

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE LAUNCHES
PETROKIMIA GRESIK SOIL TEST CAR SERVICE**

Number : 73 / SP / PG / VIII / 2020
Day / Date : Tuesday, September 1, 2020
Location : South Kalimantan
Event : Launch of the Petrokimia Gresik soil test car service by the Minister of Agriculture in South Kalimantan Province.

The Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, Syahrul Yasin Limpo (SYL) inaugurated Petrokimia Gresik's soil test car service during his visit to the rice harvest event in Anjir Pasar Lama Village, Anjir Pasar Sub-district, Barito Kuala Regency, South Kalimantan, Monday (31/8).

On this occasion, the Minister of Agriculture SYL stated that the government through the Ministry of Agriculture continues to strive to increase food production and hopes that South Kalimantan can become part of the national food barn. For that, his party also hopes for support from various parties.

In line with that, the Director of Operation and Production for Petrokimia Gresik, Digna Jatiningsih, revealed that the presence of this soil test car service is the company's effort to support the government's food security program.

"Apart from providing quality fertilizers, we also present a soil test car, as well as pest control products through our subsidiaries, so that the services we provide are comprehensive," said Digna.

This soil test car in South Kalimantan is one of 15 soil test cars owned by Petrokimia Gresik which is spread across 8 (eight) provinces. This service has been operating since 2015 in a number of areas, from 4 (four) units to 15 units.

"Many farmers still find it difficult to check the soil content because they do not have testing equipment, so we added 11 (eleven) units of soil test cars so that their coverage is even wider, then farmers can fertilize more precisely according to land conditions," said Digna.

The operating areas for the 15 units of the soil test car include Madiun (East Java), Jember (East Java), Gresik (East Java), Purwokerto (Central Java), Magelang (Central Java), Semarang (Central Java), Indramayu and West Bandung (West Java), Lombok and Sumbawa (NTB), Banjarmasin (South Kalimantan), Bandar Lampung (Lampung), Makassar (South Sulawesi), and Tanah Karo (North Sumatra).

"This car is indeed allocated for these 15 areas, but it does not rule out the possibility of also serving the surrounding areas," said Digna.

For the Province of South Kalimantan, continued Digna, her party targets the soil test car to provide soil testing and socialization services to farmers at 70 points during the period September - December 2020.

The soil test car service itself functions to test soil fertility levels and provides free agriculture consultations. Farmers only need to bring soil samples from their agricultural land, then in a short time they can find out the soil content and get the right fertilizer recommendations.

"So far, farmers find it difficult to choose the type of fertilizer and dosage to be used. The presence of this service will provide a solution to these problems," said Digna.

In addition, the soil test car is also a means for Petrokimia Gresik to help the government educate farmers to apply a balanced fertilization pattern for the realization of sustainable agriculture.

"With the right and balanced dose of fertilization, the use of fertilizers by farmers will be more efficient and their productivity will be more optimal, so that farmers' welfare can be boosted," said Digna.

PT Petrokimia Gresik

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