

Mapping Rural Development Research in Indonesia: A Scopus Based Bibliometric Analysis (2014–2024)

Iqbal Saputra Zana^{1*}, Gusti Naufal Rizky Perdana¹, Lara Ayu Lestari¹, Bulan Erika Bato¹, Dyah Rahayuning Perwitasari¹, Nayla Amalia Pangestu¹

¹Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Mulawarman University, Indonesia

Correspondence*:

Address: Muara Muntai, Kampus Gunung Kelua, Samarinda Ulu, Kota Samarinda, Kalimantan Timur 75119, Indonesia

e-mail: iqbalsaputrazana@fisip.unmul.ac.id

Abstract

Rural development in Indonesia plays a crucial role in improving community welfare and reducing disparities between urban and rural areas. However, the growing body of research in this field has not been systematically mapped to understand its trends and conceptual structure. This creates a gap in identifying key themes, contributors, and the direction of future studies. This study aims to analyse research trends and identify the conceptual structure of rural development studies in Indonesia using a bibliometric approach to better understand how the field has evolved. The study employs a bibliometric analysis based on data collected from the Scopus database, covering publications from 2014 to 2024. The analysis includes co-authorship, keyword co-occurrence, and country contribution to examine research patterns, collaborations, and thematic relationships. The findings show a significant increase in publications over the past decade, with research activities dominated by major universities and national institutions. Leading authors consistently contribute to the field, indicating a concentration of research capacity. Key themes include sustainable development, community empowerment, participation, and rural welfare. Keyword mapping reveals strong interconnections between environmental, social, and governance dimensions, reflecting a shift toward integrative and multidisciplinary approaches. Rural development research in Indonesia is becoming more policy-oriented and holistic. This study provides a comprehensive overview of research trends and offers insights for developing more inclusive, participatory, and sustainable rural development policies.

Keywords: bibliometric analysis; research trends; rural development; sustainable development



This is an open-access article under the CC-BY-SA license

Received: 04-05-2026 | Revised: 29-07-2026 | Accepted: 30-07-2026 | Published: 03-08-2026

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26905/j-tragos.v4i2.17124>

© 2026 Journal of Transformative Governance and Social Justice

Published by the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Merdeka Malang, Indonesia.

Introduction

Rural development remains a critical cornerstone of Indonesia's national agenda, especially since approximately 43% of the population resides in rural areas (Statistik, 2024), where structural poverty (12.22% rural vs. 7.29% urban) (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2024) and spatial inequalities persist despite over IDR 540 trillion in Village Funds allocated since 2015 (Ministry of Finance, 2017). Amidst this complex socio-economic landscape, scholarly attention toward Indonesian rural development has expanded exponentially, yet this vast and fragmented body of literature still lacks a systematic synthesis. Consequently, a comprehensive bibliometric review is scientifically imperative to map the evolutionary trajectory of this research domain, uncover thematic shifts, and establish the evidence-based conceptual structure required to guide future inclusive policies.

The multi dimensional nature of rural development necessitates a holistic integration of socio-economic and institutional pillars, yet existing literature remains fragmented across isolated thematic silos. On one hand, effective rural governance and collaborative partnerships act as the structural vehicle for long-term development (Nurkomala et al., 2023). On the other hand, the operational success of these frameworks heavily relies on community empowerment and internal social capital as the primary drivers of localized collective action (Jauhariah & Syamsudin, 2023). However, this institutional community dynamic cannot be fully understood without incorporating cross-cutting social determinants, namely gender equity as a catalyst for inclusive decision-making (Hariyoko, 2022). alongside education and health infrastructure as foundational requirements for poverty alleviation (Naufal et al., 2023). Future rural development must address the persisting disparity in policy execution, as structural vulnerabilities and limited local political commitment often render public service delivery such as social protection and welfare programs far less effective in remote rural regions compared to urban centers (Aini et al., 2026). Rather than operating independently, these variables governance, empowerment, social capital, gender, health, and education constitute an interconnected network of interdependencies that define the modern rural ecosystem. It is precisely this intricate web of relationships that forms the conceptual structure of the field, which this bibliometric analysis systematically maps and evaluates, thereby uncovering how these disparate themes converge to shape contemporary rural development policies.

Although global bibliometric assessments of rural development have gained traction, systematic mappings within the specific Indonesian context remain heavily restricted. Existing systematic and bibliometric studies in this domain, such as those conducted by Hariyoko (Hariyoko, 2022) and (Perdana et al., 2023), primarily focus on constrained dimensions, such as tracking short term sustainable village trends or analyzing micro level community resilience frameworks. However, these prior reviews suffer from distinct analytical limitations: they fail to map the long-term evolutionary trajectory across a full decade, overlook the structural integration of institutional funding collaborations, and omit the use of multi software thematic triangulation (such as combining VOSviewer and NVivo autocoding) to capture hidden policy shifts. This critical oversight leaves a significant empirical vacuum regarding how environmental, governance, and social welfare dimensions structurally co evolve within national rural policies. Consequently, the fragmented nature of these existing reviews creates an ambiguous understanding of the macro level conceptual landscape, thereby limiting the practical utility of prior research findings for holistic policy formulation.

Going beyond conventional bibliometric analysis, the substantive uniqueness of this study lies in its ability to reveal structural disparities in research capacity and funding distribution between major universities and institutions in peripheral regions throughout Indonesia. By applying a triangulation approach using two software tools on Scopus metadata from 2014 to 2024, this analysis systematically reveals significant thematic shifts from traditional top-down development models toward decentralized governance, community empowerment, and post pandemic rural resilience. Consequently, by identifying under-researched geographic areas and emerging governance blind spots, these empirical insights

provide a crucial evidence-based framework for designing more inclusive and sustainable national rural policies.

