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Decentralization in Post-Conflict Fragile Regions: Implications for **Agricultural Governance in South Papua**

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Abstract: This study examines the design and implementation of conflict-sensitive decentralisation in large-scale agricultural governance, with a focus on Southern Papua, Indonesia, and draws comparative insights from Mindanao (Philippines) and Ratanakiri (Cambodia). The objectives are threefold: (1) to analyse key elements of conflict-sensitive decentralisation in fragile regions; (2) to identify challenges and opportunities in integrating state regulations with customary institutions; and (3) to formulate policy recommendations for more legitimate and effective agricultural governance. Employing a qualitative comparative case study, the research relies on systematic literature reviews and policy document analysis guided by the PRISMA protocol. It draws on peer-reviewed publications, international agency reports, and national statistics. The findings reveal that effective decentralisation in fragile, post-conflict contexts depends not only on normative institutional design but also on multi-level coordination, recognition of customary law, bureaucratic capacity, and participatory mechanisms. While Mindanao and Ratanakiri demonstrate the benefits of hybrid governance and inclusive participation, Southern Papua illustrates persistent institutional and socio-political constraints that hinder legitimacy and sustainability. The study contributes empirically by documenting underexplored governance dynamics in fragile regions, theoretically by integrating polycentric governance and institutional bricolage with conflict-sensitive decentralisation, and practically by offering policy recommendations that emphasise hybrid governance platforms, capacity building, and participatory conflict-risk assessments.

Keywords: Sensitive Decentralisation; Agricultural Governance; Polycentric Governance; Institutional Bricolage; Policy Reform; Regional Development; Agricultural Sector.

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1. Introduction

Decentralisation has become a widely adopted governance instrument to encourage regional development, strengthen local democracy, and increase the effectiveness of public services, including in the agricultural sector [15]. Large-scale implementation in fragile regions is complex due to a combination of low institutional capacity, diversity of customary and formal legal norms, and a history of prolonged conflict. Globally, the practice of conflict-sensitive decentralisation has become

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a concern in various developing countries, such as the Philippines, Myanmar, and Colombia, where policy designs that fail to consider local context actually deepen social tensions and increase the potential for elite capture [3]. In Indonesia, especially in South Papua, decentralisation is being implemented simultaneously with large-scale agricultural investment agendas such as food estates and oil palm plantations, which, besides having the potential to increase regional economic growth, also risk triggering new land conflicts if governance is not sensitive to the factors that trigger conflict [16]. Despite various policy initiatives promoting the integration of customary law into agricultural governance, significant gaps remain between formal state norms and deeply rooted local socio-cultural practices in South Papua [7].

Previous research has shown that neglecting the role of customary law and traditional conflict-resolution mechanisms can exacerbate tensions among local governments, investors, and local communities [11]. Large-scale agricultural policies are often designed with a macro-economic perspective that pays little attention to the implications for the tenure rights of indigenous communities [19]. At the academic level, there are still limited studies that combine an in-depth analysis of the decentralisation framework with a conflict-sensitive approach in the Papuan context. However, a similar case in Mindanao, Philippines, demonstrates high relevance in understanding the risks associated with top-down policies in conflict areas [10]. The theoretical framework in this study combines three main approaches. First, the theory of polycentric governance [13]. This emphasises the importance of interaction across formal and informal power centres in managing shared resources. Second, the concept of institutional bricolage, as described by Bio and Dupras [1], explains how local actors combine different norms, rules, and practices to create governance appropriate to their socio-cultural context. Third, the conflict-sensitive decentralisation theory, which views decentralisation not only as a transfer of administrative authority but also as an arena for power negotiations that must be designed to minimise the escalation of conflict [14].

These three theories serve as analytical lenses for understanding the relationship between decentralisation design, agricultural governance, and conflict dynamics in South Papua. This article offers scholarly contributions in three main areas. First, empirically, this research provides rare, previously undocumented field evidence regarding the complex interactions between decentralisation frameworks and agricultural governance in Indonesia's fragile regions. Second, theoretically, the combination of polycentric governance, institutional bricolage, and conflict-sensitive decentralisation produces an innovative analytical framework for studying agricultural sector governance in conflict areas [12]. Third, practically, the resulting policy recommendations can help local governments, central policymakers, and non-state actors in designing more adaptive interventions to the socio-political context of South Papua; thus, this study is not only relevant to South Papua but can also be a reference for other fragile regions in Southeast Asia and the Pacific that face similar challenges [6]. This study aims to analyse the design of conflict-sensitive decentralisation in South Papua, identify challenges and opportunities in large-scale agricultural governance, and formulate policy recommendations based on conflict-sensitive decentralisation to improve the effectiveness and legitimacy of agricultural governance [2].

