



The Impact of Rice Imports on The Welfare of Local Farmers: An Islamic Economic Ethics Perspektif (2023 – 2025)

Ainol Yaqin¹, Nur Wahidatul Istiqomah^{1,*}, Azizi Abu Bakar³

¹ Faculty of Islamic Religion, Sharia economics Study Program, Nurul Jadid University, Paiton, Indonesia
Jl. PP Nurul Jadid, Dusun Tj. Lor, Karanganyar, Kec. Paiton, 67291, Kabupaten Probolinggo, Jawa Timur, Indonesia

² Islamic Bussines School (IBS), University Utara Malaysia (UUM), Kedah, Malaysia
Sintok, Bukit Kayu Hitam, 06010, Kedah, Malaysia

Email: ¹ainolyaqin1991@unuja.ac.id, ^{2,*}nurwahidatul66@gmail.com, ³abazizi@uum.edu

Email Penulis Korespondensi: nurwahidatul66@gmail.com

Abstract—This study analyses the impact of rice import policies on the welfare of local farmers in East Java from the perspective of Islamic economic ethics. As a national rice barn province, East Java faces a paradox between increasing productivity and economic pressure due to massive rice imports. Using a descriptive qualitative approach with case studies and systematic literature review, this research finds that rice imports aimed at stabilizing national prices actually suppress grain prices at the farm level, erode income, and create unfair competition between local and imported rice. Data shows that although East Java's rice production increased in 2023-2025, the national import volume reaching 4.52 million tons in 2024 significantly impacted the decline in farmers' bargaining power. From the perspective of Islamic economic ethics, this policy is evaluated based on the principles of justice (al-'adl), benefit (maslahah), and the prohibition of causing harm (la dharar wa la dhirar). The results of normative analysis indicate that rice import policies potentially contradict Islamic values when they neglect protection for farmers as a vulnerable group and guardians of food security. This study recommends the need for import policies oriented toward balance between national price stability and distributive justice, with strengthening state intervention through fair government purchase prices and import restrictions during the main harvest season.

Keywords: Rice Import; Farmer Welfare; Islamic Economic Ethics

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's era of globalization, Indonesia's agricultural sector particularly rice production faces various dynamics of international trade policy that also influence domestic economic conditions. Although Indonesia is one of the world's largest rice producers, it continues to import rice to address production deficits, stabilize prices, and meet national food needs when domestic production is deemed insufficient to meet domestic demand. This import policy is implemented to maintain national food security, but it has different implications for the primary stakeholders in the agricultural sector namely, local farmers (Sofi & Audri, 2025).

Developments in rice import policies at the national and regional levels are inextricably linked to a long-standing debate regarding their impact on food security and the welfare of local farmers. Several studies indicate that imports can help maintain price stability and food supply in the short term, but in the long term may create dependence on international markets, thereby depressing local paddy prices and reducing farmers' incomes. In East Java, as one of the major agricultural provinces in rice production, the phenomenon of rice imports is an important topic for in-depth study, given that farmers in this region are vulnerable to price fluctuations and price competition from imported rice (Widayanti et al., 2022).

The first issue that arises is the inconsistency between rice import policies which aim to ensure food security and the reality that these measures actually worsen the well-being of local farmers by driving down rice prices at the farm level (Sofi & Audri, 2025). This raises an important ethical question: Have import policies taken into account aspects of justice, public benefit, and social welfare in accordance with the principles of Islamic economic ethics? From an Islamic economic perspective, economic policies must be grounded in the principles of justice (adl), public interest (maslahah), and the protection of the vulnerable, including farmers as integral members of local economic communities who play a vital role in national food security.

Numerous studies indicate that the socioeconomic conditions of local farmers are significantly influenced by Indonesia's rice import policies. (Sofi & Audri, 2025) found that the massive volume of rice imports actually puts downward pressure on local rice prices, thereby reducing farmers' incomes even though the imports were intended to stabilize the national rice supply. When domestic production declines or is insufficient and imported rice enters the market at lower prices, farmers find it difficult to compete in the local market. This study provides an empirical picture of the market pressures faced by farmers due to the liberalization of trade in food commodities such as rice in Indonesia.

Evidence of the detrimental impact of imports on farmers' well-being was also highlighted by (Kusumastuti et al., 2024), which indicates that the surge in rice imports over the past five years has impacted the competitiveness of rice farmers. Imported rice sold at low prices creates unfair competition with local production. As a result, farmers who support domestic production face economic pressure and struggle to sell their harvests at fair prices. These findings are significant as empirical evidence of the impact of import policies on the well-being of national rice farmers.

A study conducted by (Aziza et al., 2024) expanding on this context, particularly in East Java, through a case study in Jember Regency. The results show that government rice imports intended to ensure food security have actually caused a decline in local paddy prices, thereby harming local farmers. This study employs a qualitative approach through



interviews and direct observation, thereby providing a contextual perspective on how global market mechanisms and trade policies can undermine the well-being of local farmers.

In addition, research on price stability and food security by (Jurnal & Mea, 2025) argues that while imports can help maintain the stability of the rice supply when domestic production declines, this policy may also discourage local farmers from increasing their production and lead them to become increasingly dependent on foreign markets. Therefore, to safeguard farmers' well-being in the long term, a more comprehensive policy is needed one that not only meets national stock requirements but also enhances farmers' productivity and competitiveness.