Literature Review

1. Inclusive and Sustainable Development

In the domain of territorial transformation, community empowerment and public participation serve as vital structural prerequisites for sustainable collaborative governance rather than mere procedural routines (Emerson, K., & Nabatchi, 2022). This framework conceptualizes empowerment as an institutional mechanism that drives high-level community participation, shifting public involvement away from tokenistic alignment toward genuine citizen control over development trajectories (Tosun, C., & Timothy, 2021). Within the Indonesian context, this dynamic is heavily operationalized through decentralized village administrations, where the intersection of state-funded interventions and grassroots collective action dictates the long-term resilience of the rural ecosystem (Suhardiman, D., & Palupi, 2023).

2. Community Empowerment

Within the post-decentralization landscape of Indonesia, community empowerment must be rigorously distinguished as an analytical theme that evaluates the shifting political agency and psychological capacity of local actors to challenge entrenched structural exclusions (Wardana et al., 2026). This conceptualization stands in contrast to community participation, which operates as a formal governance process embodied in state-sanctioned deliberative forums like Musrenbangdes (Akbar et al., 2020). Consequently, rather than relying on disparate Western contexts, analyzing empowerment in Indonesian rural development requires an explicit focus on how institutional mechanisms, such as fiscal autonomy via Village Funds (Dana Desa), either dismantle traditional elite capture or foster genuine grassroots transformation (R. Saputra & Havlicek, 2025). In the context of rural development, community empowerment is no longer merely about top-down infrastructure disbursement, but rather about fostering community resilience through the optimization of social capital, which acts as a safety net during socio-economic crises (Maulana & Wardah, 2023).

3. Community Participation

In rural development scholarship, community participation must be explicitly positioned within a relational triad alongside governance and collaboration, which maps directly onto distinct yet highly interconnected bibliometric clusters. Under this framework, governance established the macro-level institutional architecture and formal rules of the game, whereas participation acts as the democratic mechanism through which local citizens exercise their political agency within that structure (Susanto et al., 2024). Crucially, the operational bridge that prevents participation from stagnating into a state-dominated process is collaboration, defined as the cross-sectoral partnership and co-creation of public value among government, private entities, and grassroots communities (Afandi et al., 2023). Within

bibliometric network mapping, these concepts should emerge as separate clusters due to their distinct theoretical lineages ranging from administrative decentralization to citizen empowerment yet remain densely linked by co occurrence vectors that illustrate how comprehensive rural transformation relies on their structural convergence (Yin et al., 2024).

Method

Using a bibliometric method, this research examines rural development research trends in Indonesia. To assess scientific publications and pinpoint trends, linkages, and developments inside a particular research field, bibliometric analysis is utilized (Passas, 2024). This technique lets one methodically and impartially map changing research patterns throughout time.

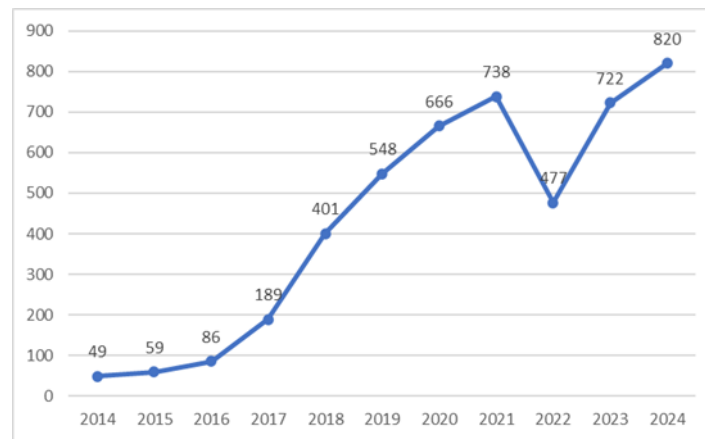
The Scopus database, which is known to be a thorough and reliable source of scholarly material, was used to gather the data (Pranckutė, 2021). To operationalize the conceptual framework of "rural development in Indonesia" within the Scopus database, a rigorous and formalized search query was constructed in the TITLE-ABS-KEY field. To balance specificity and comprehensiveness, the core search architecture employed the combination of ("village" OR "rural") AND "development"; this specific formulation structurally subsumes specialized conceptual variants such as "village development" and "rural development" within its Boolean intersection. Synonymous variants like "rural transformation" were deliberately excluded to maintain a strict focus on policy-driven developmental interventions rather than general socio-spatial transitions, while Indonesian-language terms were omitted as Scopus systematically translates and indexes national abstracts and keywords into standard English nomenclature. To ensure structural alignment with the geographic scope of the study, the final dataset was restricted using explicit institutional and country filters.

The data analysis proceeded in phases, first, authorship analysis was done to find out how researchers worked together. Co-occurrence analysis of keywords was then applied to investigate correlations among significant ideas and pinpoint leading study subjects. Third, citation analysis was carried out to identify the most significant works in the area. VOSviewer was used to see bibliometric networks; NVivo 12 Plus was applied to enable conceptual analysis by means of autocoding and thematic identification. This phased analytical technique guarantees systematic, clear, and replicable results.

Results and Discussion

1. Publication Trends in Rural Development in Indonesia

The publication trends in research on rural development in Indonesia, as recorded in the Scopus database, show significant development from 2014 to 2024.



