

**DWI SATRIYO: PETROKIMIA GRESIK PRESENTS
A SOLUTION TO AGRICULTURE PROBLEMS TO SAVE "INDONESIA GOLD 2045"**

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Welcoming the "Golden Indonesia" in 2045 a series of agriculture problems have become common challenges that must be considered solutions, especially the increase in food needs. But on the other hand, agricultural land continues to shrink, and young people are no longer interested in engaging in this sector.

This was conveyed by the President Director of Petrokimia Gresik, an Agroindustry Solution company and member of Pupuk Indonesia holding, Dwi Satriyo Annurogo when he was one of the speakers in a webinar entitled "KADIN (Chamber of Commerce & Indonesia) East Java Talk" on Friday (18/9).

Dwi Satriyo explained that in 2045, the food needs in Indonesia will reach 35.3 million tons, or an increase of 5.44 million tons (18.2 percent) compared to 2019 which amounted to 29.86 million tons. This happens because there will be a population explosion from 269 million in 2019 to 318 million based on projections from the National Development Planning Agency known as "Bappenas" and the Central Statistics Agency known as "BPS".

"This means that if agricultural productivity currently averages 5.1 tons per hectare (ha), an additional 1 million hectares of land is needed to ensure that food needs in the "Golden Indonesia" era will be safe. In fact, there is a trend of decreasing raw land area in Indonesia because transfer of function," said Dwi Satriyo.

In 2016, paddy fields were not less than 8.19 million ha, but in 2017 it fell to 7.75 million ha, and in 2018 it decreased quite drastically to 7.1 million ha. It has been seen that the increase in the area of paddy fields in 2019 to 7.4 million ha.

The amount of transfer function land since 2016 cannot be separated from the economic condition of farmers in the country. According to Central Statistic Agency in 2014, poor family income in Indonesia, as much as 53.58 percent came from the agriculture sector.

"We have to care about this condition. We call the farmers the heroes of food, but if we look at the daily salary of national farm laborers, it can only be for life," said Dwi Satriyo.

On the other hand, capital assistance for rising farmers is still minimal. This can be seen from the capital assistance provided by banks. Based on data from Bank Indonesia (BI), capital assistance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the agriculture sector is only Rp7.69 trillion (12%), far away from the non-agricultural sector which reached Rp55.39. trillion.

"Agriculture, which is the basis for state resilience, only gets a small portion," he said while mentioning that the lack of capital in the agriculture sector could affect farmers in their business, thus threatening food security.

According to him, this economic problem is one of the causes of the reduced agricultural land in Indonesia. Increasingly become fatal, this condition also causes difficulty in regenerating farmers, because farmer children prefer to work in other sectors.

If you look at the demographics of farmers today, the number of farmers aged 55 years or over is quite large, around 35.9 percent, while young farmers or under 34 years old are only 11 percent. Farmers in the country are currently dominated between the ages of 35 and 54 years as much as 52.4 percent.

Dwi Satriyo emphasized that to overcome this series of problems requires efforts from all parties to improve the welfare of farmers by boosting agricultural productivity. For this reason, Petrokimia Gresik is ready to support the government in an effort to increase agricultural productivity and farmer welfare by providing quality fertilizers.

Good quality fertilizers, he continued, are very important in efforts to increase agricultural productivity, where 77 percent of the increase in agricultural production is currently obtained from intensification activities with the application of quality fertilizers. This is also a solution for the difficulty of adding raw agricultural land.

"There are still opportunities that we can pursue through the application of quality fertilizers to increase the average agricultural productivity," he explained.

On the other hand, Petrokimia Gresik is also committed to supporting sustainable agriculture by providing organic fertilizers, both Petroganik and Phonska Oca. With sustainable agriculture, agricultural productivity can be maintained in the long term.

Same idea, Deputy Chairperson for Agriculture and Food of the East Java KADIN, Edi Purwanto, stated that the problem of farmer welfare is what always appears in the agricultural sector.

"So far we have always talked about food security, but farmer's welfare is sometimes forgotten. For that we must increase collaboration to improve their welfare," he said.

According to him, many stakeholders in the world of agriculture have their own programs, but sometimes they don't collaborate to optimize the program. Collaboration is one of the keys to improving farmer's welfare.

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