

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE APPRECIATES THE CONTRIBUTION OF PETROKIMIA GRESIK IN  
STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

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The Minister of Agriculture (Mentan) of the Republic of Indonesia, Syahrul Yasin Limpo (SYL) appreciated Petrokimia Gresik's role in strengthening the national agricultural sector. This was conveyed by Minister SYL while attending Halalbihalal Eid Al-Fitr 1443H at the Tri Dharma Sports Facility (SOR) Building, Gresik, East Java, Tuesday (10/5).

The Minister of Agriculture SYL said that during the two years hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, agriculture has become one of the sectors that have continued to grow among many other sectors that have not been able to grow. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in the second quarter of 2020, the agricultural sector managed to grow by 16.24%. According to him, this can be realized thanks to the contribution of Petrokimia Gresik in ensuring the availability of fertilizers needed in the agricultural sector.

"In that case, Petrokimia Gresik is very important, especially after 50 years of struggle. So this great country of Indonesia, there must be the hand of Petrokimia Gresik in it," said the Minister of Agriculture SYL.

Minister of Agriculture SYL further explained, the performance of the agricultural sector which grew amid the Covid-19 pandemic can be seen from the increase in agricultural exports over the last two years. In 2020 it rose to 15.79% and in 2021 it rose again to 38.68%. Apart from that, it can also be seen from the Farmer Exchange Rate (NTP) data or farmer welfare which is already at the level of 109% of the target set in the State Budget at the level of 104-105%.

With growing agricultural performance, national rice production will also experience a surplus of 9.63 million tons at the end of 2021. So Indonesia no longer needs to import rice, because the government has succeeded in meeting the needs of the national main food commodity.

"People say that if you don't import rice, it will be a disaster for the country, but that's not the case, because Pupuk Indonesia and Petrokimia Gresik are working in the field," he added.

Even though agricultural performance has improved, the Minister of Agriculture SYL revealed that there are several challenges that Indonesia will face in the future. These challenges range from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in animals, and extreme climate change, to the Russian-Ukrainian war which impacted the supply of fertilizer raw materials.

"We are facing a world threat, namely multiple crises regarding food and energy, therefore all productivity can only increase if fertilizer is available. Therefore, of course, with heart, and cooperation, we adapt to the weather, we adjust the fertilizer, and Petrokimia Gresik is a reliable company because Petrokimia Gresik's people work together very well," said the Minister of Agriculture.

In the same place, the President Director of Pupuk Indonesia, Bakir Pasaman revealed that Pupuk Indonesia's support for food security was implemented through the distribution of subsidized fertilizers under regulations. Where currently subsidized fertilizer stocks from Line I to Line III are available at 1.4 million tons.

In Line III itself, there are around 400 thousand tons of stock and this figure is already 137% in percentage terms or exceeds the minimum stock provisions set by the government. This stock is enough to meet farmers' fertilizer needs for the next three weeks.

"Meanwhile, to improve services to consumers, in this case, farmers, this year Pupuk Indonesia is preparing 1,000 non-subsidized fertilizer kiosks," he said.

Bakir further explained, to meet the government's challenge to meet the NPK needs of up to 6 million tons, Pupuk Indonesia is currently continuing to increase capacity. Where there will be an additional capacity of 500 thousand tons from Pupuk Iskandar Muda, which is a holding member of Pupuk Indonesia. The factory will also be operated by Petrokimia Gresik, which is the pioneer of NPK in Indonesia.

"We are trying our best, whatever happens, we will together prepare as much fertilizer as the Minister (Syahrul Yasin Limpo) expects," said Bakir.

Meanwhile, the President Director of Petrokimia Gresik, Dwi Satriyo Annurogo said that Petrokimia Gresik, which is about to enter its golden anniversary, has a long history of maintaining national food security. Petrokimia Gresik became a pioneer in several agricultural technologies, including the first in Indonesia to produce phosphate fertilizers in 1979, then NPK fertilizers (2000), granular organic fertilizers (2005), and liquid organic fertilizers (2021).

"Petrokimia Gresik will continue to innovate to support the government, in this case, the Ministry of Agriculture to maintain national food security. At the age of 50, Petrokimia Gresik will launch several innovative products that are presented according to the needs of agriculture and plantations in Indonesia to increase productivity," he said.

The amount of Petrokimia Gresik's support for national food security can also be seen from its contribution to distributing subsidized fertilizers, whereby in 2022, Petrokimia Gresik will supply around 54% of the national subsidized fertilizer allocation in total.

"In its implementation, Petrokimia Gresik is always ready to carry out the government's mandate, including adjusting the subsidy policy later," concluded Dwi Satriyo.

PT Petrokimia Gresik

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