

Petro AgriTalk

PREVENTING FOOD CRISIS, PETROKIMIA GRESIK ENCOURAGES THE YOUNGER GENERATION JUMP IN AND OPTIMIZE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

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Petrokimia Gresik continues to encourage the younger generation to jump in and optimize agricultural productivity to prevent a food crisis that threatens the world. This was conveyed by the Director of Operations and Production of Petrokimia Gresik, Digna Jatningsih when she was a speaker in the **Petro AgriTalk** talk show entitled "**The Role of Petrokimia Gresik and Youth amid Global Food Issues**" which was held online some time ago.

Digna said that the potential for a food crisis can be seen from the trend of food needs and the area of agricultural land in Indonesia. Where the growth in the number of Indonesian reservoirs is automatically followed by the need for food that continues to increase.

"Based on data from the Ministry of Agriculture, when compared between the needs of 2020 and the projection of Indonesia Emas in 2045, there is an increase in national rice needs of 5.44 million tons, from 29.86 million tons to 35.3 million tons," said Digna.

Unfortunately, the trend of increasing food needs is inversely proportional to the trend of agricultural land area in Indonesia, which based on data from the Ministry of Agrarian and Spatial Planning / National Land Agency (ATR / BPN) is decreasing. For comparison, Indonesia's agricultural land area in 2012 reached 8.13 million hectares and in 2019 it was reduced to 7.46 million hectares.

Meanwhile, data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2021 shows that the productivity of rice fields in Indonesia averages 5.2 tons per hectare. Thus, to meet food needs in 2045, rice field productivity must reach 7 tons per hectare, with an estimated land area no longer reduced.

"For this reason, there must be innovations to increase agricultural productivity, and it is the responsibility of all parties, including the younger generation, so that national food security is maintained," said Digna.

The efforts that have been made by Petrokimia Gresik can be seen from its pioneering in creating fertilization technology through innovative products, then providing quality subsidized and non-subsidized fertilizers, escorting agricultural cultivation through the MAKMUR program which aims to increase productivity and welfare of farmers, and actively encouraging farmer regeneration as an effort to secure the future of agriculture and Indonesia's food security.

Efforts to encourage the regeneration of farmers themselves, continued Digna, have been carried out since 2014 by collaborating with the Farmer Youth Training (PATRA) and then in 2017 organizing the Young Farmer Jamboree (JPM) which is routinely held every year until now. This program has produced many young farmers, such as Kampung Strawberry in Bali, and Kampung Buah Naga in Banyuwangi.

"Currently, there are quite a lot of young farmers who are successful in agriculture, this must be accompanied by modern agricultural technology innovations so that more and more young people are interested in entering this sector. So from the younger generation, by the younger generation, to future generations, and we as an industry are ready to support," explained Digna.

In addition to Digna, other speakers who attended this talk show included the West Java Millennial Farmer Ambassador, Ulus Pirmawan, and Agrosociopreneur from Bali, I Kadek Gandhi who is a successful farmer of JPM alumni.

In line with what Digna said, Ulus revealed that post-pandemic, farmers must continue to fight hard to increase productivity amidst various existing challenges, such as high production costs and low crop prices.

He also appreciated Petrokimia Gresik which presents innovative products at competitive prices and most importantly proven to boost agricultural productivity, so that farmers' incomes also increase. This large income is what he thinks can attract the younger generation to be unemployed in the world of agriculture.

"When more and more conveniences are also offered by Petrokimia Gresik, the younger generation does not have to worry about entering the world of agriculture," he said.

Kadek said that young farmers should not be afraid to jump in and optimize the agricultural sector. Because currently many technologies can be used by the younger generation to accelerate productivity.

"The threat of this food crisis should motivate the younger generation to operate existing agriculture so that it can become the answer to national and even global food needs," he said.

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