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# ANALYSIS OF SHARIA ECONOMIC LAW ON THE PRACTICE OF REDUCTION IN BANANA WEIGHING THROUGH EQUALIZATION METHODS A STUDY IN PEKON SANGGI BANDAR NEGERI SEMUONG DISTRICT TANGGAMUS REGENCY

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**Abstract**

This study examines the practice of equalized weight deductions in banana trading transactions in Pekon Sanggi, Bandar Negeri Semuong District, Tanggamus Regency. The study aims to analyze the application of a uniform deduction of one kilogram to each banana bunch and evaluate its conformity with the principles of Sharia Economic Law. This research employed a qualitative field research approach through observation, interviews, and documentation involving three banana farmers, one collector, and one community leader. The findings reveal that a deduction of one kilogram is uniformly applied to all banana bunches despite significant differences in their actual weights. Although the deduction mechanism is known and accepted by both parties, its implementation creates disproportionality because smaller banana bunches receive a higher percentage deduction than larger bunches. From the perspective of Sharia Economic Law, this practice raises concerns regarding justice, proportionality, and transparency and may potentially contain an element of gharar due to the absence of a proportional basis for determining deductions. Therefore, a more proportional deduction mechanism is needed to ensure fairness and balance in agricultural trading transactions.

***Keywords: justice, gharar, proportionality, Sharia Economic Law, weighing.***

## INTRODUCTION

Muamalah practices in Islam emphasize the principles of honesty, justice, and transparency in every transaction, including the determination of measurements and weights in trade activities (Azzahra et al., 2025). The Qur'an explicitly commands fairness in weighing and prohibits all forms of practices that may harm one of the parties involved in a transaction. This principle is emphasized in Surah Al-Mutaffifin (83:1–3), which condemns those who reduce measurements and weights in commercial transactions (Nurhayani et al., 2025). These principles form the foundation of Sharia Economic Law, which requires commercial transactions to be conducted fairly, transparently, and in a manner that reflects balance between the rights and obligations of the parties involved (Mahyudin et al., 2025). One of the agricultural trading practices that attracts attention is found in banana trading transactions in Pekon Sanggi, Bandar Negeri Semuong District, Tanggamus Regency. In this practice, banana bunches are weighed openly before the transaction is completed. However, after the weighing process, collectors apply a uniform deduction of 1 kilogram to each banana bunch regardless of differences in actual weight and size. As a result, banana bunches with different weights receive the same deduction, creating disproportionality in transaction values.

This condition raises concerns regarding fairness and proportionality in commercial transactions. Banana bunches weighing approximately 10 kilograms receive the same deduction as bunches weighing up to 45 kilograms. Consequently, the percentage of deduction imposed on smaller bunches is significantly higher than that imposed on larger bunches. Furthermore, the application of a uniform deduction without considering differences in the actual weight of banana bunches may potentially give rise to an element of gharar, as the basis for determining the deduction is not fully proportional to the characteristics of the traded goods (Ahmad Farikhin, 2022). In addition, this practice has been carried out for a long time and has become a customary trading mechanism within the local community. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the practice of equalized weight deductions in banana trading transactions in Pekon Sanggi and evaluate its conformity with the principles of Sharia Economic Law. The study also seeks to identify the factors that sustain this practice and its implications for fairness and transparency in agricultural trade transactions.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Previous Studies on Weighing Practices in Agricultural Transactions

Studies concerning weighing practices in agricultural and traditional market transactions have been widely discussed within the perspective of Sharia Economic Law. Previous research generally focuses on weighing irregularities, inaccurate measurements, and unfair transaction mechanisms that potentially disadvantage one of the parties involved. These studies conclude that fairness and transparency are essential principles that must be maintained in commercial transactions to prevent economic injustice and disputes between trading parties (Damanik & Ngaliyan, 2024).

Although previous studies have contributed significantly to understanding fairness in weighing practices, most of them focus on conventional forms of weighing manipulation and inaccurate measurements. Limited attention has been given to the practice of applying uniform deductions to commodities with substantially different actual weights. Therefore, further examination is needed to assess whether such practices are consistent with the principles of Sharia Economic Law.