From a broader ethical and economic perspective, other literature such as (Alkahfi et al., 2025) indicates that imports are permissible from the perspective of Islamic economics as long as they comply with the principles of social justice and the welfare of society as a whole, and do not involve usury or uncertainty. This perspective is important because it establishes a normative foundation for the idea that import regulations should be based on technical and ethical considerations in economics, with farmers as the primary stakeholders.

Although numerous studies have examined the impact of rice import policies on food price stability and farmers welfare, most of these studies primarily focus on macroeconomic perspectives, international trade, and national food security policies (Setiawati et al., 2024). Empirical studies integrating the impact of rice imports on local farmers' welfare with the perspective of Islamic economic ethics remain limited, particularly in East Java as one of Indonesia's largest rice-producing regions (Hakim et al., 2021). Furthermore, previous studies have generally employed conventional economic approaches and have not comprehensively analyzed rice import policies using the principles of justice (*al-'adl*), public interest (*maslahah*), and the objectives of Islamic law (*maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*) (Natari Manik Manik et al., 2024). Therefore, a research gap exists in integrating empirical economic analysis with Islamic ethical perspectives to evaluate the implications of rice import policies (Alim et al., 2025).

The motivation for this research stems from the need to examine the impact of rice import policies not only from the perspective of general economic pros and cons, but also through the lens of Islamic economic ethics, which emphasizes moral values, justice, and the well-being of society in a more holistic manner. This approach is crucial for assessing whether the implemented policies align with the objectives of Islamic law in fostering the welfare of the community and preventing harm to vulnerable groups, such as local farmers (Qayyimah & Huda, 2024).

The novelty of this study lies in the integration of an analysis of rice import policies with the perspective of Islamic economic ethics through the *maqāṣid al-syarī'ah* approach in evaluating their impact on the welfare of local farmers in East Java. Unlike previous studies, which have focused more on analyzing economic factors, trade policies, price stability, and food security without integrating a *maqāṣid al-syarī'ah*-based evaluation framework to assess farmers' well-being (Setiawati et al., 2024). This study combines the analysis of the latest secondary data on rice production, import volumes, paddy prices, and farmer welfare indicators with the principles of distributive justice (*al-'adl*), public interest (*maslahah*), and the protection of property (*hifz al-māl*) as part of the objectives of Sharia. This approach offers a more comprehensive perspective because it assesses policy effectiveness not only from an economic standpoint but also in terms of social justice and public welfare, as emphasized in Islamic economics. Thus, this study is expected to make a conceptual contribution to the development of Islamic economic studies while generating policy recommendations for rice imports that are fairer, more sustainable, and supportive of local farmers' welfare (Muharir et al., 2025).

2. RESEARCH METHODS

2.1 Research Design

This study adopts a descriptive qualitative approach using a library research design (Sosial & Qolam, 2025). The qualitative approach was selected because the study aims to obtain an in-depth understanding of the impact of rice import policies on farmers' welfare through the interpretation of scientific literature, official reports, government regulations, and public policy documents (Creswell, n.d.). Furthermore, the study incorporates the perspective of Islamic economic ethics to provide a normative evaluation of government policies (Yasmansyah & Sesmiarni, 2021).

2.2 Data Sources

The study relies exclusively on secondary data obtained from credible academic and institutional sources (Adlini et al., 2022). These sources include peer-reviewed national and international journal articles, scholarly books, publications issued by Statistics Indonesia (BPS), reports from the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Food Agency, national rice trade reports, and other government policy documents (Adlini et al., 2022) (Resma Wahyuni, Firdaus L.N, Riki Apriyandi Putra, Mariani Natalina Linggasari, Putri Adita Wulandara, 2025). In addition, Islamic sources, including the Qur'an, Hadith, classical and contemporary Islamic economic literature, and studies on *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*, are employed as normative references to evaluate rice import policies from the perspective of Islamic economic ethics (Helim & Suradilaga, 2022). Priority was given to publications published between 2023 and 2025 to ensure that the analysis reflects the most recent developments in rice import policies, food security, and farmers' welfare.





2.3 Data Collection

Data were collected through documentary research and a systematic literature review. Relevant publications were identified using keywords such as rice imports, farmers' welfare, East Java rice production, food security, and Islamic economic ethics. Documents were retrieved from academic databases including Google Scholar, Scopus, and official government websites. Selected documents were screened according to relevance, academic quality, publication year, and their contribution to the research objectives. The collected data were then classified into statistical data, policy documents, and Islamic normative sources.

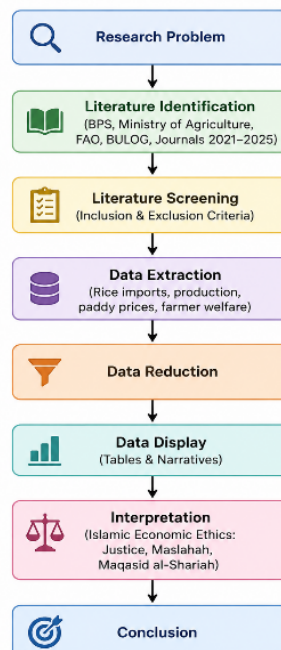
2.4 Data Analysis

The study employed content analysis combined with thematic analysis. The analytical procedures consisted of five stages:

1. Data reduction by selecting relevant documents.
2. Data categorization into themes such as rice import policies, rice production, paddy prices, farmers' welfare, and Islamic economic ethics.
3. Comparative analysis to identify relationships between rice imports and farmers' welfare based on previous empirical findings and official statistics.
4. Normative analysis using Islamic economic principles, including *al-'adl* (justice), *maslahah* (public interest), *tawazun* (balance), *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*, and *lā ḍarar wa lā ḍirār*.
5. Drawing conclusions and formulating policy recommendations.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

This study assumes that rice import policies influence domestic rice market conditions. Imported rice affects paddy prices at the farm level, which subsequently influences farmers' income and welfare. These empirical findings are then evaluated through the principles of Islamic economic ethics, including justice (*al-'adl*), public interest (*maslahah*), balance (*tawazun*), protection of wealth (*ḥifẓ al-māl*), and the prohibition of harm (*lā ḍarar wa lā ḍirār*). The integration of empirical evidence and Islamic ethical principles serves as the basis for proposing more equitable and sustainable rice import policies consistent with the objectives of *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*.



