

**PETROKIMIA GRESIK SUPPORT FARMER
IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC SITUATION**

Number : 22/SP/PG/IV/2020
Day & Date : Thursday, 9 April 2020
Place : Jember and Ngawi District
Event : Rice Harvesting and Covid-19 Prevention Assistance for Farmers

Petrokimia Gresik, an Agroindustry Solutions company and the member of Pupuk Indonesia holding held a rice harvest with productivity reaching six tons per hectare in Candijati Village, Arjasa Sub-district, Jember District, Wednesday (8/4) and Sidokerto Village, Karangjati Sub-district, Ngawi District, Thursday (9/4).

President Director of Petrokimia Gresik, Rahmad Pribadi stated that the yield of this crop was one ton more than the average habits of local farmers who reached five tons per hectare.

In addition to the rice harvest, on this occasion the company also provided socialization and assistance to prevent the spread of Covid-19 to farmers, official stall managers and buffer sheds, as well as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) assistance for local hospitals.

"This socialization and assistance is very important because Jember and Ngawi Districts are national rice barns that support national food security," Rahmad said.

Rahmad said that this activity was a directive from SOE Minister, Erick Thohir who instructed SOEs in the field of food to always maintain the availability of food stocks and staples, and maintain their distribution during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rahmad also mentioned that this rice harvest is one of the proofs that efforts to fulfill national food stocks, especially rice, is still run well even though Indonesia is facing a disease outbreak.

"Through this activity, we try to protect and strengthen the optimism of the farmers. For this reason, people do not need to worry about the availability of national food," Rahmad said.

The rice varieties which was harvested are Inpari 32 type of rice with a balanced fertilization dosage recommended by Petrokimia Gresik, which is fertilization that combines the application of organic and non-organic fertilizers.

"Balanced fertilization is very important, because each has its role. Organic fertilizers use to improve soil conditions and non-organic fertilizers to fulfill soil nutrients," Rahmad said.

Prioritizing Farmer Safety & Health

As the coordinator of the SOE Covid-19 Response Task Force in East Java, Petrokimia Gresik has a number of programs to reduce the spread of Covid-19. In addition to establishing three posts, providing medical equipment and basic food assistance to the communities surrounding the company, Petrokimia Gresik also pays attention to the safety and health of farmers.

Rahmad said that the prevention of Covid-19 in the upstream agriculture sector was very important. First, by socializing the information to farmers, both about the dangers and efforts to prevent Covid-19.

"Second, we also provide assistance to farmers, in the form of hand sanitizers, disinfectants, masks, water pumps, mini tractors (cultivators), and hand sprayers," Rahmad said.

Besides farmers, Petrokimia Gresik also provided assistance to official stalls in the form of hand sanitizers, disinfectants, masks and hand sprayers. Then spraying disinfectants at official stalls, buffer warehouses, and fertilizer transport fleet in Arjasa, Jember and Karangjati Districts, Ngawi.

"PPE assistances are including masks, gloves, protective clothing, shoes, face shields and hand sanitizers, for local hospitals," explained Rahmad.

Meanwhile Jember Regent, Faida said that the Jember District very appreciated the efforts of the SOEs Ministry through Petrokimia Gresik which had played a role in protecting the community and medical staff in the midst of this pandemic.

"Especially now that getting PPE for medical personnel is very difficult, we feel helped by the assistance provided by the Ministry of SOEs through Petrokimia Gresik. Thank you Petrokimia Gresik, thank you Ministry of SOEs," said Faida.

A similar thing was also conveyed by the Regent of Ngawi, Budi Sulistyono. He hopes that in the future the collaboration between Ngawi District Government and Petrokimia Gresik will continue, especially in the field of agriculture.

"Sixty percent of our territory is agriculture, and *Alhamdulillah* until now there are no constraints in terms of fertilizer stocks or prices in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thank you Ministry of SOE and Petrokimia Gresik," Budi said.

Rahmad hopes that these efforts can increase the enthusiasm and optimism of farmers, as well as help local and provincial governments in reducing the rate of Covid-19 contagion, especially in the agricultural sector.

Finally, Rahmad invited all farmers in Indonesia to remain vigilant and prioritize health and safety in working in the midst of the Covid-19 outbreak, both for themselves, their families and the surrounding environment.

"If the health and safety of farmers is guaranteed, then agricultural activities can run smoothly, so that national food availability can still be fulfilled," ended Rahmad.

PT Petrokimia Gresik

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