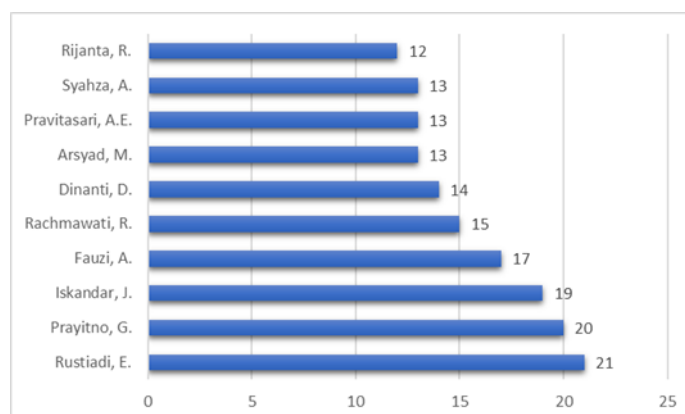
Source: Database Scopus (2025)

Figure 1. Research Trends in Rural Development in Indonesia

The longitudinal analysis of publication outputs indexed in the Scopus database between 2014 and 2024 demonstrates a progressive upward trajectory, reaching its empirical peak in 2021 before experiencing a discernible contraction. The initial steady growth visible in the chart reflects a significant expansion of scholarly interest, driven largely by the institutionalization of the Indonesian Village Law and the massive allocation of national fiscal decentralization funds. However, the subsequent post-2021 decline observed in the graphic should not be speculatively ascribed to the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. That drop in 2022 Not too shocking once you think about what was going on. (Kruger & Nickerson, 2023) pointed out that, research output was rising in lots of fields overall, but COVID-19 really took a toll on quality and how fast some groups could work, especially folks with smaller networks or less access to resources. Methodological scholarship confirms that such recent downward slopes in bibliometric charts are typically artifactual rather than substantive, functioning primarily as a result of systemic database indexing delays where newly published literature has not yet been fully processed into the Scopus core collection (Ullah et al., 2026).

2. Top Authors and Affiliations in Rural Development Research in Indonesia

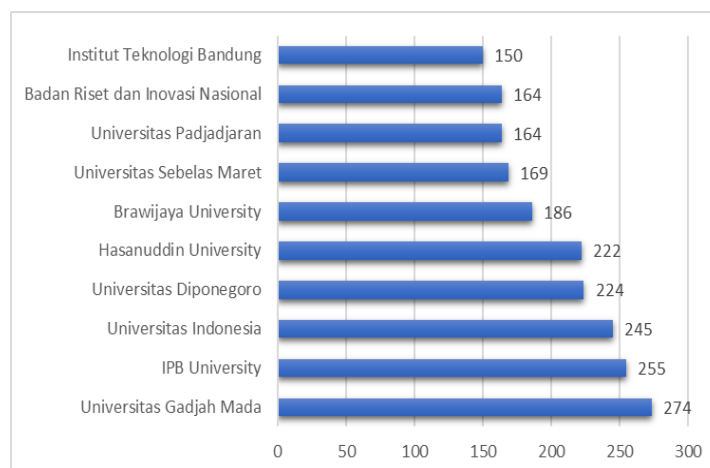
To establish a rigorous profile of scholarly leadership in Indonesian rural development research, a bibliometric ranking based on total document counts was executed using the standard full-counting method. Prior to analysis, author names were systematically disambiguated to ensure institutional and individual data integrity. As illustrated in Figure 2, Rustiadi, E. exhibits the highest research volume with 21 documents, followed closely by Prayitno, G. with 20 documents. The upper tier of core contributors is further defined by Iskandar, J. (19 documents) and Fauzi, A. (17 documents), while Rachmawati, R. and Dinanti, D. follow with 15 and 14 documents, respectively. Finally, the remaining cohort of leading scholars—comprising Arsyad, M., Pravitasari, A.E., and Syahza, A.—each accounts for 13 documents, with Rijanta, R. close behind at 12 documents.



Source: Database Scopus (2025)

Figure 2. Top Authors in Rural Development Research in Indonesia

This graph shows that certain authors have had a significant impact on this field of research, particularly in the study of rural development in Indonesia. As delineated in Figure 3, the institutional publication ranking is prominently led by Universitas Gadjah Mada with a total of 274 documents. This is closely followed by IPB University (255 documents) and Universitas Indonesia (245 documents). The subsequent tier of high-output institutions comprises Universitas Diponegoro and Hasanuddin University, which contributed 224 and 222 documents, respectively. Further substantial research volume is generated by Brawijaya University (186 documents) and Universitas Sebelas Maret (169 documents). Finally, rounding out the top ten primary institutional anchors in this domain are Universitas Padjadjaran and Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional, each recording 164 documents, alongside Institut Teknologi Bandung with 150 documents.



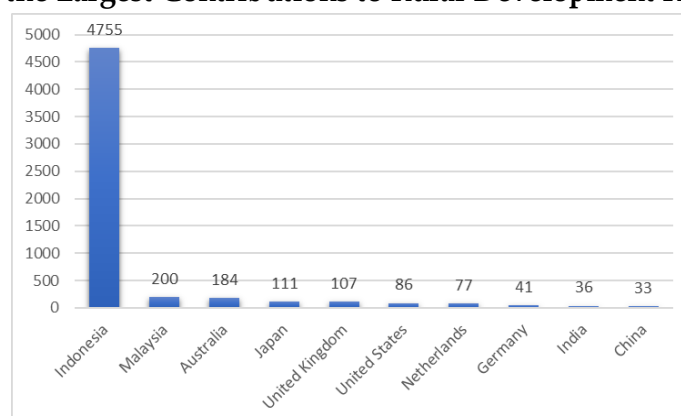
Source: Database Scopus (2025)

Figure 3. Top Affiliations in Rural Development Research in Indonesia

The institutional distribution of research productivity reveals a dual pattern characterized by a high concentration of outputs among premier Javanese institutions such as Universitas Gadjah Mada, IPB University, and Universitas Indonesia alongside significant regional nodes outside Java. While these top tier Javanese universities leverage robust financial endowments and concentrated academic infrastructure to lead total publication

volumes, a regional distribution analysis challenges the notion of absolute Jawa centric stagnation. Institutions such as Universitas Hasanuddin demonstrate formidable research capacity, acting as vital peripheral anchors that drive rural development scholarship within the eastern Indonesian corridor, the dataset reflects a decentralized landscape where emerging regional research hubs are systematically narrowing the capacity gap through localized, high-impact rural studies.

