

**NATIONAL FOOD NEEDS CONTINUE TO INCREASE
PETROKIMIA GRESIK COLLABORATES WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO FIND SOLUTIONS
TOGETHER**

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Petrokimia Gresik collaborated with several stakeholders to find joint solutions to the increasing national food needs through a Forum Group Discussion (FGD) entitled "**Journey of National Food Security: Current Status & Future Perspective**" in Gresik, East Java, some time ago.

President Director of Petrokimia Gresik, Dwi Satriyo Annurogo, who was present as one of the speakers, said that, at the moment of Golden Indonesia in 2045, it is projected that the national rice needs will reach 35.5 million tons/year, or increase of 5.5 million tons from the current national rice needs, which is 30 million tons/year.

"Indonesia for the last three years has not imported rice because rice needs can be met from domestic production. But that does not mean that we can relax, we must maintain this rice self-sufficiency to face the national food needs that will continue to soar," he said.

The increase in rice needs by 5.5 million tons in 2045, conveyed by Dwi Satriyo, is equivalent to the highest rice productivity for provinces in Indonesia, in this case, East Java. So it can be assumed that it will take an additional land of around 1.2 million hectares or an area of agricultural land in East Java to be able to meet these needs in 2045.

Based on data from the Ministry of Agrarian and Spatial Planning / National Land Agency (ATR / BPN), the trend of agricultural land area in Indonesia is decreasing from year to year. For this reason, Dwi Satriyo encourages breakthroughs through intensification strategies or optimization of existing agricultural land to increase domestic rice productivity. According to the results of the study, rice productivity in the country can still be boosted by up to 77 percent through intensification strategies.

"This research is strengthened by the results of our demonstration plot where rice productivity in Indonesia, which averages 5.2 million tons per hectare, in some areas can increase up to 8 to 9 million tons per hectare," said Dwi Satriyo.

As a solution to increase agricultural productivity, at the age of 50 this year Petrokimia Gresik again presents a series of quality non-subsidized fertilizers, such as NPK Phonska Alam which is intended for organic farming, ZA Plus, Phosgreen, and Petroganic Premium as an alternative to the substitution of ZA, SP-36 and Petroganic fertilizers which are currently no longer subsidized by the government.

"The price of the latest non-subsidized fertilizer owned by Petrokimia Gresik is fairly affordable, compared to the price of commercial fertilizer in general. And the quality is unquestionable because it has been tested to increase agricultural productivity in several regions," said Dwi Satriyo.

Furthermore, Dwi Satriyo revealed, to increase agricultural productivity to meet food needs that will continue to increase, in addition to the need for adequate agricultural production facilities, of course, reliable agricultural human resources are also needed. Therefore, the issue of farmer regeneration is also one of the challenges that must be solved today.

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This was confirmed by Pupuk Indonesia's Senior Executive Vice President (SEVP) Marketing Operation, Gatoet Gembiro Nugroho. He said, with the current conditions, inevitably, increasing agricultural productivity and regenerating farmers must go hand in hand.

For this reason, Pupuk Indonesia and its subsidiaries, including Petrokimia Gresik, continue to make efforts to make the agricultural sector more effective and profitable for farmers, one of which is through the MAKMUR Program.

The MAKMUR program is an integrated agricultural ecosystem from upstream to downstream, by cooperating with many stakeholders, ranging from farmers, local governments, banks as capital providers, fertilizer producers to ensure the availability of fertilizers and oversee agricultural cultivation, as well as insurance institutions to off-takers to guarantee the purchase of post-harvest products.

Through an integrated agricultural ecosystem, the MAKMUR program not only aims to boost agricultural productivity but boils down to improving the welfare of the Farmer Exchange Rate (NTP). If the agricultural sector becomes very profitable or prospective, it will be easier to attract the younger generation to this sector.

"Thus, the MAKMUR Program can not only be a solution to national food needs through increasing agricultural productivity but can also be a solution to sustainability and the future of Indonesian agriculture if the younger generation is increasingly involved in this sector because it is considered prospective and profitable," said Gatoet.

Meanwhile, other speakers who attended this FGD included the Secretary of the PBNU Agricultural Development Institute (LPP), Tri Chandra Aprianto; Secretary of the Steering Board of the Higher Education Alumni Community (KAPT), Bambang Sutrisno; and Head of the Soil Research Center, Agricultural Research and Development Agency, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, Ladiyani Retno Widowati.

Retno said one of the keys to improving agricultural productivity is the fertilizer that has a 25 to 40 percent share of agricultural success, in addition to other elements such as water. Therefore, the role of Petrokimia Gresik in producing quality products so that they can increase agricultural activity products will be able to become one of the solutions to national food needs.

In addition, Retno also highlighted that the problem of agricultural productivity is also influenced by soil elements that are degraded due to improper management. Education is needed for farmers related to balanced fertilization. In this case, Petrokimia Gresik also have a Soil Test Car service that can be used for free by farmers to get the right fertilization formulation for crops according to the conditions of the agricultural land owned by farmers.

"In essence, it requires the support of all parties according to their respective roles and portions so that agricultural productivity in Indonesia can continue to increase, starting from farmers, fertilizer producers, the government, and other stakeholders," said Retno.

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