

THE INCOME OF GRESIK KALE SEED FARMERS INCREASED DUE TO THE PETROKIMIA GRESIK AGROSOLUTION PROJECT

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The Petrokimia Gresik Agrosolution Project have succeeded in boosting the income of kale seed farmers in Gresik by up to 26 percent. This was conveyed by the Director of Operations and Production of Petrokimia Gresik, Digna Jatiningsih during the "**Harvest Project Agrosolution of Kale Commodities**" in Kedung Anyar Village, Wringinanom District, Gresik Regency, East Java, Tuesday (30/8).

Digna said that, after participating in this project, the income of kale seed farmers in Gresik increased from an average of Rp17.7 million/Ha to an average of Rp22.3 million/Ha. This means that there is an addition of around RP4.6 million/Ha or 26 percent of the previous average income. The same percentage increase (26 percent) was also shown in the yield which increased from 0.955 tons/Ha to 1.207 tons/Ha.

"This means that the goal of this project has been successfully achieved, namely to help improve the welfare of farmers while maintaining national food security through abundant harvest results," said Digna.

This success, of course, cannot be separated from the control and role of several parties involved in this Agrosolution Project. As a holding member of PT Pupuk Indonesia (Persero), Petrokimia Gresik plays a role in ensuring the availability of non-subsidized fertilizers, providing soil test car services, and providing control of pest control through one of its subsidiaries, namely PT Petrosida Gresik.

"Optimal harvest yield is a very meaningful achievement to help increase farmers' incomes, and it can only be achieved through cultivation and the use of the right technology. This is where we take a role through this project," said Digna.

Furthermore, Digna revealed, the Agrosolution Project in collaboration with PT East-West Seed has entered its second year. Where this year the area of land controlled reached 521 ha and involved 893 farmers from four regions in East Java, namely Gresik, Jombang, Lamongan, and Tuban. PT East West Seed itself acts as an off-taker who buys kale seeds from farmers' crops.

In addition, Petrokimia Gresik also cooperates with BNI as a capital provider through the People's Business Credit (KUR) scheme, including capital assistance from Petrokimia Gresik through the Mangga Makmur program. For information, Mangga Makmur is financing from TJSL Petrokimia Gresik specifically to farmers participating in the Agrosolution Project which is used for the cost of cultivating and purchasing non-subsidized fertilizers and pesticides of Petrokimia Gresik.

"With this integrated agricultural ecosystem, farmers can focus more on carrying out their agricultural cultivation, because both capital and sales of crops are guaranteed," she said.

The same thing was also conveyed by the Senior Seed Operation Manager of PT East West Seed Indonesia, Asep Subandi. He revealed that the realization of the Agrosolution Project last year reached 125 percent of the target, while this year's projection is predicted to reach 130 percent of the target.

"This is an extraordinary achievement, for one hectare of land, there is capable of producing kale seeds of 1.4 to 1.5 tons. These harvested seeds are not only to meet the needs of the country but also to meet the needs of exports to Japan, Malaysia, and Vietnam," he said.

Meanwhile, the Head of the Agriculture Office, Eko Anindito Putro, assessed that the Agrosolution Project is a solution to agricultural problems that have been appeared, especially related to the availability of fertilizers.

"This program offers an alternative solution or substitution of ZA and SP-36 fertilizers which are currently no longer subsidized by the government, namely through non-subsidized fertilizers Petro ZA Plus and Phosgreen. So that farmers can carry out cultivation optimally without any delay in fertilization," he said.

Meanwhile, the Director of Business Transformation of PT Pupuk Indonesia (Persero), Panji Winanteya Ruky in his direction, revealed that his party wants to partner with farmers to maintain national food security, by providing solutions so that farmers can cultivate and increase their agricultural productivity by using non-subsidized fertilizers.

"With non-subsidized fertilizers, we prove that productivity can be much greater. This solution is inspiring because we run this project in various commodities," he said.

PT Petrokimia Gresik

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