information obtained in the field that there are some group members who do not participate in making activities or meetings in groups so that the

group will not progress and develop according to what is desired in the group because members do not care about the group.

#### 6. Covert Purpose

Sri Makmur farmer group which is located in Desa Durian found that Sri Makmur farmer group of the hidden intention variables studied by the researcher was **Less Dynamic** in the score 4-5, totaling 20 people, with a percentage of 37.03%. This shows that there are some group members who do not know the hidden purpose in the group. Based on the information obtained in the field that there are some group members who have a covert or cover-up purpose and there are also group members who do not cover up about assistance or others. Here there is fraud which is detrimental to the side of the party in order to benefit from the group. There are also **Dynamic** categories in the score 6-7, totaling 15 people, with a percentage of 27.78%. This shows that there are some group members who know the hidden purpose in the group. Based on the information obtained in the field that there are members of the group that have no cheating that is closed to the group when there is assistance or information about assistance or others to promote prosperous farming groups merely. And there are also categories that are **Not Dynamic** in scores 2-3 totaling 19 people with a percentage of 35.19%. This shows that there is cheating from the group management who cover up to the group members both about assistance information and others as well as the objectives that are not in accordance with the group goals set by the group.

The dynamical elements of the dynamic farmer groups are:

##### 1. Group atmosphere

Sri Makmur farmer group which is located in Desa Durian found that the prosperous Sri Makmur farmer group of the group atmosphere variables examined by the researcher is **dynamic** in the score 8-10 totaling 30 people with a percentage of 55.56%. This explains that more than half of the group members know the group atmosphere. Based on the information obtained in the field that there are some group members who are comfortable and calm and familiar to the group administrator. This is because there are some groups that have a contribution in the group and want to live in a comfortable atmosphere in the group and have good cooperation to achieve group goals. There are also categories that are **Less Dynamic** in scores 5-7 totaling 20 people with a percentage of 37.03%. This explains that there are some group members who do not understand the group atmosphere. Based

on information obtained in the field that lack of participation such as group meetings, lack of joining other members so that there are some members who are inferior and less comfortable with the group. And there are also categories that are **Not Dynamic** in the score 2–4, totaling 4 people, with a percentage of 7.41%. This explains that there are some groups who do not know the atmosphere in the group. Based on the information obtained in the field that members never joined the group and never participated in group meetings so that the members were uncomfortable and insecure with other members.

## 2. Group pressure

Sri Makmur farmer group which is located in Desa Durian found that Makmur farmer group from the group pressure variable that was examined by the researcher was **Dynamic** at a score of 10-13 totaling 23 people with a percentage of 42.59%. This explains that almost all members know about group pressure. Based on the information obtained in the field that there is no pressure in the group in the form of rules or norms given to groups for members who violate the rules in the group so that members are comfortable with the group due to lack of restraint of members in the group. There are also categories that are **Less Dynamic** in the score 6–9 totaling 21 people with a percentage of 38.89%. This explains that there are some group members who don't know about group pressure. Based on the information obtained in the field that sometimes there are disputes and conflicts. But conflicts and disputes that occur within the group are only minor problems, such as not receiving suggestions and criticisms from members and dissatisfaction as members towards the achievement of group goals so that some groups are depressed in the group. There is also a category that is said **Not Dynamic** in a score of 2-5, totaling 10 people with a percentage of 18.52%. This explains that there are some groups that do not know about group pressure. Based on the information obtained in the field that there were some group members who felt pressured because of the absence of member participation in contributing to the group.

The elements of **Not Dynamic** farmer

Table 2. Spearman Correlation Output Results Correlations

		Farmer Group Dynamics	Agricultural Extension Program
Spearman's rho	Farmer Group Dynamics	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2-tailed) N	1,000 . 9
	Agricultural Extension Program	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2-tailed) N	-,453 ,221 9
			1,000 . 13

Source :SPSS 19 Output, 2018.