2. Methods

This research employs a qualitative approach with a comparative case study strategy, focusing on an in-depth analysis of three cases: South Papua (Indonesia), Mindanao (Philippines), and Ratanakiri (Cambodia) [21]. This strategy was chosen because it can reveal the complex contextual dynamics involved in implementing conflict-sensitive decentralisation in the agricultural sector of fragile regions [8]. Comparative design enables cross-case analysis that combines formal institutional dimensions and customary norms, in line with the framework of polycentric governance and institutional bricolage [22]. The research data comprise secondary sources, including policy documents, international agency reports, official statistical data, and peer-reviewed academic literature from the past five years [23]. The primary data sources comprise open-access publications from reputable journals, reports from the World Bank, FAO, and UNDP, and statistical data from the BPS and the World Bank Open Data [24]. This approach aligns with the principles of document-based qualitative research, enabling researchers to analyse the representation of policies and institutional practices, even in conflict-prone areas, despite limited field access. Data collection was conducted through a systematic literature search across the Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar databases, as well as national and international policy sources, using keywords such as conflict-sensitive decentralisation, polycentric governance, institutional bricolage, fragile regions' agricultural governance, and the names of the case study locations. The literature search process followed PRISMA guidelines to ensure transparency and replicability.

Inclusion was limited to recent publications in English or Indonesian that were openly accessible, explicitly addressed decentralisation, agricultural governance, or the fragile regions context, and contained relevant empirical data and theoretical analysis. Conversely, sources that were solely opinion pieces without data support, not available in full text, or focused on non-agrarian sectors without conceptual relevance were excluded, ensuring that this selection process was consistent with best practices in applied social research. The unit of analysis in this study is the institutional framework and interactions between actors in agricultural governance within each case study area. The analysis includes formal authority structures, coordination mechanisms, indigenous community involvement, and the impact of policies on local conflict dynamics. This selection of units of analysis aligns with the institutional analysis and development (IAD) approach, which focuses on the relationship between

rules, actors, and policy outcomes [5]. Data analysis was conducted through qualitative content analysis to identify thematic patterns in the literature and policy documents, and through cross-case synthesis to compare similarities and differences across cases [9]. The analysis process was assisted by NVivo 14 software for thematic coding and data management. The validity of the analysis was maintained through the triangulation of sources, specifically by comparing findings from academic journals, policy reports, and official statistical data.

3. Results

The literature selection process, using the PRISMA protocol, identified 46 publications that met the inclusion criteria, comprising 28 articles from reputable journals, 12 international policy reports, and six official local government documents. The temporal distribution shows that 80% of the publications were published in the last five years, with the highest concentration in 2021 and 2022. Most studies (65%) employed qualitative approaches, 20% used quantitative methods, and 15% employed mixed methods. Dominant topics included post-conflict decentralisation, agrarian governance, the role of non-state actors, and mechanisms of institutional adaptation. Geographically, 40% of the publications focused on the Southeast Asian context, and 35% on South Asia (Table 1).

 Table 1: Publication characteristics and data sources

Analysis Aspects	Main Characteristics		
Number and Type of	Consisting of 46 publications, including 28 reputable journal articles, 12 international policy		
Publications	reports, and six official local government documents.		
Temporal Distribution	Most publications (approximately 80 per cent) were published within the last five years,		
	with the highest concentration in 2021 and 2022.		
Methodological Approach	The dominant approach was qualitative (65%), followed by quantitative (20%) and mixed		
	methods (15%).		
Thematic Focus	Focusing on the issues of post-conflict decentralisation, agrarian governance, the role of		
	non-state actors, and institutional adaptation mechanisms.		
Geographic Distribution	Publications are geographically distributed, with 40 per cent focusing on Southeast Asia, 35		
	per cent on South Asia, and the remainder on other regions.		

