

**Reduce Imports and Increase Productivity
PETROKIMIA GRESIK SIGNED MoU of White and Red Surfactant Production**

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Place : Gresik
Event : MoU Signing of the Mini Plant Surfactant Trial

Petrokimia Gresik is a company of agroindustry solution and the holding member of Pupuk Indonesia was signing an agreement about mini plant trial to produce surfactants which cooperate with Surfactant Bioenergy Research Centre Institute of Agriculture Bogor (SBRC IPB) in Gresik, Tuesday (10/3).

Surfactant is a molecule that has a cluster of hydrophilic and lipophilic, thereby it can unite the mixture of water and oil. Besides industry and pharmacist sector, surfactant is also used for petroleum exploration.

President Director of Petrokimia Gresik, Rahmad Pribadi explained that so far, petroleum production in Indonesia uses primary methods (vacuumed with pumps) and secondary (driven with water).

“While the utilization of surfactant including tertiary method or Enhanced Oil Recovery,” said Rahmad.

These surfactants which a creation by the Indonesian are given the name Red and White Surfactants and have several advantages, including being able to lower surface tension better, and have competitive selling prices compared to similar imported products.

Technically, surfactants will be injected into the earth. Clogged oil wells or oil that is still attached to the rocks will be released and more easily sucked up by a pump. So that this surfactant can increase the productivity of petroleum wells, even able to extract crude oil from fields or old oil wells that are no longer in production.

“So, this product is really been waited and hoped by oil and gas industry players in Indonesia,” Rahmad said.

Rahmad explained that in the production of this Red and White Surfactant, it is needed raw material such as methyl ester from mini plant of SBRC IPB in Putri Bogor mountain along with gas from sulfuric acid unit of Petrokimia Gresik, therefore the background of this cooperation,” Rahmad explained.

The marketing of this product will be carried out by Petrokimia Gresik together with SBRC IPB and also supporting marketing and technical assistance from Indonesian Oil and Gas Community or known as KMI.

Rahmad conveyed that this cooperation is in line with business transformation program of Petrokimia Gresik which one of the target is diversification product to increase revenue and profitability. Petrokimia Gresik not only produces fertilizers, but also non-fertilizer products which can improve the asset utilization and company profit.

“This trial is one of alternative in utilizing factory assets of sulfuric acid of Petrokimia Gresik,” added Rahmad.

Until now, Red and White Surfactant which will be produced is the only one local product with the selling price is more competitive than the price of imported products, so it is very potential to be able to contribute in increasing company profits.

After the phase of trial goes well, then a scale up of the Surfactant production unit will be carried out along with the construction of the production unit raw material methyl ester obtained from crude palm oil (CPO) in Gresik. This can reduce the cost of transportation of raw materials and produce more competitive surfactant products.

“This cooperation is one of effort and role of both companies in improving national independence and in order to reduce dependence on imported raw materials and supporting materials, one of which is surfactant,” ended Rahmad.

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