

INVENTORY ACCOUNTING COUNSELING FOR PROCESSED FOOD MSME CAPACITY BUILDING AT NUTSAFIR COOKIES LOMBOK

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Abstract

This community engagement paper discusses an inventory accounting counseling program designed to strengthen the financial capacity of NUTSAFIR Cookies, a processed food MSME in Mataram, Lombok. The program responds to a common operational problem among food-based micro and small enterprises: inventory is often physically controlled but not consistently classified, recorded, and valued. For a cookie producer, inventory includes raw materials, supporting ingredients, packaging materials, work in process, and finished goods. Weak inventory records may lead to stock shortages, overstocking, expired materials, inaccurate production cost calculation, and unreliable profit information. The counseling program adopts a participatory and hands-on approach through initial needs identification, a short workshop, an inventory accounting clinic, a simple valuation simulation, and follow-up assistance. The core output is a set of practical templates for inventory classification, raw material cards, packaging material cards, finished goods cards, and physical stock checking. This paper presents expected outcomes rather than fabricated empirical results. The expected contribution is improved inventory awareness, better stock control discipline, and stronger readiness to connect inventory records with cost calculation and MSME financial reporting.

Keywords: community engagement; inventory accounting; processed food; MSME capacity building; Lombok

INTRODUCTION

Lombok has become a promising setting for local food-based MSMEs because tourism activity creates demand not only for meals and snacks, but also for souvenir products that carry local identity. BPS Nusa Tenggara Barat reported that domestic tourist movement in the province reached 1,393,460 people in March 2026, while international arrivals through Lombok International Airport also increased on a monthly basis (Badan Pusat Statistik Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Barat, 2026). This tourism context creates opportunities for processed food MSMEs to strengthen local value creation.

NUTSAFIR Cookies is a processed food MSME located in Mataram, West Nusa Tenggara. Karya Kreatif Indonesia lists NUTSAFIR Cookies as an MSME selling several cookie variants, including chocolate almond, cappuccino, cheese corn, mung bean, coconut, and red bean cookies (Karya Kreatif Indonesia, 2026). The official website also positions the product as Lombok dry snacks made from nutritious grains and processed hygienically (NUTSAFIR Cookies Lombok, 2026). These characteristics make NUTSAFIR Cookies a relevant partner for a community engagement program in inventory accounting.

For processed food MSMEs, inventory is more than the finished product on the shelf. It includes raw materials, supporting ingredients, packaging materials, work in process, and finished goods. Inventory affects production continuity, product quality, cost of goods manufactured, selling

price decisions, and profit measurement. When inventory is not recorded properly, owners may not know the real amount of materials available, the value of remaining stock, or the actual cost of production.

Financial literacy remains a practical issue for many MSMEs. The national financial literacy index in Indonesia reached 49.68 percent in 2022, while financial inclusion reached 85.10 percent, showing that access to financial services is still not fully matched by knowledge and capability (Otoritas Jasa Keuangan, 2022). At the business level, limited accounting knowledge can make MSMEs dependent on estimation rather than records. This is especially risky for food businesses because materials may expire, prices may change, and production quantities may vary from one batch to another. This community engagement program was therefore designed to provide practical inventory accounting counseling for NUTSAFIR Cookies. The purpose is not to introduce complex accounting theory, but to translate basic accounting principles into simple tools that can be used by the owner and staff. The program focuses on inventory classification, inventory cards, stock movement recording, ending inventory valuation, and physical stock checking. These tools are expected to strengthen MSME capacity in stock control, cost calculation, and financial accountability.

METHODS

The implementation of this community engagement program was designed as a participatory counseling and assistance activity. The approach follows adult learning principles, in which participants learn more effectively when materials are directly connected to their work experience and immediate business problems (Knowles et al., 2014). The method consists of four stages.

Target Audience and Location

The activity was planned for NUTSAFIR Cookies in Mataram, Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, on 15 July 2026. The target audience included the owner, production staff, packaging staff, sales staff, and personnel involved in stock or financial recording. The activity was classified as an International Community Service program because it combined academic knowledge transfer with practical assistance for a local MSME partner.

Module and Material Development

The core material was a short module titled Simple Inventory Accounting for Processed Food MSMEs. The module was prepared in practical language and supported by worksheets that could be completed manually or with Microsoft Excel. The materials included inventory classification, raw material cards, packaging material cards, finished goods cards, a physical inventory checklist, and a simple ending inventory valuation sheet.

The module was also aligned with the basic principle of SAK EMKM that inventory is recognized when acquired and measured at cost (Ikatan Akuntan Indonesia, 2016). In this program, that principle was simplified into practical questions: what item is stored, how many units are available, when did it enter or leave, what is its unit cost, and what is the remaining value?

Implementation Stages

The first stage was needs identification. The team discussed existing stock practices with the partner, including how purchases, material usage, production output, sales, damaged goods, and ending stock were recorded. The second stage was an interactive workshop introducing inventory concepts and common inventory problems in food MSMEs.

The third stage was an inventory accounting clinic, during which the partner practiced completing inventory cards for raw materials, packaging materials, and finished goods. The fourth stage was a valuation simulation in which the partner calculated ending inventory value by multiplying ending quantity by unit cost. The final stage was feedback and follow-up, including practical recommendations for routine stock checking.