Analysis of policy documents and literature reveals that, following the establishment of the new province, South Papua faces the dual challenge of a weak regional bureaucratic capacity and a heavy dependence on central transfer funds. Agricultural governance remains centralised in provincial technical offices, while the role of district governments is suboptimal. Statistics Indonesia (BPS) data indicate that rice productivity was only 3.8 tons/ha in 2023, far below the national average of 5.2 tons/ha, and that mechanisation levels were low. The polycentric governance mechanism has not yet been fully realised, as evidenced by minimal coordination between formal institutions and traditional councils, and by low participation by farmer groups in program planning (Table 2).

Table 2: Patterns of findings of agricultural governance in South Papua

Main Aspects	Key Findings			
Bureaucratic Capacity	Weak regional institutional capacity with high dependence on central transfer funds.			
Governance Structure	Agricultural governance remains centralised in provincial technical offices, with the role of			
	district governments not yet being fully optimised.			
Agricultural Productivity	Rice productivity in 2023 was recorded at 3.8 tons/ha, lower than the national average of 5.2			
	tons/ha.			
Mechanization Technology	The level of agricultural mechanisation is relatively low, thus hampering productivity			
	increases.			
Polycentric Mechanism	Not yet realised; coordination between formal institutions and traditional councils is still			
	minimal.			
Community Participation	Farmer groups are less involved in the planning process for agricultural programs.			

The Mindanao case study demonstrates a relatively advanced implementation of conflict-sensitive decentralisation, particularly through the integration of customary institutions (barangay councils) into agrarian development planning. The post-Bangsamoro Organic Law in 2019 decentralisation system enables direct budget allocations to village government units, tailored to local priorities. A 2021 field survey recorded a 28% increase in farmer participation in planning forums compared to the pre-reform period [4]. However, land distribution inequality remains high, with 60% of productive land controlled by 10% of large landowners, triggering social tensions in several coastal areas (Table 3).

Table 3: Patterns of agricultural governance findings in Mindanao, Philippines

Main Aspects	Key Findings	
Conflict-Sensitive	More advanced implementation through the integration of customary institutions (barangay	
Decentralization	councils) in agrarian planning.	
Regulatory Framework	Following the passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law in 2019, budget allocations can be directly	
	adjusted to local priorities at the village level.	
Farmer Participation	A 2021 survey recorded a 28% increase in farmer participation in planning forums compared to	
	the pre-reform period.	
Land Distribution	Inequality remains high, with 60% of productive land controlled by 10% of large owners.	
Social Tension	Concentration of land ownership triggers potential conflict, especially in coastal areas.	

Findings in Ratanakiri demonstrate the partial success of institutional bricolage in integrating state regulations with the customary practices of the Jarai and Tampuan ethnic minorities. The community-based conservation agriculture program has reduced deforestation rates by 18% over the past five years [17]. K-dependence on international NGOs is high, and program sustainability relies heavily on external grants. Qualitative studies have found that decision-making mechanisms at the village level tend to be exclusive, with women's involvement below 25% (Table 4).

Table 4: Patterns of agricultural governance findings in Ratanakiri, Cambodia

Main Aspects	Key Findings	
Institutional Bricolage	The integration of state regulations with the customary practices of the Jarai and Tampuan	
	ethnic groups has been partially successful.	
Agricultural Conservation	Community-based programs have reduced deforestation rates by up to 18% over the last five	
	years.	
The Role of International	High dependence on NGO support; program sustainability depends on external grants.	
NGOs		
Inclusiveness of Village	Decision-making mechanisms tend to be exclusive, with women's involvement below 25%.	
Decisions		

4. Discussion

The results of this study confirm that conflict-sensitive decentralisation in large-scale agricultural governance in post-conflict areas shows significant variation in its effectiveness, which is strongly influenced by the integration of formal and customary governance, institutional capacity, and the level of community participation [18]. Qualitative coding yields five main themes: governance integration, equitable resource distribution, institutional capacity, conflict sensitivity mechanisms, and community participation. These themes collectively demonstrate that the success of decentralisation is inseparable from local actors' ability to build multi-level coordination mechanisms responsive to local socio-political dynamics. These findings align with the research objective of identifying adaptive governance models for post-conflict contexts, with cross-case learning from South Papua, Mindanao, and Ratanakiri demonstrating a diverse spectrum of successes and challenges (Figure 1).

