



Editorial Note

# Evidence to Impact Pathways: Strengthening Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

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This issue features 15 articles, including a commentary and a book review. The research papers are organized into eight thematic clusters, covering topics such as decentralisation, fiscal transfers, and governance; sustainability assessments in agri-food and health; urban tourism analytics; digital health governance and biopolitics; early childhood education systems and enrollment; land use conversion, mining, and carbon stocks; agri-economics and smallholder production and planning systems; and policy overlaps alongside commentary.

The cluster *Decentralisation, Fiscal Transfers, and Governance* offers evidence-based transfer design and district profiling. Examining a multidimensional taxonomy of 403 Indonesian districts, Wardhana argues for performance-based incentives, differentiated sector allocations, and capacity support to align fiscal resources with local needs. Complementing this, Laksana and Ruslan examine East Java's 2018–2024 panel data, finding fiscal capacity and health sector capital expenditure consistently strengthen food security, while spending in economy/education/housing shows inconsistent impacts—pointing to the importance of targeted, adaptive fiscal strategies. Together, these papers emphasize coherence between national transfer rules and local service outcomes.

Three studies focused on *Sustainability Assessments in Agri-Food and Health* by applying multidimensional scaling to assess sustainability across ecological, economic, social, governance, and technological dimensions. In stunting studies (Batu Rakit, North Lombok), Fahmi, Badriyah, and Kartikaningsih report high governance sustainability, moderate social/health performance, and low

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ecological/economic scores—highlighting leverage points like social assistance, sanitation, maternal education, exclusive breastfeeding, and cross-sector coordination. In certified rice seed systems (West Lombok), Jalaweni et al. find a “moderately sustainable” index, with social/technological strengths but economic/ecological weaknesses - recommending market diversification, capacity building, certification reforms, and digital marketing. For Climate Smart Agriculture in Central Lombok, Hasyim, Riniwati, and Atikawati observed high social/ecological/institutional sustainability but weaker technological/economic dimensions, implying that adoption support and viable income pathways are needed to stabilize CSA implementation.

For the *Digital Health Governance and Biopolitics* cluster, Utomo, Wardiyanto, and Budirahayu examined Indonesia’s SatuSehat platform through Foucault’s biopower lens, blending Actor Network Theory and Critical Discourse Analysis. They highlight the tensions between state efficiency narratives and on-ground realities: infrastructure gaps, trust erosion from data breaches, and risks of digital exclusion. The paper argues for robust data protection, transparency, and inclusive design to prevent algorithmic governance from deepening inequities—key guidance for health informatics policy.

Working on *Early Childhood Education Systems and Enrollment*, Kusumah evaluates the One Village, One ECE campaign (2019–2024) using pooled, fixed effects, and random effects models. The study finds that local political commitment alone does not raise gross enrollment; instead, infrastructure expansion, local ECE budgets, and social assistance (PKH) drive gains. The conclusion supports shifting from campaign-style mobilization to systemic implementation, aligning with Indonesia’s move toward 13 years of compulsory education (1 pre-primary + 12 years primary/secondary).

Examining the linkages of *Land Use Conversion, Mining, and Carbon Stocks*, Nur Allisa, Meidiana, and Sutikno quantify and map Samarinda’s decadal land cover change (2014–2024) with GIS/remote sensing and the ICLEI carbon calculator. Mining areas expanded significantly, contributing zero biomass carbon; plantation forests, shrubs, and secondary swamp forests sharply declined, dragging down total carbon stock. Policy implications include reclamation mandates, zoning in RTRW, and exploration of carbon mineralization to offset losses.

Sambuo and Kasagama examined *Agri Economics and Smallholder Production* in Tanzania by analyzing technical, social, and economic determinants for 218 smallholder poultry farmers. Positive influences include experience, family size, self-prepared feeds, stocking density (strongest), and technology level; negatives are feed costs and chick quality. Recommendations span improved breeds, circular economy (waste to fertilizer), and policy support for markets and pricing—transferable lessons for smallholder resilience in similar contexts.

In *Unraveling Policy Overlaps in Indonesia’s National Development Planning System (SPPN)*, Arsal, Noor, and Hidayati examine policy overlaps across SPPN, the Government Performance Accountability System (SAKIP), and the performance-based budgeting mechanism. The paper highlights well-known institutional silos, goal ambiguity, and decoupled performance regimes that undermine coherence and subnational outcomes. Although not an empirical clustering study, it thematically aligns with Cluster A’s governance focus and offers a reform agenda centered on integration and inter-ministerial coordination.

Finally, in *From Data to Policy: Using Spatial Clustering and Digital Sentiment for Urban Tourism Planning*, Rojabi, Yudono, and Wahid Hasyim employ machine learning to analyze spatial patterns of artificial tourist attractions and extract key visitor concerns to inform urban tourism planning in Batu City, Indonesia.