### The Principle of Justice (*Al-'Adl*) in Sharia Economic Law

Justice (*al-'adl*) constitutes one of the fundamental principles in Sharia Economic Law. Every transaction should ensure a fair balance between rights and obligations so that no party gains an unreasonable advantage or suffers an unjust loss. The principle of justice requires that economic transactions be conducted proportionally according to the actual condition of the traded object. Therefore, fairness serves as an important indicator in assessing the validity and ethical acceptability of commercial practices (Permana & Nisa, 2024).

### Transparency and Proportionality in Commercial Transactions

Transparency is an essential element in Islamic commercial activities because it provides clarity regarding the object, quantity, quality, and value of traded goods. A transparent transaction allows both parties to understand the terms of exchange and minimizes the potential for disputes (Kholik, 2024). Islamic business ethics also emphasize honesty, openness, and responsibility as important values in commercial transactions to maintain fairness and trust between the parties involved (Khoiruddin, 2015). In addition, the principle of proportionality requires that rights, obligations, and transaction adjustments correspond to the actual characteristics of the traded goods. Consequently, applying identical deductions to commodities with significantly different weights may raise concerns regarding proportionality and fairness (Sakti & Ahmad, 2025).

### Customary Practices (*'Urf*) in Sharia Economic Law

Islamic law recognizes customary practices (*'urf*) as a valid consideration in economic transactions provided that such customs do not contradict the principles of Sharia and do not create harm to any party. Customary practices may facilitate commercial activities and provide practical solutions within a particular community (Hardiati et al., 2023). However, the existence of a customary practice alone does not automatically justify its application. Every custom must still be evaluated according to the broader principles of justice, transparency, and public benefit (Kurniati & Muflihah, 2022).

### The Concept of Gharar in Sharia Economic Law

Gharar refers to uncertainty, ambiguity, or lack of clarity in a transaction that may potentially lead to injustice, disputes, or losses for one of the contracting parties. In Islamic commercial law, transactions should be conducted with clear information regarding the object, quantity, quality, and value of the goods being exchanged. Excessive uncertainty is prohibited because it may affect the fairness and balance of a transaction (Ahmad Farikhin, 2022). In the context of commercial transactions, gharar may arise when there is uncertainty regarding the rights and obligations of the parties or when the basis for determining transaction values is not clearly established. Therefore, transaction mechanisms should provide sufficient clarity and transparency to ensure that both parties understand and agree to the terms of exchange. The concept of gharar is relevant in assessing transaction practices that potentially create uncertainty regarding the proportionality and fairness of transaction outcomes.

### Research Gap

Previous studies have primarily examined weighing irregularities, inaccurate measurements, and general issues of transaction fairness in agricultural trade. However, limited research has specifically analyzed the practice of equalized weight deductions in banana trading transactions where a uniform deduction is applied to banana bunches with substantially different actual weights. Furthermore, previous studies have rarely examined such practices through the combined perspectives of justice (*al-'adl*), transparency, proportionality, *gharar*, and customary practices *('urf)* within Sharia Economic Law (Permana & Nisa, 2024). Therefore, this study seeks to fill that gap by evaluating the practice of equalized weight deductions using those perspectives. This research contributes to the development of muamalah studies, particularly in understanding fairness, transparency, and legal certainty in agricultural trading systems (Hasmawati, 2024).

## METHOD

This study employed a qualitative field research approach (Wekke, 2019) conducted in Pekon Sanggi, Bandar Negeri Semuong District, Tanggamus Regency. The research focused on the practice of equalized weight deductions in banana trading transactions between farmers and collectors and examined its conformity with the principles of Sharia Economic Law. The research subjects consisted of five informants selected through purposive sampling (Tajik et al., 2024). The informants included three banana farmers, one collector, and one community leader in Pekon Sanggi. They were selected based on their direct involvement in and knowledge of the equalized weight deduction practices applied in banana trading transactions. The selection of informants aimed to obtain comprehensive information regarding the implementation of the practice from different perspectives.