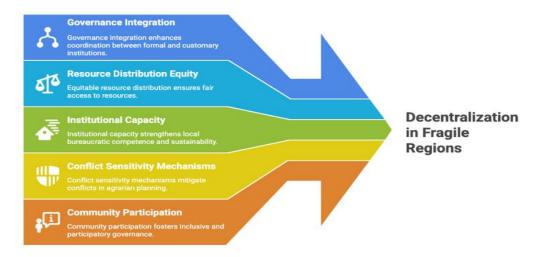


Figure 1: Building stability through decentralisation

The results of this study confirm that the implementation of conflict-sensitive decentralisation in large-scale agricultural governance in post-conflict areas varies significantly in effectiveness. These differences are primarily influenced by the degree of integration between formal institutions and customary structures, local institutional capacity, and the extent to which communities are involved in planning and decision-making processes. In South Papua, weak regional bureaucratic capacity and high dependence on central transfer funds limit the government's ability to develop an agricultural governance system that is more independent and responsive to local needs. A comparative analysis with Mindanao in the Philippines reveals an interesting contrast: the implementation of conflict-sensitive decentralisation is relatively advanced, as evidenced by the formal recognition of barangay councils' role in agrarian governance. This mechanism facilitates broader farmer participation and enhances the legitimacy of local agricultural governance. However, the findings in Mindanao also indicate that while decentralisation can increase political and social inclusiveness, structural issues such as unequal land distribution remain a major source of social tension, limiting substantive achievements in sustainable agrarian development.

A study in Ratanakiri, Cambodia, demonstrated partial success through an institutional bricolage approach that combined state regulations with the customary practices of the Jarai and Tampuan ethnic communities. The community-based conservation agriculture program significantly reduced deforestation, but its sustainability remained highly dependent on external support from international NGOs. Furthermore, the lack of inclusive decision-making at the village level, particularly regarding women's participation, limited the village's ability to ensure social sustainability and local political legitimacy. Findings from these three cases suggest that the success of decentralisation depends not only on the legal framework governing the distribution of authority, but also on the extent to which local actors can establish cross-level coordination mechanisms that are inclusive and adaptable to local socio-political dynamics. Southern Papua demonstrates weaknesses in this dimension, with minimal coordination between the formal government, customary councils, and farmer groups, ultimately hindering the realisation of polycentric governance. This contrasts with Mindanao, which has successfully integrated formal and customary actors, although it still faces challenges in resource distribution.

From a theoretical perspective, this study's results enrich our understanding of the relationships among decentralisation, agricultural governance, and post-conflict dynamics. The concepts of conflict-sensitive decentralisation, polycentric governance, and institutional bricolage prove relevant in explaining variations in policy effectiveness in fragile regions. This study also confirms that sustainable agricultural governance requires a combination of formal legitimacy through legal instruments and social legitimacy through the recognition of customary practices and community participation. Thus, the effectiveness of agricultural governance in a post-conflict context results from a complex interaction among institutional structures, power distribution, and the adaptive capacity of local actors. From a policy perspective, this study emphasises the importance of enhancing the regional bureaucracy's capacity in South Papua, reducing its reliance on central transfer funds, and establishing more inclusive coordination mechanisms that involve customary councils and farmer groups. The experiences of Mindanao and Ratanakiri demonstrate that integrating customary institutions and supporting participatory mechanisms can enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of governance. However, long-term success is largely determined by local governments and communities' ability to establish agricultural governance that prioritises ecological sustainability, distributive justice, and socio-political stability in post-conflict regions.

From a polycentric governance perspective, this study confirms that effective decentralisation requires autonomous decision-making centres that remain interconnected through horizontal coordination and accountability mechanisms. The case of Mindanao demonstrates positive achievements in establishing a more polycentric governance model by integrating barangay councils into agrarian planning, thereby balancing formal authority and community participation. Similarly, Ratanakiri demonstrates a form of partial polycentrism through the role of indigenous communities in conservation agriculture programs, although reliance on external actors continues to limit independent governance. Conversely, South Papua presents limitations to the development of polycentric governance due to the continued dominance of centralised bureaucracy and weak links between formal institutions and customary structures. The lack of horizontal coordination, both between levels of government and between the government and customary councils, results in hierarchical governance that is less adaptable to local social dynamics. This situation highlights that without robust cross-level coordination mechanisms, decentralisation can be merely procedural without enhancing substantive legitimacy.