3. Countries with the Largest Contributions to Rural Development Research in Indonesia



Source: Database Scopus (2025)

Figure 4. Countries with the Largest Contributions to Rural Development Research in Indonesia

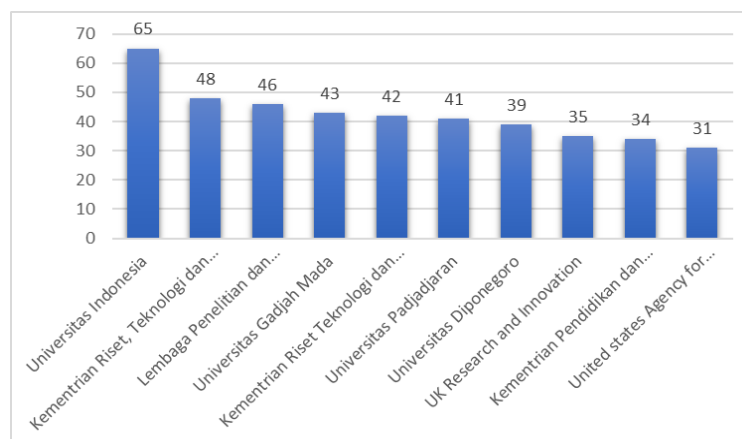
As illustrated in Figure 4, the geographical distribution of publication outputs demonstrates a substantial concentration within Indonesia. this high volume is an artifact of the methodology's inclusion criteria, which strictly required at least one author affiliation to be based in Indonesia, thereby inherently rendering the host nation as the dominant entity. Rather than representing independent national contributions, the presence of other sovereign states in Figure 4 reflects international co-authorship networks and global collaboration links established within Indonesian rural development research. Under this relational lens, Malaysia emerges as the primary international collaboration partner with 200 joint documents, followed closely by Australia with 184 collaborative links. Furthermore, the dataset captures an expansive cross-border academic exchange involving crucial global nodes, including Japan (111 documents), the United Kingdom (107 documents), the United States (86 documents), and the Netherlands (77 documents), alongside minor yet significant participation from Germany, India, and China.

This data indicates that Indonesia is a key hub for studying rural development, likely due to the various rural development programs and policies implemented there. Neighboring countries such as Malaysia and Australia are also highly interested in this topic, highlighting how crucial it is for us to collaborate in this region to enhance rural development. Because when assisting rural areas, the most important factor is people working together, each doing their part (Deniar, 2021).

The empirical mapping of the co-authorship network reveals a structured international collaboration framework, demonstrating a formalized academic exchange beyond domestic boundaries. The network indicators identify the strongest bilateral collaboration pairs as the Indonesia–Malaysia and Indonesia–Australia dyads, which present the highest individual link strength values within the structural map.

4. Highest Funding in Rural Development Research in Indonesia

Based on the Scopus funding sponsor metadata, Universitas Indonesia was the most frequently acknowledged funding sponsor in publications on rural development in Indonesia, appearing in 65 records. It was followed by the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (48 records), the Institute for Research and Community Service (LPPM) (46 records), Universitas Gadjah Mada (43 records), the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia (42 records), Universitas Padjadjaran (41 records), Universitas Diponegoro (39 records), UK Research and Innovation (35 records), the Ministry of Education and Culture (34 records), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (31 records). These figures reflect the frequency with which organisations were acknowledged as funding sponsors in the Scopus metadata and should not be interpreted as verified research grants awarded by these organisations.



Source: Database Scopus (2025)

Figure 5. Highest Funding in Rural Development Research in Indonesia

According to these data, major universities such as the University of Indonesia and Gadjah Mada University largely funded research activities related to rural development in Indonesia. Institutions such as national ones, including the Ministry of Research, and international infrastructure, like USAID, are fundamental in giving support to this investigation. States that the fact that Indonesian universities and institutions dominate research related to rural development in Indonesia is an indication of the large attention devoted by the research community (Perdana & Haliza, 2024). Funding data used for this study were extracted from the Scopus metadata, specifically from the “Funding Sponsor” and “Funding Details” fields. To identify the publications with funding information, we extracted

and aggregated funding names from all included articles, standardizing institutional names for accuracy.