Evaluation

Program effectiveness was planned to be evaluated through a short pre-test and post-test, template completion assessment, and qualitative feedback. The pre-test and post-test measured understanding of inventory classification, stock inflows and outflows, inventory card use, ending inventory valuation, and physical inventory counting. Template completion assessment evaluated whether the partner could fill in the provided worksheets independently. Feedback was used to identify follow-up needs, such as product costing, pricing, and simple financial reporting.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Since the community engagement program was scheduled for 15 July 2026, this section reports expected outcomes and discussion rather than claiming completed results.

Expected Improvement in Inventory Awareness

The first expected outcome is improved awareness that inventory is both physical stock and an accounting asset. In many small food businesses, inventory is often understood only as items stored in the kitchen or sales area. The counseling reframes inventory as an economic resource that must be classified, counted, valued, and connected to production cost calculation.

For NUTSAFIR Cookies, this awareness is expected to help the partner distinguish between raw materials, supporting ingredients, packaging materials, work in process, and finished goods. This distinction is essential because each category has different risks and management needs. Raw materials may be exposed to price changes and expiration risk, while finished goods require monitoring based on sales readiness and product shelf life.

Expected Use of Inventory Cards

The second expected outcome is the partner's ability to use simple inventory cards. The inventory card is designed as a daily control tool that records stock inflows, stock outflows, and balances. For raw materials, inflows come from purchases and outflows come from production usage. For finished goods, inflows come from completed production and outflows come from sales, product damage, or promotional use.

The use of inventory cards can reduce dependence on memory and unstructured notes. It also supports accountability because stock movements can be traced. If the recorded stock differs from the physical stock, the partner can investigate whether the difference is caused by recording mistakes, damaged products, unrecorded sales, or stock loss.

Expected Ability to Value Ending Inventory

The third expected outcome is improved ability to calculate ending inventory value. The simple formula introduced in the counseling is: ending inventory value equals ending inventory quantity multiplied by unit cost. Although the formula is simple, it is useful for MSMEs because it connects stock quantity with financial value. For example, if the remaining flour is 7 kilograms and the unit cost is Rp12,000 per kilogram, the ending inventory value is Rp84,000. This example is not presented as NUTSAFIR's actual data; it is only a training illustration. The actual calculation must use real purchase records and physical stock counts from the partner. This is consistent with SAK EMKM, which uses cost as the basis for inventory measurement (Ikatan Akuntan Indonesia, 2016).

Expected Strengthening of Cost Control

The fourth expected outcome is stronger cost control. Accurate inventory records support more reliable production cost calculation. Without material usage records, owners may underestimate the cost of each production batch. This can lead to pricing decisions that appear competitive but do not provide adequate margins. Managerial accounting emphasizes that cost information is needed for planning, control, and decision-making (Sebayang et al., 2025).

In the case of processed food MSMEs, inventory records also help identify hidden cost issues. Packaging materials, product defects, promotional samples, and expired ingredients may look small individually but can reduce profit if not recorded. Therefore, inventory accounting counseling is expected to make these costs more visible.

Expected Improvement in Stock Discipline

The fifth expected outcome is better stock discipline through periodic physical inventory counting. Physical counting compares actual stock with recorded stock. This activity is especially relevant for food businesses because materials and finished products have quality and shelf-life considerations. The partner is encouraged to conduct regular checking for main raw materials, packaging materials, and finished goods.

Simple digital records may also help the partner sustain this practice. OECD (2021) notes that digital transformation can support SME productivity and management capability, but adoption must be adjusted to business capacity. For NUTSAFIR Cookies, the recommended first step is not complex software, but a simple spreadsheet that mirrors the manual inventory card.

Program Limitations and Follow-up

The discussion is limited to expected results based on the counseling design. The paper does not claim improvement in sales, profit, or actual inventory accuracy because such claims require post-implementation evidence. Future follow-up should include a longitudinal review after one to three months to assess whether the partner consistently applies the templates. The next community service activities may focus on product costing, pricing strategy, simple income statement preparation, and financial reporting based on SAK EMKM. This staged model is expected to make accounting assistance more manageable for MSMEs.

CONCLUSION

This community engagement paper presents an inventory accounting counseling design for NUTSAFIR Cookies, a processed food MSME in Mataram, Lombok. The program is developed to strengthen MSME capacity in inventory classification, stock movement recording, ending inventory valuation, and physical inventory counting. These aspects are important because inventory affects production continuity, cost calculation, selling price decisions, and financial accountability. The proposed counseling model emphasizes practical tools rather than complex accounting theory. Through simple inventory cards, valuation worksheets, and physical stock checklists, the partner is expected to manage raw materials, packaging materials, work in process, and finished goods more systematically. The intervention also encourages the partner to connect inventory records with production cost calculation and future financial reporting.

The program highlights that accounting-based community service can provide practical benefits for local MSMEs when it is delivered in a contextual, simple, and hands-on manner. For NUTSAFIR Cookies, inventory accounting counseling is expected to become an early step toward stronger stock control, better financial literacy, and more sustainable business management.

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