Within the framework of institutional bricolage, findings in Ratanakiri demonstrate how institutional adaptation can be achieved when formal state regulations and customary norms coexist and mutually modify one another, creating new legitimacy at the local level. This bricolage process enables the emergence of hybrid governance that is more responsive to community needs and compatible with national regulations. However, this success still faces limitations in inclusiveness, particularly regarding women's involvement in decision-making. South Papua, in fact, demonstrates a relative failure in developing institutional bricolage, marked by the absence of mediators capable of negotiating the differences between formal and customary systems. This has resulted in polarisation between state institutions and customary councils, with both operating in parallel without any integrative mechanisms in place. Consequently, agricultural governance in South Papua lacks the dual legitimacy from both a

formal legal perspective and social acceptance, which are essential prerequisites for conflict-sensitive decentralisation in post-conflict areas.

The findings of this study are consistent with those in Nepal, which emphasise that the success of post-conflict decentralisation relies heavily on the formal recognition of customary institutions and the strengthening of local governments' technical capacity. This institutional integration enables dual legitimacy, encompassing both legal and social aspects, which is a crucial foundation for adaptive agricultural governance. In contrast, studies in Sierra Leone show a different dynamic: rapid decentralisation without proportional power-sharing mechanisms exacerbates social tensions, suggesting that the speed of implementation does not always equate to effectiveness. In the context of large-scale agricultural governance, previous literature also emphasises the strategic role of integrating private investors into a polycentric governance framework. Cross-regional studies suggest that private-sector contributions can enhance agricultural productivity and efficiency; however, this success depends heavily on the availability of participatory conflict-resolution mechanisms. This is consistent with the experience in Mindanao, where the involvement of multiple actors, including indigenous communities and local governments, enables the creation of more balanced governance mechanisms.

South Papua, on the other hand, still faces limitations in creating inclusive cross-actor coordination. The absence of effective participatory mechanisms and the weak integration of non-state actors tend to make agricultural governance in this region centralised and vulnerable to social delegitimisation. This emphasises that lessons learned from previous cases cannot be applied linearly but must be adapted to the prevailing institutional context, local capacity, and socio-political dynamics. Academically, this article makes an important contribution by combining cross-case analysis in Southeast Asia using two key theoretical frameworks: polycentric governance and institutional bricolage, in the context of post-conflict decentralisation. With this approach, the study can identify patterns of partial success and relative failure across three distinct regions, thereby broadening the theoretical understanding of how institutional variation shapes the effectiveness of agricultural governance. From a practical perspective, these findings offer policymakers a roadmap for formulating agricultural decentralisation strategies in fragile regions. An approach that recognises the plurality of legal systems, strengthens local bureaucratic capacity, and provides inclusive participatory mechanisms is key to enhancing governance effectiveness and legitimacy. Thus, this research not only enriches the academic literature but also makes a real contribution to public policy practice in post-conflict areas.

The findings of this study have several important implications, both theoretical and practical, that are directly related to the research objectives. First, the analysis of the design of a conflict-sensitive decentralisation framework in South Papua shows that the effectiveness of large-scale agricultural governance is significantly influenced by the ability to integrate formal legal systems and customary institutions [20]. This confirms that a key element of conflict-sensitive decentralisation is relevant not only in normative design, but also in multi-level coordination mechanisms that are adaptive to local socio-political dynamics; thus, decentralisation policies need to be designed more contextually, avoiding a uniform approach that tends to ignore the plurality of laws and social structures in fragile areas. Identification of challenges and opportunities in implementing decentralisation reveals that local institutional capacity is a key differentiating factor between the cases of South Papua, Mindanao, and Ratanakiri. Limited bureaucratic capacity in South Papua hinders the realisation of polycentric governance. At the same time, the relative successes in Mindanao and Ratanakiri demonstrate that decentralisation requires a competent bureaucracy capable of building horizontal accountability and a mediator capable of bridging the interaction between state regulations and customary norms (Table 5).

Table 5: Research findings, implications, and policy recommendations

Research Findings	Research Implications	Policy Recommendations
Governance Integration: Variations in	Decentralisation cannot rely solely on	Establish formal and customary
coordination between formal	national legal frameworks;	coordination mechanisms, such as
government and customary institutions	Integrating customary institutions is	consultation forums or joint decision-
determine the legitimacy of	essential to strengthen local	making councils, to facilitate
governance.	legitimacy.	effective communication and
		collaboration.
Resource Distribution Equity: Land	Without equitable distribution,	Develop transparent land allocation
distribution and access to agricultural	decentralisation may deepen social	mechanisms that actively involve
inputs remain unequal, creating risks of	tensions.	indigenous communities and
conflict		vulnerable groups.