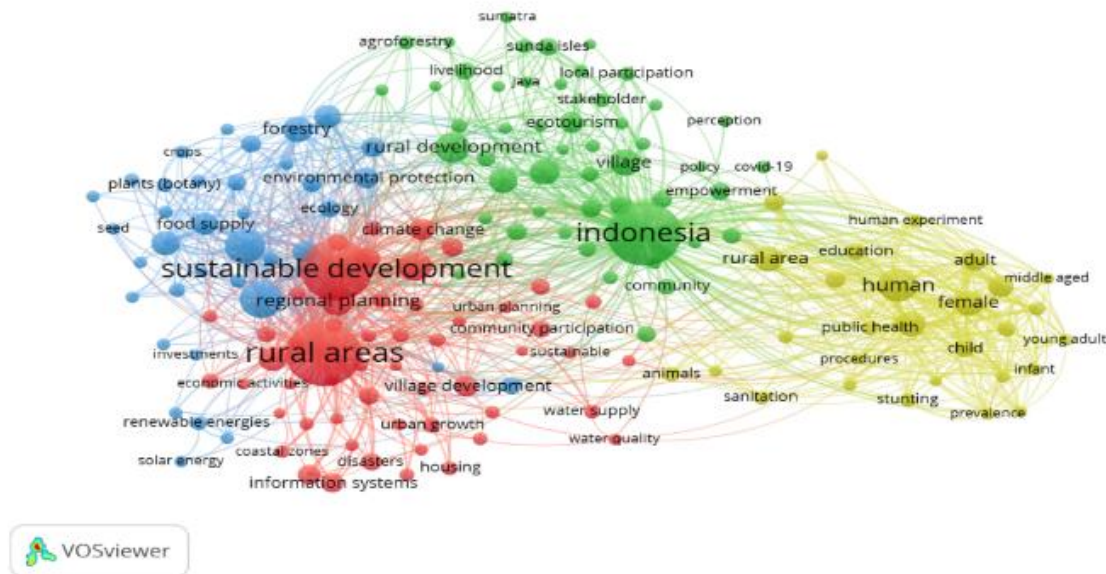
5. Keyword Network Mapping in Rural Development Research in Indonesia

A keyword co-occurrence analysis was conducted using VOSviewer with author keywords as the unit of analysis. The network was generated using the full counting method and an occurrence threshold of five, resulting in 328 keywords being included in the analysis. The network was normalised using the association strength method, and keyword relationships were evaluated based on total link strength. The resulting keyword map indicates that sustainable development is the most prominent and strongly connected research theme, followed by topics related to natural resources, including forestry and food security, as well as climate change. Furthermore, the map demonstrates that sustainable development is closely associated with a wide range of environmental and social issues, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of rural development research in Indonesia. These findings support previous studies suggesting that rural development programmes contribute to reducing regional disparities and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Indonesia (K. A. K. Saputra et al., 2021).

Conversely, related keywords like community empowerment, community involvement, and poverty reduction show a strong emphasis on rural development and rural regions. This indicates that several research concentrate on initiatives to enhance the well-being of rural areas by means of their active participation in the growth process. Community empowerment is the process of enabling people and groups within a society to assume control of their growth and become active change agents. This can be achieved by several methods, such as increasing access to resources, promoting involvement in decision-making, and fostering self-governance capability.

Furthermore, Indonesia seems as a keyword related to several other ideas suggesting that a lot of study concentrates on the local setting and the policies carried out in Indonesia for rural development. The words policy and village usually show up together in the literature, underlining the critical role that government policies play in advancing sustainable rural development.

This map also shows the development of bigger ideas including education, human health, and gender roles (female, adolescent, adult), therefore implying a focus on social, health, and gender variables in rural development. The emphasis on gender equality and raising nutritional status is indicative of attempts to account for social variety in the framework of development. From agriculture to social welfare, the mapping results provide a clear picture of the interconnected facets of rural development and how Indonesia acts as the main background in this investigation. The emphasis on sustainability and poverty alleviation underscores the continuing difficulties in reaching fair development throughout Indonesia's rural regions



Source: Database Scopus (2025)

Figure 6. Network Visualization in Rural Development Research in Indonesia

The keyword co-occurrence network generated by VOSviewer grouped the author keywords into several clusters according to their co-occurrence relationships. The cluster colours shown in the visualisation are automatically generated by the software and were used only to distinguish different keyword groups. Cluster 1 was labelled Regional Planning and Sustainable Development because its dominant keywords included renewable energy, agriculture, forestry, and environmental protection. These keywords indicate that this cluster primarily focuses on sustainable natural resource management and environmentally oriented rural development. Cluster 2 was labelled Rural and Village Development, represented by keywords such as rural development, economic activity, urban expansion, and disaster management, suggesting a strong emphasis on rural socioeconomic development and resilience. This interpretation is supported by the quantitative characteristics of the keyword network presented in Table X rather than by visual inspection alone.

Cluster 3 was labelled Governance and Community Empowerment, as its representative keywords include Indonesia, village, community, empowerment, and policy. These keywords indicate that the literature frequently discusses governance, public policy, and community empowerment in the context of rural development. Rather than concluding that community participation determines development success, the cluster demonstrates that these topics are commonly addressed together in the existing literature.

Cluster 4 was labelled Health and Social Welfare because it contains keywords related to human health, education, food, and stunting. During the interpretation process, generic demographic or biomedical indexing terms (e.g., female, adult, and adolescent) were not used as the basis for assigning thematic labels because they may originate from database indexing rather than representing a distinct rural development research theme. Consequently, the

interpretation of this cluster focuses on substantive rural welfare issues represented by the remaining keywords.

All things considered, this mapping plainly shows the trend and emphasis of rural development research in Indonesia, which is progressively including sustainability, community empowerment, social resiliency, and the welfare of rural communities. Every cluster shows increasing interest in social transformation and environmental concerns, both of which are central to holistic and long-lasting rural development.

The keyword clustering provides insights into the intellectual structure of rural development research in Indonesia by revealing how major themes are interconnected. The network suggests that sustainable development functions as the central conceptual hub, linking environmental management, natural resource governance, and socioeconomic development. This pattern is consistent with the broader rural development literature, which increasingly frames rural transformation as an integrated process balancing economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion. The close association between governance- and community-related keywords indicates that community empowerment serves as a conceptual bridge connecting sustainability objectives with policy implementation and participatory rural development. In contrast, topics related to health, food security, and social welfare appear as relatively distinct thematic clusters, suggesting that these issues are often examined separately rather than being fully integrated into governance and sustainability debates. Furthermore, the network reveals several underrepresented themes, including digital transformation, smart villages, climate adaptation, and longitudinal policy evaluation, indicating opportunities for expanding the conceptual scope of future rural development research in Indonesia. These findings demonstrate that while the literature has developed a strong foundation around sustainability and community-based development, greater integration across governance, technology, resilience, and regional development perspectives remains necessary.