Gambar 1. Conceptual Framework

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Research Results

Based on an empirical study in Kauman Village, Jember Regency, East Java, it was found that the influx of imported rice from Vietnam and Thailand drove local paddy prices below farmers' production costs. This finding indicates that when imported rice is available in large quantities, local paddy is difficult to sell at a fair price, which directly impacts the



income of local rice farmers. This is consistent with the argument that unbalanced price competition between imported and local rice results in economic losses for farmers (Aziza et al., 2024).

In addition to reducing paddy prices, rice imports also influence the price formation mechanism at the farmer level (Felisia Wati Delta Fika et al., 2025) (Fadilah et al., 2025). When imported rice enters the market during the domestic harvesting season, traders tend to purchase local paddy at lower prices because imported rice becomes an alternative source of supply (Felisia Wati Delta Fika et al., 2025). Consequently, farmers lose their bargaining position in the marketing process (Fadilah et al., 2025). This finding indicates that rice import policies affect not only trade activities but also income distribution among farming households (Zega & Hakim, 2024). In the long run, such conditions may reduce farmers' motivation to continue rice cultivation and consequently threaten the sustainability of domestic food production (Hutagalung et al., 2026).

Another analysis conducted by (Widayanti et al., 2022) This indicates that although East Java has historically had higher rice production than regional consumption, the government continues to import rice to stabilize prices and food stocks. This finding suggests that imports are not solely due to production shortfalls, but rather stem from stabilization policies that can impact local farmers' bargaining power regarding the price of their paddy.

These findings indicate that the issue of rice imports in Indonesia is not solely related to limitations in domestic production. East Java has consistently recorded rice production that exceeds regional consumption needs, meaning it is theoretically capable of producing a rice surplus. Nevertheless, the government continues to import rice as a tool for stabilizing national prices. This suggests that import policy is influenced more by considerations of national stock management, food inflation control, and the need to anticipate supply disruptions than by production conditions in major food-producing regions.

A study published in JINTAN (2024) (Kusumastuti et al., 2024) This supports previous findings by demonstrating that imported rice entering the market at lower prices than local rice creates unfair competition, making it difficult for local farmers to sell their harvest at a fair price. This implication is understood as one of the factors contributing to the inability of local farmers to maintain their economic well-being amid rice trade policies.

The analysis shows that the impact of imports is not only felt at the microeconomic level in the form of lower paddy prices, but also affects the rural socioeconomic structure. Declining farmer incomes reduce households' ability to meet production needs for the next planting season, such as the purchase of seeds, fertilizers, and other production inputs. This situation can trigger a cycle of declining productivity if it is not offset by price protection policies or production subsidies.

Table 1. Table of Statistical Analysis Results on the Impact of Rice Imports (Indonesia / East Java)

Indicator	Period/Source	Data/Findings	Impact on Farmers	References
Rice Prices at the Farmer Level in East Java	Jember Research	The selling price of paddy has dropped significantly with the influx of imported rice	This is reducing local farmers' income	(Aziza et al., 2024)
Rice Production vs. Consumption in East Java	JEFMS (not limited to 5 years)	East Java's production exceeds consumption, yet imports continue	This indicates price/stabilization policies, not production needs	(Widayanti et al., 2022)
Overview of Rice Imports & Local Competitiveness	JINTAN Analysis (2024)	Lower-priced rice imports struggle to compete	Reducing sales of local paddy	(Kusumastuti et al., 2024)
Factors Affecting Rice Imports in East Java	Factors Affecting East Java Imports (2022)	Despite a production surplus, East Java continues to import rice	Price and consumption trends influence imports	(Zamahzari, 2023)

Based on Table 1, all previous studies show a relatively consistent pattern of findings. Rice import policies do contribute to the stability of the national supply, but at the same time put pressure on paddy prices at the farmer level. In other words, consumers benefit more from these policies through price stability, while producers face a decline in income due to lower paddy selling prices.

Table 2. Statistical Table – Rice Production and Rice Imports (2023–2025)

Year	Rice Harvest Area in East Java (million ha)	Rice Production in East Java (GKG) (million tons)	Rice Production in East Java (million tons)	Rice Production in East Java (million tons)	Paddy Price (East Java) (estimate / average)
2023	~1.698	~9.71	~5.61	~3.5 (estimasi)	TBD ¹
2024	~1.62	~9.27	~5.35	4.52	~Rp6.589/kg ³
2025	~1.84	~10.53	~6.08	~0.364 ⁴	TBD ¹

Source: Processed from BPS, National Food Agency, and Ministry of Agriculture (2023–2025).





