

**Preparing Rice Barn At New National Capital City
PETROKIMIA GRESIK INCREASE THE HARVEST RICE IN “SERASI” PROGRAM**

Number : 31/SP/PG/V/2020
Day & Date : Tuesday, 12 May 2020
Place : Tanah Laut, South Kalimantan
Event : Harvest rice using NPK Phonska Plus and Kebomas Agriculture Lime.

Petrokimia Gresik is Agroindustry Solutions company and holding member of Pupuk Indonesia held harvest rice at demonstration plot land in “SERASI” (Save the Peasant Welfare Farmer) program with the increase productivity reach 12,5% in Pantai Linuh Village, Batu Ampar Sub-district, Tanah Laut District, South Kalimantan Province, Tuesday (12/5).

Marketing Director of Petrokimia Gresik, Digna Jatningsih stated that the demonstration plot used non-subsidized fertilizer NPK Phonska Plus and Kebomas Agriculture Lime was able to produce as much as 5.76 tons of harvest rice per hectare.

"This result is better than the average habits of local farmers, who usually only get 5.12 tons per hectare," she said.

Aside from become an effort to maintain the availability of national food stocks in pandemic, this activity is also a form of company support for the Ministry of Agriculture plan which projecting South Kalimantan as a national rice barn through the “SERASI” program, especially in Tanah Laut, to prepare the New National Capital in East Kalimantan.

SERASI is a government program through Ministry of Agriculture which utilizing the potential of unused land, such as swamps. The implementation of “SERASI” program in South Kalimantan is based on data from The Provincial Office of Food Crops and Horticulture reached 250,000 hectares, while specifically in Tanah Laut an area of 30,000 hectares.

"So that, the results of the utilization of unused land in South Kalimantan can be more optimal, a quality supply of fertilizer is needed, and Petrokimia Gresik has the formula," added Digna.

Moreover, Indonesia is facing Covid-19. So that, it is needed good quality fertilizer product and right pest control to maintain the national food security.

The fertilization recommendations from Petrokimia Gresik applied in this demonstration plot are ZA (300 kg), NPK Phonska Plus (300 kg), Petroganik (500 kg), Kaptan Kebomas (1 ton) and Petro Biofertil (50 kg) for each hectare.

According to Digna, swamps have characteristics that tend to be acidic, with a pH ranging from 3-5. Characteristics of acid soils can inhibit plant growth, because in order to absorb nutrients and nutritins contained in fertilizer, soil conditions must be neutral with a pH of 6-7.

"In this case, the use of agriculture lime has function to balance the pH of soil become 6-7, so that the plant can absorbing the nutrition contained in fertilizer maximally," explained Digna.

Meanwhile, the advantage of NPK Phonska Plus is that it contains the mineral zinc, which is a micro-nutrient that is needed by plants. This fertilizer is increasingly relevant considering the Zinc content in agriculture land in Indonesia has been greatly reduced. Zinc content is what distinguishes NPK Phonska Plus from subsidized NPK Phonska.

Digna hopes that the pattern of this demonstration plot can be applied by other farmers. In addition to help succeeding the government program, the use of non-subsidized fertilizer of Petrokimia Gresik can also increase the welfare of farmers through high productivity.

Meanwhile, the demonstrator farmers, Akhmad Rifai mentioned that the used of ZA and NPK Phonska Plus could make the plant more sturdy.

"The plants are greener and even the rice grains contain almost everything. In fact, in our previous planting many of the lower rice grains were empty," he said.

He also said that in 2019 ago the farmers had to spray the pest control untill 12 times. While, in this demonstration plot, it only need thow times pest control spray.

Therefore, Rifai hopes that the availability of commercial fertilizers of Petrokimia Gresik are easy to get, so that other farmers in Tanah Laut can follow the pattern of this demonstration plot fertilization for their welfare.

In addition of harvest, this event was also used by Petrokimia Gresik along with local distributors to help government prevent the spread of Covid-19 in agriculture sector by giving aid in the form of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks to all local farmers.

Previously, Petrokimia Gresik also held the same event (harvesting and handed over some aids for farmers) at two national rice barns in East Java, that was Jember, Ngawi (8-9/4), also chili harvest in Bengkulu (9/5).

This series of event is an effort of Petrokimia Gresik in maintaining the availability of national food stocks during pandemic, as well as the instructions from Minister of SOE, Erick Thohir.

Digna asserted that her company also has a Regional Sales Staff spread throughout Indonesia and is ready to assist the government in overseeing fertilization and pest control for farmers, as well as reducing the rate of Covid-19 contagion.

"We hope that our aid can strengthen the optimism of farmers in carrying out agriculture activities in order to maintain national food availability," she concluded.

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