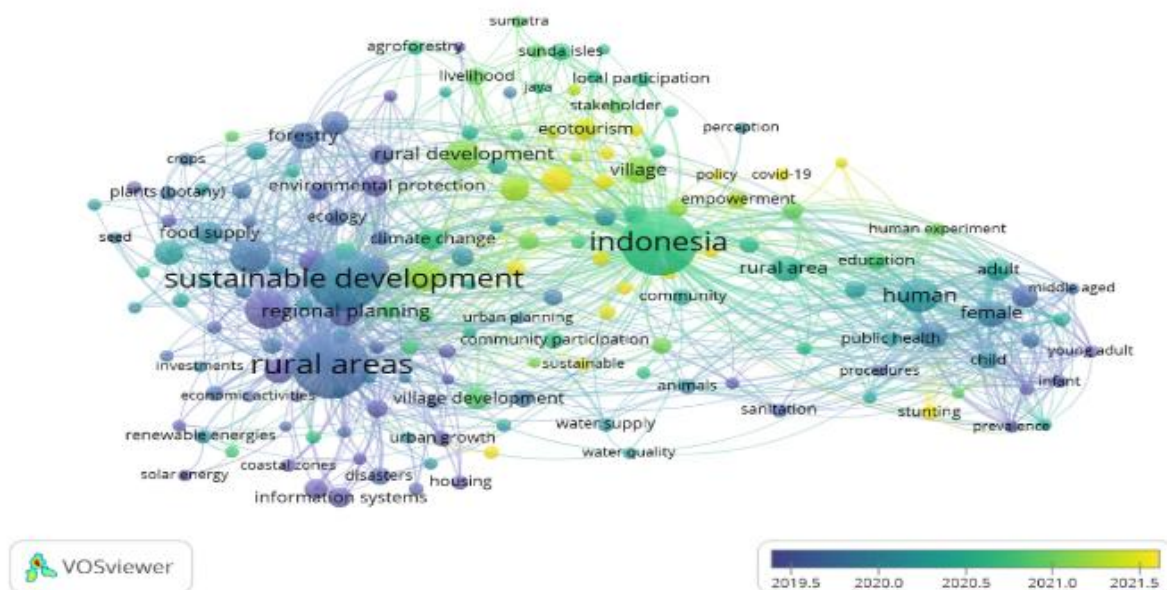
6. Overlay Visualization in Rural Development Research in Indonesia

The overlay visualization generated by VOSviewer illustrates the average publication period of the author keywords rather than the entire timespan of the dataset (2014–2024). Therefore, the colour legend is concentrated between 2019.5 and 2021.5, indicating that most highly connected keywords have average publication years within this period. Throughout this period, sustainable development and rural development remained the dominant themes, reflecting the continued emphasis on sustainability and rural transformation in Indonesia. This finding is consistent with Indonesia's adoption of the Village SDGs, which adapt the Sustainable Development Goals to local social, cultural, and environmental contexts (Permatasari et al., 2021).

Keywords related to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as COVID-19, recovery, and perception, appear among the more recent topics in the overlay visualization, suggesting that the pandemic influenced the focus of rural development research during this period. The visualization does not measure publication growth; rather, it indicates that these topics emerged later than the established themes. This observation is consistent with studies

examining the impacts of the pandemic on rural communities, including tourism villages, community empowerment, education, and public health (Auliah et al., 2022).

Furthermore, the emphasis on education and development planning became more clear in 2021. Many studies underscored the need of engaging communities in the planning and execution of rural development projects as focus on more inclusive policies based on community engagement grew. In 2021, keywords such as community participation and empowerment became increasingly important, suggesting a growing awareness that community empowerment is essential to producing long-term change at the village level. As part of Indonesia's governance system, village governments have the authority to manage village interests through the management of village funds, which reflects the importance of participation and empowerment in shaping policies and implementing development programs (Wijaya et al., 2021). The relationships and interactions among stakeholders in the rural sector are influenced by power, trust, financial capacity, external support, educational background, awareness level, and entrepreneurial skills (Giyatno et al., 2023).



Source: Database Scopus (2025)

Figure 7. Overlay Visualization in Rural Development Research in Indonesia

7. Conceptual Mapping of Rural Development Research in Indonesia

This figure presents a word frequency treemap generated using NVivo 12 Plus. The treemap provides a descriptive visualization of the most frequently occurring terms in the analysed corpus, where the size of each rectangle represents the relative frequency of a term rather than its conceptual importance or relationship with other concepts. Since the search strategy included the terms development and village, their dominance in the treemap was expected and therefore does not represent an independent analytical finding. Instead, the interpretation focuses on the supporting keywords that illustrate the dominant orientations and potential gaps within rural development research in Indonesia.

The distribution of keywords indicates that Indonesian rural development research has been strongly oriented toward community-based approaches, economic activities, sustainability, and local resource management. The prominence of community suggests that many studies emphasize participatory development and the role of local actors in shaping rural transformation. However, the dominance of community-oriented perspectives also raises questions regarding the depth of analysis, as existing research may focus more on participation processes and empowerment initiatives rather than evaluating the long-term outcomes, institutional capacity, and sustainability of these interventions.