Table 2 presents the descriptions of the variables used in this study. Rice Production (GKG) refers to *Milled Dry Paddy*, which represents the total amount of harvested paddy that is ready for the milling process. Furthermore, rice production is converted from GKG into tons of consumable rice to better reflect actual rice availability for public consumption. Rice Imports in Indonesia are measured based on the latest national statistical data to capture the volume of imported rice entering the domestic market. Meanwhile, Paddy Price in East Java refers to the officially published producer prices of paddy in East Java, which serve as an indicator of price movements at the producer level.

According to Table 2, the rice harvest area in East Java Province is projected to increase in 2025 to approximately 1.84 million hectares compared to the previous year. This increase in harvest area is accompanied by a rise in milled dry paddy (GKG) production to approximately 10.53 million metric tons, representing an increase of about 13–14% compared to 2024. This trend indicates an increase in the productivity of the rice farming sector in East Java, supported by favorable climatic conditions, improvements in cultivation technology, and government policies aimed at boosting food production.

When converted to rice for consumption, East Java's rice production in 2025 is projected to reach approximately 6.08 million metric tons, higher than the 5.35 million metric tons in 2024 and the 5.61 million metric tons in 2023. This production far exceeds the estimated consumption needs of the people of East Java, which range from 3.6 to 4.0 million metric tons per year, meaning that, overall, East Java still has a rice surplus.

On the other hand, Indonesia continued to import large quantities of rice throughout 2024, reaching approximately 4.52 million metric tons, before declining to about 364,000 metric tons during January–October 2025. This decline in import volume indicates an improvement in domestic production conditions. Nevertheless, imports continue as a strategy to maintain the government's rice reserves and to anticipate potential production disruptions caused by climate change or the El Nino phenomenon.

Although East Java's rice production is in surplus, data on unhusked rice prices show that the average price at the farmer level in 2024 approximately Rp6,589/kg continues to fluctuate due to dynamics in both domestic and international markets. This situation indicates that increased production does not necessarily lead to improved farmer welfare if the selling price of the harvest comes under pressure due to the influx of imported rice.

The statistical agency has recorded a positive trend in East Java's agricultural sector throughout 2025. Compared to 2024 and 2023, there has been a significant increase in both the harvested area and the production volume of rice in the form of milled dry paddy (GKG). These figures reflect the success of the hard work by farmers in this region, which is known as one of Indonesia's primary rice-producing areas. This increase in productivity serves as a valuable asset for national food security and is a testament to the vitality of the agricultural sector in the region (B. P. Statistik & Timur, 2025).

According to import volume data, Indonesia recorded significant rice imports throughout 2024, totaling approximately 4.52 million tons. This large import volume positioned Indonesia as one of the world's largest rice importers during that period. This data reflects the country's high dependence on international markets to meet domestic food needs amid various domestic production challenges (Muhammad, n.d.). Meanwhile, data for January–October 2025 shows that rice imports totaled approximately 364,300 tons, indicating a downward trend compared to the previous year (Andrianto, Robertus, n.d.).

The East Java Provincial Statistics Agency (BPS) has released statistics on paddy producer prices for the 2023 and 2024 periods through its official publication. The data reveals that the average price of paddy in East Java throughout 2024 was recorded at Rp6,589 per kilogram. This information holds strategic value for policymakers and academics, as it serves as a key foundation for measuring fluctuations in farmers' income and evaluating their welfare levels amid market dynamics and national rice policies (*STATISTIK HARGA PRODUSEN GABAH*, 2025).

Overall, the results of the document analysis indicate that there is a fairly strong relationship between rice import policies, changes in unhusked rice prices, and the welfare of farmers in East Java. Although imports play a role in maintaining national supply stability, such policies have the potential to depress local unhusked rice prices when implemented during the peak harvest season. Therefore, an evaluation of import policies must consider the balance between consumer interests, national food stability, and the protection of farmers' welfare as the primary food producers.

3.2 Discussion

East Java holds a strategic position within the national food security system due to its consistent and significant contribution to Indonesia's rice production. With a landscape dominated by productive agricultural land, supported by technical irrigation infrastructure, and a strong agrarian tradition, the province serves as the nation's primary food basket. East Java's rice production not only meets regional consumption needs but also serves as a supply buffer for other provinces, particularly urban areas and regions with food deficits. Therefore, the stability of the agricultural sector in East Java has direct implications for national food security as a whole (Nursaid et al., 2023).

The rural socioeconomic structure in East Java is heavily dependent on the food crop sector, particularly rice (Oktavia et al., 2016). Most rural households rely on farming activities, post-harvest processing, and the distribution of agricultural products for their livelihoods. This dependence makes farmers a group vulnerable to changes in macroeconomic policies, particularly food trade policies. Farmers' well-being is not only related to production levels but is also significantly influenced by price stability, input costs, and access to fair and sustainable markets. In development economics, the concept of a farmer is understood as a smallholder farmer who has limited access to capital, technology, and markets. Smallholder farmers are a vulnerable group because they are highly dependent on market price fluctuations





and government policies. Within the agricultural value chain, farmers often occupy the weakest position, making them vulnerable to losses when market distortions occur, including those resulting from import policies.

In the context of regional development, the well-being of farmers in East Java is often used as an indicator of the success of inclusive economic development. However, the dominance of small-scale and traditional agriculture leaves farmers with weak bargaining power within the food value chain. When rice import policies are implemented, the impact is felt more acutely in East Java because the large volume of local production directly competes with imported rice supplies. This situation puts pressure on domestic paddy prices, particularly during the peak harvest season, causing farmers' incomes to decline even as production increases (Quartina Pudjiastuti et al., 2021). The concept of welfare in economics refers to the level of prosperity of individuals or groups, as measured by income, consumption, and quality of life. In welfare economics, welfare is determined not only by the level of production, but also by income distribution and equitable access to resources.

