

Preface

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The technological innovation in wet-rice growing that formed the nucleus of Indonesia's agrarian-rural development program beginning in the late 1960s finally realized domestic self-sufficiency in rice production in the mid-1980s. However, this technological innovation was not successful in solving employment problems plaguing Indonesia's rural society. Thus, it was hoped that development and growth of the nonfarm sector in rural Indonesia, in particular rural industrialization, would provide employment for increasing labor forces of production, especially women and villagers of low socioeconomic status, and as a result improve income distribution in the rural areas. In recent years, moreover, terms of trade for rice have deteriorated, in part due to cuts in various rice-growing subsidies accompanying the achievement of rice-production self-sufficiency. As a result, the development of the rural nonfarm sector has come to assume a crucial role in any plan for dealing with low income problems among villagers, including cultivators and farmers.

The purpose of this volume of research is to analyze a survey carried out in the Majalaya region of Bandung District, West Java on the development of its rural weaving industry. The focus of the study will be the growth of the nonfarm sector in the region—especially rural industrialization—in an attempt to investigate the possibilities of the development of weaving enterprises into a viable rural industry based on the idea of community-based industries. In Chapter 1, the problems underlying the research and the methodology chosen will be discussed in detail. Chapter 2 presents an outline of the village surveyed and the role it plays in the rural economy of West Java. Chapter 3 will lay down the historical background to the weaving industry in Indonesia in general and the survey village in particular, in relation to that country's policies concerning small-scale manufacturing. Chapter 4 is an attempt to describe the response of the survey village's cloth-weaving enterprises to changes in government policy enacted during the Suharto administration and changing industrial

structure, in addition to detailing the structural changes that occurred in the production area centering around the survey village and analyzing management patterns of local weavers and traders. In Chapter 5 the land-ownership patterns and side businesses of weavers and cloth traders will be taken up, in order to show the necessity of the extremely small scale of operations being carried on by cloth weavers. Chapter 6 will investigate the growth and development of rural cloth weaving in relation to local land productivity, then discuss the relationship between the development of part-time farming and the rural weaving industry. Then, after a discussion of the influence exerted on the survey village's income distribution and the allocation of its forces of production by the rural weaving industry and other nonfarm activities, a number of conclusions will be offered.

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