

**PETROKIMIA GRESIK INCREASE
THE PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE IN GORONTALO**

Number : 43/SP/PG/VII/2020
Day & Date : Saturday, 4 July 2020
Place : Gorontalo District
Event : Harvest of horticulture crop with Deputy Speaker of The House Of Representatives of The Indonesia Republic, Rachmat Gobel

Vice Chairman of the Indonesian House of Representatives, Rachmat Gobel together with Petrokimia Gresik, an Agroindustry Solutions company and holding member of Pupuk Indonesia, held a harvest of horticultural crops in Tolotio Village, Tibawa Sub-district, Gorontalo District/Province with double productivity, Saturday (4/7).

This harvest was a continuation of the training which was given by Petrokimia Gresik to the farmers of corn, chili and tomato. This activity was also one of the stages of cooperation between the Gorontalo legislator and Petrokimia Gresik to accelerate the development of Gorontalo as an eastern national food barn in order to maintain food security amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

President Director of Petrokimia Gresik, Rahmad Pribadi said that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) under the United Nations had warned of the global crisis threat amid the implementation of regional quarantine, social restrictions, and travel bans. This will affect the food supply chain.

Therefore, Rahmad appreciated the attention of the Vice Chairman of the Indonesian House of Representatives in the world of agriculture. Rahmad also thanked for his trust to Petrokimia Gresik in an effort to increase agriculture production at the national food center in Gorontalo.

"Petrokimia Gresik is ready to cooperate with stakeholders in an effort to increase agriculture productivity in order to maintain food security amid the Covid-19 outbreak," he said.

Rahmad explained that horticulture products from Gorontalo District have great potential and play an active role in maintaining national food self-sufficiency. For this reason, agriculture production activities during this pandemic must be encouraged, given that the people really need healthy food stocks as a basic need to increase body immunity in an effort to combat the spread of Covid-19.

"Food is a basic need, the strategy to prevent the spread of Covid-19 which is prepared by the government will only be effective if basic food for the people is available," Rahmad said.

Thanks to this collaboration, the productivity of corn in the harvest has increased double. Where for one hectare demonstration plot (demonstration plot) produces 10.1 tons of shelled

corn, while the habits of local farmers usually only produce 5 tons per hectare. This demonstration plot was not only carried out in Tolotio Village, but also Dutulana'a Village and Molowahu Village.

Besides corn, this collaboration was also realized in tomato and chili demonstration plot in Tenilo Village with a significant increase of productivity, namely 43.2 tons of tomatoes and 12 tons of chili. This tomato harvest increased 80 percent (up to 19.2 tons) from the previous

24 tons. While the chili harvest increased 50 percent (up to 4 tons) from the previous productivity of 8 tons per hectare.

Rahmad also explained that fertilizer used in this demonstration plot was non-subsidized fertilizer, with the composition which is suggested by PT Petrokimia Gresik. One of the fertilizers used is Phonska Plus, Petrokimia Gresik NPK's superior products.

The balanced pattern of fertilization recommendations from Petrokimia Gresik in this demonstration plot, such as for corn plants using organic Petroganik fertilizer (500 kg/ha), NPK Phonska Plus (300 kg/ha) and Urea (300 kg/ha). As for tomatoes and chili each is use Petroganik (2,000 kg/ha), NPK Phonska Plus (800 kg/ha), and ZA (200 kg/ha).

This is Petrokima Gresik's real effort as an Agroindustry Solution, by presenting quality products to increase agriculture productivity while maintaining agriculture sustainability.

"We succeeded in answering Mr. Rachmat Gobel's challenge, planting horticulture crops without using subsidized fertilizers, and the results proved extraordinary," Rahmad explained.

Based on calculations, he continued, it is more profitable to use non-subsidized fertilizer with the harvest is 10 tons more than using subsidized fertilizer but the harvest is only 5 tons.

Rahmad ensured that Petrokimia Gresik will continue this collaboration at several other lands. He hopes that the pattern of fertilization application of Petrokimia Gresik can be duplicated by other farmers in Gorontalo. In addition, Petrokimia Gresik products are expected to be an option to increase agriculture productivity.

Meanwhile, Haya-haya Village Farmer, Limboto Brata Subdistrict, Gorontalo District, Djafar Abdullah claimed to have followed Petrokimia Gresik's balanced fertilization pattern and felt its benefits, that is an increase in productivity in his corn plants by more than 50 percent.

"I will re-apply the non-subsidized fertilizer application in the next planting season. Although the price is a little more expensive, but it is very worthy if it is compared with the results which are increasing rapidly, "he said.

PT Petrokimia Gresik

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