The influx of imported rice into local markets in East Java has exacerbated price fluctuations and distorted market mechanisms. The falling price of paddy does not match the continuously rising production costs, such as the prices of fertilizer, seeds, and labor. As a result, farmers' real income is eroded and the purchasing power of rural households weakens. The income disparity between the agricultural sector and the industrial and service sectors is widening, primarily because the non-agricultural sector tends to be more adaptive to global market dynamics and trade policies.

In the long term, the pressures on the agricultural sector in East Java have the potential to undermine its role as the nation's breadbasket. If farmers' welfare continues to be neglected, the younger generation's interest in joining the agricultural sector will decline further, triggering a crisis in the recruitment of new farmers. Therefore, national food policies including rice imports must seriously consider their impact on major producing regions such as East Java (Shobur et al., 2025). Strengthening price protection, government procurement of paddy, and increasing agricultural value added are strategic steps to ensure the continued role of East Java in national food security (Widyawati et al., 2025).

Indonesia's rice import policy is a strategic government tool for maintaining price stability and national food security. However, in practice, this policy creates a structural dilemma, particularly for local farmers in East Java, which is one of the country's major rice-producing regions. According to research (B. P. Statistik & Timur, 2025) It has consistently ranked among the top three provinces with the highest rice production. Ironically, despite the regional production surplus, import policies have continued to be implemented during certain periods. This indicates that policy decisions are not solely based on production shortfalls, but rather on price stabilization and the control of food inflation. This situation has weakened farmers' bargaining power when paddy prices fall due to market expectations regarding imported rice.

Indonesia's rice import policy is not based solely on production factors but also takes into account consumption needs and national price stability (Adit Kurniawan et al., 2024). Demographically, East Java Province has a large population of approximately 40 million people, resulting in high annual food demand, particularly for rice. Assuming per capita rice consumption ranges from 90 to 100 kg per year, the province's annual rice demand is estimated to reach approximately 3.6 to 4 million tons.

According to data, (Timur, n.d.) production in 2025 is projected to reach approximately 6.03–6.08 million tons. This indicates that, overall, East Java has a rice production surplus. In fact, rice production in the form of milled rice (GKG) exceeds 10 million tons, reinforcing East Java's position as one of the nation's food baskets (P. J. T. B. P. Statistik, n.d.).

Nevertheless, the government continues to implement import policies on the grounds of maintaining price stability and ensuring national stock availability, particularly to anticipate production fluctuations and distribution disruptions. This situation indicates that rice imports are not solely driven by production shortfalls, but rather serve as a market stabilization mechanism. In the context of East Java, which experiences a production surplus, this policy is paradoxical because it has the potential to depress local paddy prices and reduce farmers' welfare.

Table 3. Indicators of Rice Availability and Production Surplus in East Java Province

Components	Data
Population of East Java	Approx. 40 million people
Per capita consumption	Approx. 90–100 kg/year
Rice demand	± 3.6–4 million tons
Rice production in 2024	± 5.35 million tons
Rice production in 2025	± 6.03–6.08 million tons
Status	→ Surplus

Source: Processed from BPS, National Food Agency, and Ministry of Agriculture (2023–2025).

The concept of imports in international economics refers to the activity of bringing goods from abroad into the country to meet domestic needs that cannot be optimally met by domestic production, or as a tool for market stabilization. From the perspective of classical international trade theories such as comparative advantage, imports are made to obtain goods at a lower cost than domestic production. However, in public policy practice, imports are also used as a tool for government intervention to control inflation and maintain food price stability. According to the report (Report et al.,



2022), Food import policies in developing countries often serve as a price stabilization mechanism, but they can potentially put pressure on domestic producers if not balanced by protective policies.

The results of this study are consistent with the findings of (Aziza et al., 2024), who found that the influx of imported rice led to a decline in paddy prices at the farmer level in Jember Regency. These findings are also consistent with the results of the document analysis in this study, which indicate that although East Java's rice production experienced a surplus during the 2023–2025 period, paddy prices at the farmer level remained under pressure due to import policies aimed at maintaining national price stability. However, this study offers a distinct contribution because it not only analyzes economic aspects but also evaluates import policies based on the principles of justice (al-'adl), public interest (maslahah), and maqāsid al-syarī'ah in Islamic economics.

The findings of this study align with those of (Kusumastuti et al., 2024), who state that lower-priced imported rice leads to unfair competition, thereby reducing producers' surpluses. These results also reinforce the findings of (Sofi & Audri, 2025), who assert that imports play a role in maintaining national price stability but simultaneously weaken farmers' bargaining power. The difference is that this study shows that this phenomenon is particularly pronounced in East Java, which is actually a region with a production surplus. Thus, the main problem lies not in low production but in the distribution mechanism and the timing of imports, which coincide with the peak harvest season.

And in the study (Jurnal & Mea, 2025) states that while imports are indeed effective in maintaining national price stability, they increase dependence on global markets. This dependence exposes the economy to the risk of international price volatility and could threaten the sustainability of domestic production. Therefore, import policies should be viewed as a temporary measure, not a long-term structural solution.

The concept of Islamic economic ethics is based on the principles of justice (al-'adl), public interest (maslahah), and balance (tawazun). Within the framework of maqāsid al-syarī'ah, economic policies must uphold five primary objectives, particularly *hifz al-māl* (protection of property) and *hifz al-nafs* (protection of life). Economic policies that fail to protect vulnerable groups, such as farmers, contradict the principle of equitable distribution in Islam. Therefore, import policies must consider their impact on the welfare of domestic producers so as not to create inequality.