The appearance of farming and tourism as relatively prominent themes reflects the continued importance of agricultural development and village-based economic diversification strategies. Research on farming demonstrates the central role of rural livelihoods and agricultural sustainability, while tourism-related studies highlight the growing interest in utilizing local assets as alternative sources of rural income. Nevertheless, these themes indicate that rural development research remains largely concentrated on traditional economic sectors, while emerging dimensions such as digital transformation, innovation ecosystems, and technology-enabled rural services remain less visible.

The keywords sustainable, management, strategy, and model indicate increasing attention toward planning frameworks and sustainable development approaches. However, the limited prominence of these concepts suggests that further investigation is needed into how rural development strategies are implemented, governed, and evaluated across different contexts. Particularly, empirical studies examining policy effectiveness, governance capacity, and adaptive approaches to environmental and socio-economic changes remain relatively limited.

The treemap also reveals several potential blind spots in the current research agenda. Less represented themes, including smart villages, digital governance, climate change adaptation, vulnerable rural populations, and development inequalities across remote regions, indicate areas requiring further scholarly attention. Moreover, keyword frequency alone cannot capture the quality, methodological rigor, or theoretical contribution of existing studies. Therefore, these findings should be interpreted as an indication of thematic concentration rather than a direct measure of research maturity.

Overall, the mapping demonstrates that rural development research in Indonesia has primarily developed around community empowerment, agricultural activities, tourism, and sustainability. Future research should expand beyond these established themes by incorporating comparative approaches, longitudinal evaluations, and studies focusing on underrepresented regions and populations to develop a more comprehensive understanding of rural transformation processes.



Source: Database Scopus (2025)

Figure 8. Conceptual Mapping of Rural Development Research in Indonesia

Conclusion

Using a bibliometric method, this study provides an overview of rural development research in Indonesia over the period 2014–2024. The findings indicate a significant increase in publications, reflecting growing academic interest in rural development issues. Research activities are primarily concentrated among major universities and nationally funded institutions, suggesting the influence of established academic networks in shaping the research landscape. Trends in rural development research have shifted toward more integrated and multidisciplinary approaches, emphasizing not only economic development but also environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and good governance. However, these findings should be interpreted considering the methodological boundaries of this study. The analysis relies solely on the Scopus database and a broad search strategy, which may introduce database bias and limit the coverage of relevant studies. In addition, affiliation-based filtering, language restrictions, and potential indexing inconsistencies may affect the representativeness of the dataset. Moreover, keyword frequency analysis identifies prominent themes but does not fully capture the conceptual depth, theoretical contributions, or causal relationships within the field.

This study identified the major research themes in Indonesian rural development, with sustainable development, community empowerment, community participation, governance, and rural welfare emerging as the dominant topics. The bibliometric analysis contributes by mapping the intellectual structure, thematic evolution, and collaboration patterns of rural development research in Indonesia, thereby providing a comprehensive overview of the field and its current research landscape. Rather than prescribing specific policy interventions, the findings highlight areas that have received considerable scholarly attention as well as themes that remain underexplored. The analysis also indicates opportunities to strengthen international research collaboration and broaden institutional participation in rural development research.

Based on the bibliometric findings, future research should prioritise underrepresented themes identified in the keyword and thematic analyses, particularly digital transformation, smart villages, climate change adaptation, governance innovation, and the long-term evaluation of rural development programmes. Greater attention is also needed to studies focusing on Indonesia's eastern regions, where the bibliometric evidence suggests relatively

limited research coverage. Furthermore, expanding international collaboration and adopting longitudinal and comparative research designs would enrich the evidence base and improve understanding of rural development dynamics across different regional contexts.

References

- Afandi, M. N., Tri Anomsari, E., Novira, A., & Sudartini, S. (2023). Collaborative governance in a mandated setting: shifting collaboration in stunting interventions at local level. *Development Studies Research*, 10(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/21665095.2023.2212868>
- Aini, H. S., Mardiyanta, A., & Wardiyanto, B. (2026). Coalitions for Children: A Comparative Analysis of Child Protection Policies in Indonesia and the United States. *Journal of Transformative Governance and Social Justice*, 4(1), 111–123. <https://doi.org/10.26905/j-tragos.v4i1.16722>
- Akbar, A., Flacke, J., Martinez, J., & van Maarseveen, M. F. A. M. (2020). Participatory planning practice in rural Indonesia: A sustainable development goals-based evaluation. *Community Development*, 51(3), 243–260. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15575330.2020.1765822>
- Auliah, A., Prayitno, G., Ari, I. R. D., Rahmawati, Wardani, L. E., & Meidiana, C. (2022). The Role of Social Capital Facing Pandemic COVID-19 in Tourism Village to Support Sustainable Agriculture (Empirical Evidence from Two Tourism Villages in Indonesia). *Economies*, 10(12). <https://doi.org/10.3390/economies10120320>
- Badan Pusat Statistik. (2024). *Data Kemiskinan 2024*. No. 50/07/(50), 1–14.
- Deniar, S. M. (2021). Collaborative Governance dalam Program Desa Percontohan Saemaul Undong di Provinsi Yogyakarta, Indonesia. *KONSTELASI: Konvergensi Teknologi Dan Sistem Informasi*, 1(2), 233–244. <https://doi.org/10.24002/konstelasi.v1i2.4189>
- Emerson, K., & Nabatchi, T. (2022). Collaborative governance regimes in rural contexts: Challenges and institutional designs. *Public Administration Review*, 82(4), 675–689.
- Giyatno, B., Murtinah, T. S., & Hamka. (2023). Collaborative Governance in the Development of Digital Villages in Karanganyar Indonesia. *ICoGPASS The 4th International Conference on Governance, Public Administration, and Social Science Volume 2023 Research*, 2023, 337–361. <https://doi.org/10.18502/kss.v8i11.13557>
- Hariyoko, Y. (2022). Kajian Literatur Sistematis Pembangunan Desa Berkelanjutan: Analisis Pada Basis Data Scopus Penelitian Tahun 2018 Sampai 2021. *Jurnal Kebijakan Pembangunan*, 17(2), 209–218. <https://doi.org/10.47441/jkp.v17i2.264>
- Jauhari, J., & Syamsudin, M. (2023). Perencanaan Pembangunan. *FOKUS: Publikasi Ilmiah Untuk Mahasiswa, Staf Pengajar Dan Alumni Universitas Kapuas Sintang*, 21(1), 135–147. <https://doi.org/10.51826/fokus.v21i1.737>
- Kruger, S., & Nickerson, J. (2023). Production in Economics and Finance ? *The Review of Financial Studies*, 36, 3348–3381.
- Maulana, I. N. H., & Wardah, T. F. (2023). Fostering Community Resilience through Social Capital. *Journal of Transformative Governance and Social Justice*, 1(1), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.26905/j-tragos.v1i1.9229>
- Ministry of Finance. (2017). Village fund pocket book. *Ministry of Finance*, 103.