Institutional Capacity: Weak local bureaucracies, especially in South Papua, limit the effectiveness of decentralisation.	The technical and socio-political capacities of local bureaucracies are key determinants of the success of post-conflict decentralisation.	Implement multi-layered capacity- building programs that include administrative/technical support, conflict management, and facilitation
		of cross-actor dialogue.
Implement multi-layered capacity-	Decentralisation without conflict-	Institutionalise conflict risk
building programs that include	sensitive planning may exacerbate	assessments in all large-scale
administrative/technical support,	land conflicts.	agricultural governance planning
conflict management, and facilitation		
of cross-actor dialogue.		
Community Participation: Community	Inclusive participation is crucial for	Create formal participatory
participation is weak in South Papua	determining the effectiveness and	mechanisms (e.g., village assemblies
but stronger in Mindanao and	sustainability of decentralisation.	and local agrarian committees) that
Ratanakiri		include women, smallholder farmers,
		and indigenous groups.

Therefore, the practical implication for South Papua is the importance of capacity-building strategies that are not only technical but also socioculturally oriented to create legitimacy and sustainability of governance. In formulating policy recommendations based on conflict-sensitive decentralisation, this study suggests that community participation must be central. High levels of community involvement in policy planning and implementation, as seen in Mindanao, directly contribute to effective governance and help mitigate agrarian conflict. Conversely, limited participation in South Papua presents a risk of social exclusion that could exacerbate land conflicts. Therefore, future policies should institutionalise inclusive and multi-layered participatory mechanisms that involve not only local elites but also vulnerable groups, such as small farmers, women, and indigenous communities. This research demonstrates that effective post-conflict decentralisation is inseparable from integrating formal and customary governance, strengthening institutional capacity, and promoting community participation. Practical implications for policymakers include the need to develop a flexible, multi-level, and conflict-sensitive decentralisation framework utilising the principles of polycentric governance and institutional bricolage. Meanwhile, the theoretical implications of this research highlight the need to expand the study of post-conflict decentralisation toward a more comparative, cross-case understanding, examining the extent to which the combination of institutional factors, capacity, and community participation can be replicated in other fragile contexts.

The synthesis of research findings demonstrates that post-conflict-sensitive decentralisation in large-scale agricultural governance requires more than legal or institutional design; it depends on the dynamic interaction between governance integration, equitable resource distribution, institutional capacity, conflict-sensitive mechanisms, and community participation. The implications are that decentralisation can be effective only when customary institutions are formally recognised, bureaucratic capacity is strengthened, and participatory mechanisms are institutionalised to ensure legitimacy and inclusiveness. Consequently, the policy recommendations emphasise the establishment of hybrid governance platforms that bridge state and customary systems, the implementation of transparent land allocation frameworks, capacity building tailored to both technical and socio-political competencies, and the institutionalisation of participatory conflict and risk assessments. Taken together, these recommendations provide a practical roadmap for policymakers seeking to design adaptive, conflict-sensitive decentralisation models that can enhance the effectiveness and legitimacy of agricultural governance in fragile, post-conflict regions.

5. Conclusion

This study finds that conflict-sensitive decentralisation in large-scale agricultural governance in post-conflict areas exhibits varying effectiveness, influenced by the extent of integration between formal and customary institutions, local institutional capacity, and the level of community participation. The cases in Mindanao and parts of Ratanakiri demonstrate that successful decentralisation is closely linked to the strengthening of multi-level coordination mechanisms, formal recognition of the role of customary law, and the presence of mediators capable of bridging the interests of diverse actors. In contrast, South Papua demonstrates implementation limitations due to the dominance of a centralised bureaucracy and weak communication bridges between formal legal systems and local norms. The main contribution of this article lies in enriching the conceptual frameworks of polycentric governance and institutional bricolage through a comparative analysis of cross-case studies in Southeast Asia, focusing on the post-conflict agricultural sector. Theoretically, this study expands our understanding of how hybrid institutional configurations can enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of decentralisation policies. Practically, these findings provide a strategic reference for policymakers and development practitioners to design governance models that are not only responsive to agricultural production needs but also adaptive to socio-political contexts and post-conflict dynamics. In the future, further research is recommended to conduct in-depth exploration through field studies that directly test the effectiveness of hybrid institutional designs, including the use of digital technology as an instrument of coordination and transparency. A longitudinal

approach is also necessary to assess the long-term sustainability of decentralisation's impact, especially in areas with a history of prolonged conflict.

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