From the perspective of Islamic economics, international trade policies including imports are permitted as long as they do not cause harm and uphold the principle of justice ('adl). Allah SWT states in Surah An-Nisa: 29,

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ إِلَّا أَنْ تَكُونَ تِجَارَةً عَنْ تَرَاضٍ مِنْكُمْ ۚ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُمْ رَحِيمًا ٢٩

Meaning: "O you who believe, do not consume one another's wealth unjustly, except through trade conducted on the basis of mutual consent among you. Do not kill yourselves. Indeed, Allah is Most Merciful to you." This verse serves as a normative foundation that economic activities must not unjustly harm others. If imports cause systemic harm to farmers as the primary food producers, then such policies must be evaluated in terms of their benefits and harms.

Furthermore, the principle of distributive justice is emphasized in Surah Al-Hashr: 7,

مَا أَفَاءَ اللَّهُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْقُرَىٰ فَلِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ وَلِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَآبِنِ السَّبِيلِ ۚ كَيْ لَا يَكُونَ دُولُهُ بَيْنَ الْأَغْنِيَاءِ مِنْكُمْ ۚ وَمَا ءَاتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ ٧

Meaning: "Whatever (wealth obtained without warfare) Allah has bestowed upon His Messenger from the inhabitants of various lands belongs to Allah, the Messenger, the Messenger's relatives, orphans, the poor, and travelers. (This is so) that such wealth does not circulate only among the wealthy among you. Accept whatever the Messenger gives you. Abandon what he forbids you. Fear Allah. Indeed, Allah's punishment is severe." This verse conveys the message that a nation's economic policies must prevent inequality in the distribution of wealth. If import policies benefit large-scale traders while undermining small farmers, then ethically, such policies contradict the principle of fair distribution in Islam. This aligns with the study (Alkahfi et al., 2025) which emphasizes that import policies in an Islamic economy must adhere to the principles of the collective good and the protection of vulnerable groups.

According to the hadith, the Prophet ﷺ He said: "One must not harm oneself, nor must one harm others" (Narrated by Ibn Majah). This principle of *lā dharar wa lā dhirār* serves as a fundamental tenet in Islamic economic ethics. If rice import policies are found to significantly reduce farmers' incomes and threaten the sustainability of agricultural operations, then the state is obligated to implement protective interventions such as setting a fair government purchase price (HPP) or restricting imports during the peak harvest season.

Research (Jurnal & Mea, 2025) indicates that rice imports serve as a stabilization tool during supply crises; however, such policies must be accompanied by efforts to strengthen domestic production to avoid creating structural dependence. From the perspective of maqāsid al-syarī'ah, economic policies must uphold *hifz al-māl* (protection of property) and *hifz al-nafs* (protection of life). The welfare of farmers as food producers is directly linked to these two objectives. Therefore, this discussion emphasizes that rice import policies must be situated within a framework that balances national food security and economic justice for local farmers.

Overall, this discussion shows that rice imports have two sides: national price stabilization and the potential for a decline in the welfare of local farmers. In the context of East Java, which is in fact a surplus-producing region, import policies must take into account the dimensions of distributive justice and the protection of domestic producers. The Islamic economic ethics approach provides a strong normative framework for balancing the need for national food security with the protection of farmers' welfare. Policies oriented toward the public interest and sustainability will be more in line with the principles of fair and inclusive economic development.





4. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that rice import policies have both positive and negative implications for Indonesia's food system. On the one hand, rice imports contribute to maintaining national food security by stabilizing rice availability and controlling price fluctuations, particularly during periods of production uncertainty. On the other hand, empirical findings from the document analysis indicate that the implementation of rice imports, especially when conducted during domestic harvest seasons, exerts downward pressure on paddy prices received by farmers, thereby reducing their income and welfare. This condition is particularly evident in East Java, a province that consistently records a rice production surplus but remains affected by national import policies. The findings also demonstrate that the rationale for rice imports is not merely based on domestic production shortages but is closely related to national food stock management and price stabilization strategies. From the perspective of Islamic economic ethics, such policies should be evaluated based on the principles of justice (*al-'adl*), public interest (*maslahah*), balance (*tawazun*), and the objectives of Islamic law (*maqāsid al-sharī'ah*), ensuring that economic policies do not disadvantage vulnerable groups such as local farmers. Therefore, future rice import policies should be implemented more selectively by considering the timing of imports, domestic production conditions, and stronger protection mechanisms for local farmers to achieve a balance between national food security and farmers' welfare. This study has several limitations. First, it relies exclusively on secondary data obtained from government reports, official statistics, scientific publications, and previous studies without incorporating primary data collected directly from farmers, policymakers, or other stakeholders. Second, the analysis focuses on East Java during the 2023–2025 period, limiting the generalizability of the findings to other provinces with different agricultural and socioeconomic characteristics. Third, this study emphasizes qualitative document analysis and does not employ econometric or quantitative modeling to measure the magnitude of the causal relationship between rice imports and farmers' welfare. Therefore, future research is recommended to integrate primary survey data, in-depth interviews, and quantitative approaches to provide a more comprehensive evaluation of rice import policies from both economic and Islamic ethical perspectives.