- Naufal, H. A., Mulyanto, & Suryanto. (2023). The Effect of Social Infrastructure on Rural Poverty in Indonesia with The Village Development Index As Moderation Variable. *EKO-REGIONAL: Jurnal Pembangunan Ekonomi Wilayah*, 18(1), 87–98. <https://doi.org/10.32424/1.erjpe.2023.18.1.3340>
- Nurkomala, N., Diswandi, D., & Fadliyanti, L. (2023). The Role of Community Empowerment Institutions for Village Development. *European Journal of Development Studies*, 3(3), 76–82. <https://doi.org/10.24018/ejdevelop.2023.3.3.268>
- Passas, I. (2024). Bibliometric Analysis: The Main Steps. *Encyclopedia*, 4(2), 1014–1025. <https://doi.org/10.3390/encyclopedia4020065>
- Perdana, G. N. R., & Haliza, E. F. N. (2024). Understanding Tax Policy Research in Indonesia : A Bibliometric Perspective. *Journal of Applied Studies in Accounting, Finance and Tax*, 7(2), 64–79.
- Perdana, G. N. R., Rusli, A. M. R., & Laily, Y. M. (2023). Analysis of Twitter Social Media Functions in Responding To the Cianjur Earthquake in Indonesia. *INJECT (Interdisciplinary Journal of Communication)*, 8(2), 165–182. <https://doi.org/10.18326/inject.v9i2.735>
- Permatasari, P., Ilman, A. S., Tilt, C. A., Lestari, D., Islam, S., Tenrini, R. H., Rahman, A. B., Samosir, A. P., & Wardhana, I. W. (2021). The village fund program in indonesia: Measuring the effectiveness and alignment to sustainable development goals. *Sustainability (Switzerland)*, 13(21). <https://doi.org/10.3390/su132112294>
- Pranckutė, R. (2021). Scopus and Web of Science stands out for systematic reviews, offering comprehensive coverage across disciplines, including journals, conferences, and patents. *Publications*, 9(1), 1–59.
- Saputra, K. A. K., Atmadja, A. T., Koswara, M. konny, & Tama, G. M. (2021). Examining The Role Of Village Funds In Village Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS). *South East Asia Journal of Contemporary Business, Economics and Law*, 24(6), 45–51.
- Saputra, R., & Tomas Havlicek. (2025). Navigating the promise and perils of village autonomy: Insights from Kepulauan Meranti, Indonesia. *Dynamics of Rural Society Journal*, 3(2), 93–109. <https://doi.org/10.37905/drsj.v3i2.82>
- Statistik, B. P. (2024). Indikator 2024. *Indikator Kesejahteraan Rakyat Welfare Indicators 2024*, 53, 38 dan 104.
- Suhardiman, D., & Palupi, S. (2023). *Decentralization, village funds, and the shifting dynamics of rural governance in Indonesia*.
- Susanto, Y., Suwarno, S., & Hutahayan, B. (2024). Emerging Trends in Rural Governance: A Bibliometric Analysis of Policies and Strategies for Developing Underprivileged Villages. *Lex Publica*, 11(2), 248–274. <https://doi.org/10.58829/lp.11.2.2024.270>
- Tosun, C., & Timothy, D. J. (2021). Rethinking community participation in development planning: A structural perspective. *Annals of Tourism Research*.
- Ullah, W., Amankwah, S. O. Y., Al-Ghafri, A. A., Alabduoli, K., Ullah, S., Ajjur, S. B., Hagan, D. F. T., Ullah, K., Azeem, W., & Abuelgasim, A. (2026). Trends and insights in machine learning-based landslide susceptibility research and early warning practices:

- a bibliometric analysis. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, 14(June), 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvs.2026.1832577>
- Wardana, R. I., Frinaldi, A., Magriasti, L., & Naldi, H. (2026). Village Governance System in Indonesia. *Journal of English Language and Education*, 11(2), 651–656. <https://doi.org/10.31004/jele.v11i2.1038>
- Wijaya, M. R., Ghazali, M. B., Shonhaji, Noviarita, H., Hidayatullah, K., Setiawan, A. H., & Khoirurroji'in. (2021). The Utilization of Village-Based Participation in Community Empowerment in East Lampung District. *Proceedings of the 1st UMGESHIC International Seminar on Health, Social Science and Humanities (UMGESHIC-ISHSSH 2020)*, 585, 456–463. <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.211020.064>
- Yin, S., Li, Y., Chen, X., Yamaka, W., & Liu, J. (2024). Collaborative Digital Governance for Sustainable Rural Development in China: An Evolutionary Game Approach. *Agriculture (Switzerland)*, 14(9). <https://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture14091535>