Data were collected through observation, semi-structured interviews, and documentation. Observation was conducted to examine the weighing procedures, transaction mechanisms, and the implementation of weight deductions in banana trading activities. Semi-structured interviews were carried out to obtain in-depth information regarding the reasons for applying equalized weight deductions, the perceptions of farmers and collectors toward the practice, and the factors contributing to its continued implementation within the community. Documentation was used to support the validity of the findings through field notes, photographs, and other relevant records related to the research object. The collected data were analyzed descriptively using the perspective of Sharia Economic Law. The analysis focused on the principles of justice *(al-'adl)*, transparency, proportionality, and customary practices *('urf)* in muamalah transactions. The analysis process consisted of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing (Hashimov, 2015). This method was employed to evaluate the conformity of the equalized weight deduction practice with the principles of fairness and balance in Islamic commercial transactions.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Practice of Equalized Weight Deductions in Banana Trading Transactions

Banana trading transactions in Pekon Sanggi are generally conducted directly between farmers and collectors. In the transaction process, banana bunches are weighed using weighing equipment provided by collectors, and the weighing process is carried out openly so that farmers can observe the actual weight of the bananas being sold. However, after the weighing process is completed, collectors apply a uniform deduction of 1 kilogram to each banana bunch regardless of differences in actual size and weight.

Based on interviews conducted with farmers, collectors, and community representatives, the deduction system has become a common practice in local banana trading activities. Collectors generally justify the deduction as compensation for potential weight shrinkage during transportation and distribution. Nevertheless, the implementation of the same deduction for banana bunches with different actual weights creates disproportionality in transaction values (Muin & Wahab, 2025).

The findings indicate that banana bunches traded in Pekon Sanggi vary significantly in weight. Small banana bunches generally weigh approximately 10 kilograms, while larger bunches may reach up to 45 kilograms. Despite these differences, all banana bunches are subjected to the same deduction of 1 kilogram. Consequently, the percentage of deduction imposed on smaller bunches is considerably higher than that imposed on larger bunches.

**Table 1. Comparison of Banana Bunch Weight and Deduction**

| No | Type of Banana Bunch | Average Weight | Deduction | Deduction Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Small Banana Bunch | 10 Kg | 1 Kg | 10 % |
| 2 | Medium Banana Bunch | 20–30 kg | 1 Kg | 3-5 % |
| 3 | Large Banana Bunch | 45 Kg | 1 Kg | 2 % |

*Source: Field Data Processed by the Researcher (2026).*

Table 1 demonstrates that the application of a uniform deduction results in different deduction percentages among banana bunches with different actual weights. The smaller the banana bunch, the greater the percentage of deduction imposed. This condition indicates that the deduction mechanism does not proportionally reflect the actual characteristics of the traded goods and may create unequal transaction outcomes for farmers.
One of the informants stated:

*"Whether the bunch is large or small, it is still deducted by one kilogram because that has been the system used for a long time."*

The statement indicates that the deduction system has become normalized within the local trading mechanism and is widely accepted by both farmers and collectors. Most farmers continue to follow the system because it has been practiced for many years and is considered part of the customary process of banana trading within the community.

**Analysis of Equalized Weight Deductions from the Perspective of Sharia Economic Law**

Justice (*al-'adl*) is one of the fundamental principles in Sharia Economic Law. Every transaction should ensure a balanced relationship between rights and obligations so that neither party experiences unfair treatment. In commercial transactions, fairness requires that prices, measurements, and deductions be determined proportionally according to the actual condition of the traded goods (Permana & Nisa, 2024). The findings of this study reveal that the application of a uniform deduction of 1 kilogram to banana bunches with significantly different actual weights creates disproportionality in transaction values. As shown in Table 1, a deduction of 1 kilogram represents approximately 10% of the total weight of a 10-kilogram banana bunch, while the same deduction represents only about 2% of a 45-kilogram bunch. Consequently, smaller banana bunches bear a proportionally greater deduction than larger bunches.