REFERENCES

- Adit Kurniawan, F. A., Ramadhani, I., & Fitrie, R. A. (2024). Analisis Pengambilan Keputusan Kebijakan Impor Beras Dalam Konteks Pemenuhan Pangan Nasional Di Indonesia. *Indonesian Journal Of Public Administration Review*, 1(2), 15. <https://doi.org/10.47134/Par.V1i2.2394>
- Adlini, M. N., Dinda, A. H., Yulinda, S., Chotimah, O., & Merliyana, S. J. (2022). Metode Penelitian Kualitatif Studi Pustaka. *Edumaspul: Jurnal Pendidikan*, 6(1), 974–980. <https://doi.org/10.33487/Edumaspul.V6i1.3394>
- Alim, S., Subagiyo, R., & Sholihah, U. (2025). *The Effect Of Harvest Productivity And Rice Harvest Prices On The Welfare Level Of Food Crop Farmers In East Java 2014-2024*. 9(2), 754–766.
- Alkafhi, M. T., Islam, U., Raden, N., Lampung, I., & Lampung, K. B. (2025). *Analisis Pengaruh Luas Lahan Panen , Tingkat Terhadap Impor Beras Di Indonesia Menurut Perspektif Ekonomi Islam Tahun 2011-2023 Terhadap Impor Beras Di Indonesia Menurut Perspektif Ekonomi Islam Tahun 2011-2023*. 3(2).
- Andrianto, Robertus, C. I. (N.D.). *Ri Masih Impor Beras 364 Ribu Ton Senilai Rp2,97 T-Kementan Buka Suara*. Cnbc Indonesia. Retrieved December 1, 2025, From <https://www.cnbciindonesia.com/news/20251201144752-4-690044/Ri-Masih-Impor-Beras-364-Ribu-Ton-Senilai-Rp297-T-Kementan-Buka-Suara>
- Aziza, L., Jember, U., Zidan, M., Jember, U., Oktavia, T., Jember, U., Febriansyah, F., Jember, U., & Jember, K. (2024). *Arus Jurnal Sosial Dan Humaniora (Ajsh)*. 4(1).
- Creswell, J. W. (N.D.). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, And Mixed Method Approaches /*. https://libkoha.alfaisal.edu/cgi-bin/koha/opac-isbdetail.pl?biblionumber=608097&utm_
- Fadilah, R. P., Widayanti, S., & Hendrarini, H. (2025). Impact Of Rice Price Fluctuations On The Welfare Of Paddy Farmers. *Jurnal Teknik Pertanian Lampung (Journal Of Agricultural Engineering)*, 14(4), 1369–1381. <https://doi.org/10.23960/Jtepl.V14i4.1369-1381>
- Felisati Wati Delta Fika, Muhamad Maulana, Ramadhan Agyat Wigunawan, Resha Moniyana Putri, & Mega Mariska. (2025). Analisis Pengaruh Harga Gabah, Impor, Dan Produksi Terhadap Kesejahteraan Petani. *Jurnal Ekonomi Dan Pembangunan Indonesia*, 3(3), 85–100. <https://doi.org/10.61132/Jepi.V3i3.1523>
- Hakim, R., Haryanto, T., & Sari, D. W. (2021). Technical Efficiency Among Agricultural Households And Determinants Of Food Security In East Java, Indonesia. *Scientific Reports*, 11(1), 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1038/S41598-021-83670-7>
- Helim, A., & Suradilaga, A. S. (2022). Penggunaan Metode Maqasid Al-Syari'Ah Sebagai Alat Analisis. *Jurnal Studi Agama Dan Masyarakat*, 18(1), 57–70. <https://doi.org/10.23971/Jsam.V18i1.3925>
- Hutagalung, P., Sembiring, S. A., & Utara, U. S. (2026). *Price Policy , Agrarian Structure , And Rural Welfare : An Ardl Analysis Of Rice Governance*. 3(3), 634–655.
- Jurnal, J., & Mea, I. (2025). *Harga Dan Ketahanan Pangan Di Indonesia (2019-2023) Jimea | Jurnal Ilmiah Mea (Manajemen , Ekonomi , Dan Akuntansi)*. 9(1), 796–811.
- Kusumastuti, A. I., Indriani, S. A., & Febriyanti, T. (2024). Dampak Maraknya Impor Beras Di Indonesia Dalam 5 Tahun Terakhir Terhadap Kesejahteraan Petani Padi. *Jintan : Jurnal Ilmiah Pertanian Nasional*, 4(1), 78–88. <https://doi.org/10.30737/Jintan.V4i1.5312>
- Muhammad, N. (N.D.). *New Record: Indonesia's Rice Imports Reach 4.5 Million Tons In 2024*. Databoks. Retrieved August 28, 2025, From <https://databoks.katadata.co.id/en/agroindustry/statistics/68afe0e4e7fad/new-record-indonesias-rice-imports-reach-45-million-tons-in-2024>
- Muharrir, M., Hanafi, S. M., & Soehadha, M. (2025). Reciprocity And The Values Of Maqasid Sharia Among Muslim Transmigrant Farmers From Java In Strengthening Agricultural Economics. *Journal Of Islamic Economics Lariba*, 11(2), 879–912.





