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EXCELLENT IN TECHNOLOGY, PRODUCTS OF PETROKIMIA GRESIK ANSWERING THE NEEDS OF AGROINDUSTRY SPECIFIC SECTOR

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Entering one year of President Jokowi and Vice President Ma'ruf Amin's reign, the SOE Ministry under the leadership of SOE Minister Erick Thohir continues to strive to assist the government in improving the national economy. Petrokimia Gresik, as an Agro-industry Solution company member of the SOE *holding of* Pupuk Indonesia company, also supports these efforts, especially in the field of food security, particularly through the provision of quality commercial and subsidized fertilizers.

President Director of Petrokimia Gresik, Dwi Satriyo Annurogo conveyed that in an effort to create comprehensive solutions for the agro-industry sector from upstream to downstream, Petrokimia Gresik puts forward the use of sophisticated technology so that the solutions offered are right on target.

"With the qualified research capabilities that we have today, supported by the use of the latest technology, we have succeeded in creating products that are specific, on target, and can drive the market," said Dwi Satriyo.

There are some of flagship products that are able to answer specific market needs, including Phonska Plus, Phonska Oca, Petro Nitrat and Petro Ningrat.

Phonska Plus, received tremendous response from the market in the agro-industry sector. This fertilizer, which is proven to be able to increase the productivity of this plant, has even become a market leader of non-subsidized NPK fertilizer retail by 2019 with a market share of 27%.

If you look at the sales growth of NPK Phonska Plus in 2020, it has increased significantly. Until the end of 2020, it is predicted that Phonska Plus sales will increase by 50% compared to the previous year. For this reason, the company is targeting NPK Phonska Plus with the 15-15-15 formulation to maintain again its position market leader in the non-subsidized fertilizer sector.

"Phonska Plus is enriched with micro nutrients *zinc* which are needed by plants. Based on the report from the International Fertilizer Association (IFA), the content *zinc* in agricultural land in Indonesia has decreased significantly. Therefore, NPK Phonska Plus is a solution to agricultural problems in Indonesia when this," said Dwi Satriyo.

He explained that Petrokimia Gresik has been known as the pioneer of NPK or compound fertilizer in Indonesia. NPK was once a new future for companies and agriculture in Indonesia. Even now, Petrokimia Gresik is able to provide NPK with various formulations, ranging from NPK Petro Nitrat and NPK Petro Ningrat.

Most recently, Petrokimia Gresik also innovated in developing NPK fertilizer and liquid organic Phonska Oca. This fertilizer is a company effort to achieve sustainable agriculture by increasing crop productivity as well as improving soil conditions.

This is very important considering that based on data from Agricultural Land Resources Center (BBSDLP) in 2018, at least 70 percent of the 8 million hectares of rice fields in

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Indonesia are less fertile. This means that around 5 million hectares of rice fields contain low organic matter.

This condition is caused by several factors, one of which is the excessive use of non-organic fertilizers and pesticides in the long term which causes the organic matter content in the soil to decompose and become less.

Phonska Oca can be a practical solution for farmers. Where the compound fertilizer content serves to increase plant productivity and organic fertilizers can improve nutrient content in the soil.

Therefore, through this product, we also want to raise awareness of farmers about the importance of using organic fertilizers, in this case Phonska Oca, "he said.

For its ability in mastering the compound fertilizer technology, continued Dwi Satriyo, Petrokimia Gresik is also able to produce more than 40 NPK formulations, and 4 (four) patents in NPK production, where the research foundations for Petrokimia Gresik include market needs, customer complaints, government policies, specialty assignments and literature studies.

Mastery of this technology is supported by the best research capabilities and complete laboratory facilities, "said Dwi Satriyo.

Mastery of this technology is also the basis for Petrokimia Gresik to develop complete non-fertilizer products, such as probiotics, decomposers, pesticides and soil repairers.

Petrokimia Gresik also offers seed solutions for the upstream agro-industry. Seed is one of the supporters of increasing productivity for agriculture. Some of the seed products that have been developed are rice seeds, both Inbred (Petro Seed) and Hybrid (Petro Hybrid), corn seeds (Petro Hi Corn), and chili seeds (Petro Chili).

Second, Petrokimia Gresik completes agricultural control by presenting a soil test car. Since its launch in 2015, the soil test car has received enthusiastic response from farmers. This positive response comes because there are still many farmers who have difficulty checking the soil content because they do not have a testing device. For this reason, in 2020, Petrokimia Gresik will expand the range of ground test car services, from previously only 4 (four) units to 15 units, including in South Kalimantan which was inaugurated by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, Syahrul Yasin Limpo (SYL).

The operational areas for the 15 units of soil test cars 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 to 15 of these areas, but it does not rule out the possibility of also serving the surrounding areas.

The soil test car service has function to test soil fertility levels and provides free agricultural 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 recommendation, "said Dwi Satriyo.

So far, farmers have also found it difficult to choose the type of fertilizer and dosage to use. The presence of this service will provide a solution to these problems.



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

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

"Petrokimia Gresik is committed to supporting increased agricultural productivity to maintain food security and improve welfare on the basis of mastery of technology through the hope of Agro-Industry Solutions," he concluded.

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