From the perspective of Sharia Economic Law, this condition raises concerns regarding the principle of justice because the deduction mechanism does not fully consider the actual characteristics of the traded goods . Although the deduction is applied equally in numerical terms, its economic impact differs significantly among farmers. Therefore, the implementation of a uniform deduction may create an imbalance in transaction outcomes and does not fully reflect the principle of proportional fairness in muamalah transactions (Permana & Nisa, 2024). Furthermore, the practice may potentially contain elements of *gharar*. In Islamic commercial law, gharar refers to uncertainty or ambiguity that may lead to unfairness or disputes between the contracting parties (Affero & Mustofa, 2024). In the present case, the uncertainty does not arise from the weighing process itself because the weighing process is conducted openly and can be observed by both farmers and collectors. However, the application of a uniform deduction without clear and proportional standards based on the actual weight of each banana bunch may create uncertainty regarding the fairness of the final transaction value received by farmers .

The findings also indicate that the deduction system has become a customary practice *('urf)* within the local community. Islamic law recognizes customary practices as a legal consideration as long as they do not contradict Sharia principles and do not cause harm to either party (Hardiati et al., 2023). Therefore, although the deduction system has become an established custom, its implementation should continue to be evaluated according to the principles of justice, transparency, and public benefit. Based on these considerations, the practice of equalized weight deductions requires further improvement to ensure that agricultural trading transactions are conducted in a fairer and more proportional manner in accordance with the principles of Sharia Economic Law.

### Factors Maintaining the Practice of Equalized Weight Deductions

The findings indicate that the practice of equalized weight deductions continues to be implemented in banana trading transactions in Pekon Sanggi due to several interconnected factors. One of the primary factors is the influence of local customs. The deduction of 1 kilogram for each banana bunch has been practiced for many years and has become an accepted trading mechanism within the community. As a result, both farmers and collectors generally perceive the system as a normal component of banana trading activities (Hardiati et al., 2023). Another factor contributing to the continuation of this practice is the dominant position of collectors within the transaction system. Farmers rely on collectors as buyers of their agricultural products, which limits their bargaining power in negotiating transaction mechanisms. Consequently, most farmers tend to accept the deduction system to ensure that their harvests can be sold without difficulty.

Economic considerations also play an important role in maintaining the practice. Bananas are perishable agricultural commodities whose quality may decline if they are not sold promptly. This condition encourages farmers to prioritize selling their products quickly rather than negotiating deduction standards that could potentially delay transactions. In addition, practical considerations support the continued implementation of the system. Collectors consider the application of a uniform deduction to be simpler and more efficient because it facilitates transaction calculations without requiring different deduction standards for banana bunches with varying weights. Although the system provides administrative convenience, it does not necessarily reflect proportionality in determining transaction values.

The findings further reveal that limited public understanding regarding the principles of fairness and proportionality in Sharia Economic Law contributes to the persistence of the practice. Although farmers are aware of the deductions applied in transactions, not all of them fully understand the implications of the system from the perspective of Islamic commercial law (Damanik & Ngaliyan, 2024). Therefore, the continuation of the equalized weight deduction system is influenced by the interaction of customary practices, collector dominance, economic dependence, practical considerations, and limited public understanding regarding the principles of Sharia Economic Law. These factors collectively explain why the practice remains prevalent in banana trading transactions in Pekon Sanggi.

## CONCLUSION

This study aimed to analyze the practice of equalized weight deductions in banana trading transactions in Pekon Sanggi, Bandar Negeri Semuong District, Tanggamus Regency and to evaluate its conformity with the principles of Sharia Economic Law. The findings reveal that collectors apply a uniform deduction of 1 kilogram to each banana bunch regardless of differences in actual weight. Although the practice is known and accepted by both farmers and collectors, its implementation creates disproportionality in transaction values because smaller banana bunches receive a higher percentage deduction than larger bunches.

From the perspective of Sharia Economic Law, the practice raises concerns regarding the principles of justice, proportionality, and transparency in commercial transactions and may potentially contain elements of gharar. The continuation of the practice is influenced by local customs, the dominant position of collectors, farmers' economic considerations, and practical factors in trade activities. Therefore, a more proportional deduction mechanism is needed to ensure that banana trading transactions are conducted more fairly and in accordance with the principles of Sharia Economic Law.

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