

Great Harvest at the Petrokimia Gresik Demonstration Plot  
**POTATO PRODUCTIVITY RISES UP DOUBLE**

Number : 93/SP/PG/XI/2020  
Day / Date : Wednesday, 18 November 2020  
Place : East Lombok  
Event : Great harvest of potatoes on a demonstration plot.

Petrokimia Gresik is an agroindustry solutions company and a member of the holding company Pupuk Indonesia, was holding a big potato harvest on demonstration plot area with a total area of 3 hectares in Sajan Village, Sembalun District, East Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), on Wednesday (18/11). The demonstration plot using NPK Petro Ningrat and NPK Phonska Plus was able to double the productivity of potatoes.

President Director of Petrokimia Gresik Dwi Satriyo Annurogo explained that during the Covid-19 outbreak, the role of the agricultural sector became increasingly important and strategic, so that agricultural production activities had to be further boosted, especially in areas that became agricultural centre.

"One of them is in Sembalun District, where this region is one of the main producers of horticultural commodities, especially potato crops, in East Lombok Regency," said Dwi Satriyo.

According to him, Sembalun is a very potential agricultural area because it is supported by an appropriate agro-climate and experienced farmers. In fact, the government is projecting Sembalun District as a center for the development of national potato horticultural production, including seedlings.

For this reason, Petrokimia Gresik is committed to support these efforts by making Sajan Village in Sembalun District as a pilot village for locations demonstration plot using the superior commercial products of Petrokimia Gresik.

"Apart from fertilizers, we are also working with subsidiaries company such as Petrosida Gresik and Petrokimia Kayaku to provide pest control for optimal results," Dwi Satriyo added.

The fertilizer recommendation for the demonstration plot area of 3 hectares is divided into three formulations for one hectare each. Where the first land uses 1 (one) ton of Petro Ningrat fertilizer, the second land uses 500 kilograms (kg) of Petro Ningrat and 500 kg of Phonska Plus, and the third land uses 1 ton of Phonska Plus. As well as added the petrobiofertilizer and bio-fertilizers for the three fields.

With this fertilization formulation, vegetatively shows a good number of leaves, twig condition, plant height, and resistance. Meanwhile, from the generative side, the average number of tubers produced is 40 to 50 G2 potato seeds for one plant, an increase from the local farmers' habit of only producing 20-30 G2 potato seeds for one plant.

"By increasing the productivity of the potato plant, besides helping the government secure national food stocks, it can also boost the welfare of local farmers," said Dwi Satriyo.

For that, he hopes that the fertilizer formulation recommended by Petrokimia Gresik can be duplicated by other potato farmers in Sembalun or East Lombok. He also added that the demonstration plot in Sembalun was a pilot project for potato plants using three fertilization formulations of Petrokimia Gresik.

"In the future, this program will be cloned and applied in various other regions in Indonesia, from Sembalun to Indonesia," said Dwi Satriyo.

Meanwhile, the implementation of this main harvest is also in collaboration with Pending Dadih, the coach of the Sembalun non-governmental Extension. Dadih explained that the Petrokimia Gresik demonstration plot was not only able to increase plant productivity, the potatoes produced were also of premium quality, so that they were not only used for household needs, but could also be included as raw material in the food industry.

"This is what potato farmers need, not only high productivity, but premium quality. When they enter the industry, farmer has a well-maintained marketing network," he said.

Meanwhile, one of the community leaders as well as a Sembalun farmer, Aziz revealed that the potential of Sembalun's horticultural land is 2,700 ha. For potatoes, Sembalun farmers can produce up to 6,000 tons a year. With treatment such as the Petrokimia Gresik demonstration plot there will be an increase of about 40%.

"The average national industrial potato production is between 12 to 15 tons per hectare, while in Sembalun it can be 18 to 20 tons. This demonstration plot is capable of producing up to 32 tons of potatoes. This tangible result will definitely make Sembalun farmers apply the Gresik Petrochemical fertilizer recommendation," he said.

On the same occasion Petrokimia Gresik also conducted mass spraying of potato fields using Phonska Oca liquid organic fertilizer. Through this activity, Petrokimia Gresik invites all farmers, especially in Sembalun District to apply balanced fertilization by combining organic fertilizers and non-organic fertilizers according to the recommended dosage so that agricultural productivity increases and agricultural land fertility is maintained.

### **Petrokimia Gresik Village**

Meanwhile, previously Dwi Satriyo also inaugurated the Petrokimia Gresik Village at the Sembalun Coffee Shop, Tuesday (17/11). This village was built as a one stop solution service agricultural in East Lombok, even on the island of Lombok by providing all the needs of farmers from upstream to downstream, from fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and insecticides.

Petrokimia Gresik also presents a Soil Test Car in this village. This service serves to test the level of soil fertility and provides free agricultural consultation. 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 recommendation.

"That way, our hopes and effort to revive Sembalun in particular and Lombok in general as a center for national horticultural production are not impossible for us to achieve," he said.

Meanwhile, the choice of Kedai Sawah as Petrokimia Gresik Village was due to its strategic location in the middle of the horticultural farming area in Sembalun District. Petrokimia Gresik together with Kedai Sawah Sembalun raises the concept of a shop that offers natural nuances of Mount Rinjani and views of the Sembalun hills.

Petrokimia Gresik Village in Kedai Sawah Sembalun also serves local and modern food, displays local SMMEs products and raises very interesting agro-tourism concepts such as views of Mount Rinjani, photobooth, and strawberries.

"Through Petrokimia Gresik Village at Kedai Sawah Sembalun, we hope that it can create new customer experiences for all visitors who come and can become the community's choice as a means of Agro-Education-Tourism so that it can increase their love for the world of agriculture," he concluded.

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