

**PETROKIMIA GRESIK EXPORT AGRICULTURE LIME**

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Petrokimia Gresik is Agroindustry Solutions Company and holding member of Pupuk Indonesia, again set a new export record. For the first time Petrokimia Gresik sold the Kebomas Agriculture Lime abroad, some time ago.

At the first phase, Petrokimia Gresik exported 9 thousand kilograms of Kebomas Agriculture Lime to the Brunei Darussalam. Exports were carried out through CV Ahimsa Bangkit Utama (ABU), a distributor of Petrokimia Gresik's commercial products.

President Director of Petrokimia Gresik, Rahmad Pribadi explained that the export of Kebomas Agriculture Lime was carried out to fulfill the intensification program of rice cultivation in Brunei Darussalam with a potential land area of 200 hectares. As it's known, the Covid-19 pandemic which is a global epidemic pound almost all countries. So food security become a priority for each country to be fulfilled independently, remembering that the agriculture exporting country is predicted to limit its supply.

"For this reason, the agriculture intensification program is the most possible strategy currently undertaken by a number of countries to boost food crop productivity during this pandemic," Rahmad said.

Brunei Darussalam is a country on the north coast of the Kalimantan Island which has a part of its territory that contains peatlands. Kebomas Agriculture Lime was used to neutralize the pH of the peat soil. Because peat soils have acidity (low pH). Acidic soil will reduce the availability of nutrients in the soil, so that agriculture productivity will be disrupted.

In Indonesia, the government runs the program Save the Peasant, Welfare Farmers or known as "Serasi" in Kalimantan. Petrokimia Gresik also succeeded those program with the application of Kebomas agriculture lime and balanced fertilization on demonstration plot land in Tanah Laut Regency, South Kalimantan Province some time ago.

"The application of Kebomas agriculture lime and balanced fertilization recommendations from Petrokimia Gresik can increase the productivity in these peatlands compared to the patterns of farmers' habits," Rahmad said.

In the cultivation of agriculture, fertilizer has become a medium of production that must be applied to help increase agriculture productivity. However, for optimal yields, soil improvement facilities are also needed so that the absorption of fertilizer by plants can be maximized, such as agriculture lime.

Rahmad explained, Kebomas Agriculture Lime is one of the mainstay commercial products of Petrokimia Gresik. It has high content of lime or calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), which is 85 percent. Kebomas Agriculture Lime not only neutralizes soil pH on paddy fields, but it is also able to increase nutrient content, neutralize compounds that inhibit both organic and non-organic, increase population and help soil microorganisms. Because, Kebomas Agriculture Lime is one of Petrokimia Gresik's efforts in realizing sustainable agriculture.

"Kebomas Agriculture Lime also can be used to increase the productivity of other plants, fisheries, also fish and shrimp cultivation." Said Rahmad.

Rahmad explained that the Kebomas Agriculture Lime export was a record, because it became the first sale for Kebomas Agriculture Lime products in the international market. In accordance with a business transformation that has been carried out since 2019, Petrokimia Gresik products are increasingly competitive in the global market.

Rahmad also emphasized that Petrokimia Gresik will continue to strengthen global market penetration with mainstay products of Petrokimia Gresik. Because of this effort is also a form of contribution to the national economy growth, especially the performance of national export so that the trade balance remains a surplus.

"This export is also answering the challenges presented by SOE Minister, Erick Thohir that state-owned companies must transform into international-level companies and be competitive in the global market," concluded Rahmad.

Martin Purnama Sidi, Director of CV ABU, claimed to have chosen Kebomas Agriculture Lime for export because it was supported by a strong corporate image from Petrokimia Gresik. This product is already popular and he believes it will be easily accepted by the international market. Likewise with a guarantee of a better stock compared to other products such as dolomite. He also believed that if the Kebomas Agriculture Lime export cooperation would continue, moreover because the majority people in Brunei Darussalam.

"We are grateful that the response from importers is good. I am sure there will be more Kebomas Agriculture Lime that we export to neutralize the acidity of the land on agriculture land in Brunei Darussalam," Martin said.

PT Petrokimia Gresik

**Yusuf Wibisono**  
Corporate Secretary

For further information contact:  
Corporate Secretary: Yusuf Wibisono  
Office: (031) 3981811  
Ext 2218  
Mobile: 0811 378 571  
Email: [wibisono@petrokimia-gresik.com](mailto:wibisono@petrokimia-gresik.com)  
[yusufwibie@gmail.com](mailto:yusufwibie@gmail.com)