Circular Economy Impact on Climate Change Issue

By Eko Octavianus

Before the programme I am looking to develop my capacity as a leader and also find out any climate change issue that related to our work on sustainable fisheries industry. I believe that what we do, such as traceability software and fisheries improvement program implementation will contribute to climate change issues and help all stakeholders in this fisheries supply chain to tackle this climate change issue.

But, during the programme I learned more than the climate change issue, also design thinking that gives me a new perspective to develop our work to align with climate change issue. This design thinking process using ideathon method was amazing and help us to identify the problem, define it and have a good problem statement until we could develop the prototype of the solutions.

Lesson Learned

The expert session also gives me more understanding on the importance and complexity challenges that we face on this climate change issue, in the same way I see the bright future that many young leaders are concern and working on this climate change issue. During this process, I also learned about the collaboration with other participant from different background and perspective that enrich my understanding through the process and believe that climate change issue has to be solved by collaborative work.

One of the lessons learned for me during the project group is when my group choose to develop a solution from the circular economy topic, it gives me more understanding about circular economy. By learn about circular economy and develop this concept on our project group by create the protype project, "force" me and the team to learn deeper about circular economy.

This circular economy topic related to our work, that give me an idea to implement circular economy concept in fisheries industry chain. Since most of fisheries industry in Indonesia, including some of our partner and client are still implement linear economy process on the operational practices. The common process in the fisheries processing company starts from taking the fish, process, packing and waste on each process including the massive use of plastic bag during all the process.

Action Plan and Strategy

Related to our work on traceability software implementation, I think to implement this circular economy concept on our software implementation. Our software (TraceTales) has implemented to digitalize and reduce the use of paper work during the processing, but in the future we think to develop TraceTales to reduce the use of plastic and circulate the waste on the processing company during their processing cycle.

After the programme, I have a short discussion with my team and initiate to include the circular economy to tackle climate change issue on our research and development process. Despite of improving the software effectiveness and efficiency, we try to put a climate change issue by implement this circular economy concept on our software implementation. We start to find out the tools to change and reduce the use of plastic bag on the processing company and we are planning to use to tag card with NFC technology, so it will change the use of plastic bag for each fish by reusable tag card with NFC as the data point to the system.

On the other hand, we also thinking to develop our waste management solution on the fisheries supply chain, since we also working on the ground with the fishers and local suppliers, reduce the waste start from the fishers level will improve the impact to the climate change issue. After that we could start to think the waste management implementation on the processing company where most of the waste form the fish processing come from.

I start to discuss it with all my team, and we agree that it important yet strategic for us to have this issue on our work. We develop our work by using the design thinking and using the ideathon process that I learn during the LP programme. We also looking for the industry partner to implement our prototype and development process in the future.

I also looking for the possible challenges on this climate change issue, same case when we talked about the importance of sustainable practices on their supply chain. It's difficult but challenging in the same way, as I need to learn and adjust communication methods when talked to the fisher community and in the same day, I also need to talk with the industry partner or government to discuss the same issues from different angle.

Expected Outcome

By the end of the action plan, we expected to produce following outcomes :

- Collaboratives works from all stakeholders from local fishers to industry partners and government to support the initiatives and plan by establish discussion and put waste management issue in each level with the main outcomes is regulations or constitutive agreement to monitor and regulate the action plan.
- We as implementer and technology developer will work closely with all stakeholders in the implementation process by providing holistic solution that not only comply to the regulations but also give an economic impact to support the sustainability and climate change issue by implementing circular economy model.
- On a long term, we hope this initiative could be scale up and duplicate to broader stakeholders more impactful, such as other catch fisheries for other species or area, aquaculture or agriculture industry that have a similarity with catch fisheries industry that we implement.