<https://doi.org/10.20885/jielariba.Vol11.Iss2.Art9>

- Natari Manik Manik, F., Harahap, I., & Ahmadi Bi Rahmani, N. (2024). The Influence Of Rice Production, Rice Prices, Exchange Value On Rice Imports Islamic Perspective Review. *Dinasti International Journal Of Economics, Finance & Accounting*, 5(4), 4595–4609. <https://doi.org/10.38035/Dijefa.V5i4.3352>
- Nursaid, N., Smith, Z., & Dhakal, A. (2023). Development Of Islamic Economics And Practices In Indonesia (2013-2023): Opportunities And Challenges. *Revenue Journal: Management And Entrepreneurship*, 1(1), 51–63. <https://doi.org/10.61650/Rjme.V1i1.323>
- Oktavia, H., Hanani, N., & Suhartini, S. (2016). Peran Sektor Pertanian Dalam Pembangunan Ekonomi Di Provinsi Jawa Timur (Pendekatan Input-Output). *Habitat*, 27(2), 72–84. <https://doi.org/10.21776/Ub.Habitat.2016.027.2.9>
- Qayyimah, F. M., & Huda, N. (2024). Analisis Kebijakan Impor Di Indonesia Menurut Perspektif Islam. 10(02), 1789–1795.
- Quartina Pudjiastuti, A., Mekse Korri Arisena, G., & Keswari Krisnandika, A. A. (2021). Rice Import Development In Indonesia. *Soca: Jurnal Sosial, Ekonomi Pertanian*, 15(2), 390. <https://doi.org/10.24843/Soca.2021.V15.I02.P14>
- Report, B., Global, O. N., & Markets, F. (2022). Food Outlook – Biannual Report On Global Food Markets. In *Food Outlook – Biannual Report On Global Food Markets* (Issue June). <https://doi.org/10.4060/Cb9427en>
- Resma Wahyuni, Firdaus L.N, Riki Apriyandi Putra, Mariani Natalina Linggasari, Putri Adita Wulandara, M. F. (2025). Journal Of Educational Sciences. *Journal Of Educational Sciences*, 9(2), 876–885. <https://doi.org/10.31258/Jes.6.3.P.444-458>
- Setiawati, R. I. S., Jaenudin, M., Amini, A. F., & Puspita, N. P. R. (2024). Short- And Long-Term Determinants Of Indonesia's Rice Import: An Error Correction Model Approach. *Jurnal Ekonomi & Studi Pembangunan*, 26(1), 61–79. <https://doi.org/10.18196/Jesp.V26i1.24963>
- Shobur, M., Nyoman Marayasa, I., Bastuti, S., Muslim, A. C., Pratama, G. A., & Alfatiyah, R. (2025). Enhancing Food Security Through Import Volume Optimization And Supply Chain Communication Models: A Case Study Of East Java's Rice Sector. *Journal Of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, And Complexity*, 11(1), 100462. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.Joitmc.2024.100462>
- Sofi, M., & Audri, R. A. D. (2025). Dampak Impor Beras Terhadap Ketahanan Pangan Dan Petani Lokal Di Indonesia. 22.
- Sosial, I., & Qolam, U. Al. (2025). *Al-Zayn: Jurnal Sosial & Hukum*. 3814–3823.
- Statistik, B. P., & Timur, P. J. (2025). Luas Panen Dan Produksi Padi Di Provinsi Jawa Timur (Angka Sementara , Hasil Ksa Amatan September 2025). 55.
- Statistik Harga Produsen Gabah. (2025). 10.
- Statistik, P. J. T. B. P. (N.D.). Pada 2025, Luas Panen Padi Provinsi Jawa Timur Diperkirakan Sebesar 1,84 Juta Hektare Dengan Produksi Padi Sekitar 10,53 Juta Ton Gabah Kering Giling (Gkg). 3 Februari 2025. Retrieved February 3, 2025, From <https://jatim.bps.go.id/Id/Pressrelease/2025/11/03/1521/Pada-2025--Luas-Panen-Padi-Provinsi-Jawa-Timur-Diperkirakan-Sebesar-1-84-Juta-Hektare-Dengan--Produksi-Padi-Sekitar-10-53-Juta-Ton-Gabah-Kering-Giling--Gkg-.html>
- Timur, B. P. S. P. J. (N.D.). Pada 2025, Luas Panen Padi Mencapai 1,84 Juta Hektare Dengan Produksi Padi Sebanyak 10,44 Juta Ton Gabah Kering Giling (Gkg). Retrieved February 2, 2026, From Pada 2025, Luas Panen Padi Mencapai 1,84 Juta Hektare Dengan Produksi Padi Sebanyak 10,44 Juta Ton Gabah Kering Giling (Gkg)
- Widayanti, S., Rachmah, M., Yektiningsih, E., & Setiawan, R. F. (2022). The Impact Of Rice Import Policy On Community Economic Welfare In East Java. 5(01), 106–110. <https://doi.org/10.47191/Jefms/V5-I1-13>
- Widyawati, W., Hanani Ar, N., Syafrial, S., & Sujarwo, S. (2025). Crafting The Future Of Rice In Indonesia: Sustainable Supply Through Systems Thinking. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2025.2488113>
- Yasmansyah, Y., & Sesmiarni, Z. (2021). Metodologi Ekonomi Islam. *Iqtishaduna: Jurnal Ilmiah Ekonomi Kita*, 10(2), 225–237. <https://doi.org/10.46367/Iqtishaduna.V10i2.424>
- Zamahzari, A. (2023). Faktor-Faktor Yang Mempengaruhi Impor Beras Di Provinsi Jawa Timur. 20.
- Zega, Y. T., & Hakim, D. B. (2024). Pengaruh Swasembada Beras Terhadap Kesejahteraan Petani Di Indonesia: Pendekatan Data Panel Dinamis. *Jurnal Ekonomi Dan Kebijakan Pembangunan*, 13(2), 133–153.