group are Group Structure, In the prosperous Sri Makmur farmer group in the prosperous hamlet, Desa Durian found that Sri farmer group from the group structure variable studied by the researcher **was Not Dynamic** in score 3-5 from 20 with a percentage of 37.04%. This explains that almost some group members do not know the group structure. Based on the information obtained in the field that the Sri Makmur farmer group does have group structures such as the Chairperson, Secretary, and Group Treasurer. But the structure of a good farmer group is to have fields or sections within the group according to the needs of the group. So that group members can contribute to taking a problem or decision in a group. So the structure of the prosperous Sri Makmur farmer group is categorized as **Not Dynamic** because it is not in accordance with the group structure in general. And there are also **Dynamic** categories with a score of 9-11 totaling 19 people with a percentage of 35.18%. This shows that there are members who know about group structure. Based on the information obtained in the field that there are members who volunteered for themselves to help group administrators in coordinating their group members in order to realize dynamism in a particular group of prosperous farming groups. As well as there are also **Less Dynamic** categories in the score 6–8 totaling 15 people with a percentage of 27.78%.

This explains that there are some members who do not know the group structure. Based on the information obtained in the field that lack of participation of members in the taking of tasks, authority and status within the group so that members are not given the opportunity to provide ideas or ideas that are constructive and advance the group.

## Relation of Agriculture Extension Program to Sri Makmur Farmer Group Dynamics.

In the second problem using the Spearman Correlation test that uses the SPSS 19 application. Using the Spearman correlation test to determine whether there is a relationship between agricultural extension programs to the dynamics of Sri Makmur farmer groups. Following is the result of SPSS 19 output using the Spearman Correlation Test.

From the results of the SPSS output above is the data from the Spearman correlation test output. To see the decision criteria of the spearman correlation test are:

- If Sig $\rightarrow$  0.05 then Ho is accepted meaning there is no relationship.
- If Sig $\rightarrow$  < 0.05 then Ha is rejected meaning there is a relationship.

If viewed from the decision criteria, then to see whether there is a relationship between extension agricultural programs to the dynamics of Sri Makmur farmer group can be seen from its Table 3. A cluster of Variable Relations

No.	Interval	Decision
1.	0,00 – 0,20	Means the correlation has a very weak closeness.
2.	0,21 - 0,40	Means the correlation has a weak closeness.
3.	0,41 – 0,70	Means that correlation has strong closeness.
4.	0,71 – 0,90	Means correlation has a very strong closeness.
5.	0,91 – 0,99	Means correlation has a very strong closeness.
6.	1	Means perfect correlation.

Source : Sujarweni, V.W. 2015.

From the value of the correlation coefficient, the value is -0.453. This means that the closeness of the relationship between agricultural extension programs to the dynamics of Sri Makmur farmer groups is said to have a very weak relationship. Even the value is negative.

From the above explanation, it can be seen from the significant value and correlation coefficient, it turns out that it does not have a close relationship between the agricultural extension program and the prosperous farming group dynamics. Based on information obtained in the field that the agricultural extension program only focuses on increasing rice production, controlling pests and diseases, increasing group classes, and meeting the needs of production facilities and infrastructure. While the good dynamics of the farmer groups will grow with the cooperation and transparency in the group, and be free in delivering positive aspirations between the group members and administrators. Whereas group dynamics will be well-formed depending on how the group runs the elements of the dynamics of the farmer group. So the relationship between agricultural extension programs to farmer group dynamics has no relationship.

In the second problem, it was suggested for the next researcher to examine the influence of agricultural extension programs on the dynamics of farmer groups.

### C. CONCLUSIONS

1. The results show that the dynamics of the Sri Makmur farmer group are categorized as **Less Dynamic**. This is because the elements of group dynamics are not going well.
2. Based on the results of the study, it was found that the significant value was 0.221 compared

significant value. From the significant value will be compared with the value of  $\alpha$  (0.05) or 95% confidence level. Where the sig value is obtained with a value of 0.221, while  $\alpha$  is 0.05. So it is obtained below  $0.221 > 0.05$ , so Ho is accepted which means that there is no relationship between agricultural extension programs and Sri Makmur farmer groups.

According to (Sujarweni, V.W. 2015) to see the closeness of the relationship between these two variables can be seen from the table below.

to the  $\alpha$  value of 0.05 or 95% confidence level. So  $0.221 > 0.05$ , so Ho is accepted, meaning that there is no relationship between agricultural extension programs on farmer group dynamics.

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