

COVID-19, A MOMENTUM TO SUPPORT FARMERS, BREEDERS, AND FISHERMEN

SPEAKERS

Keynote Speech:

- Dr. Syahrul Yasin Limpo - Minister of Agriculture
- Basuki Hadimuljono Ph.D. - Minister of Public Works and Public Housing
- Dr. Siti Nurbaya Bakar - Minister of Environment and Forestry
- Sofyan Djalil Ph.D. - Minister of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning

Moderator:

- Prof. Dr. Bustanul Arifin

Panellists:

- Prof. Dr. Arif Satria - Rector of IPB University
- Karen Tambayong - Chairman of KADIN's Standing Committee on Horticulture
- Arif Patrick Rachmat - Chairman of KADIN's Standing Committee of Forestry

Background

The Covid-19 pandemic brings impact on each and every aspect of human life, from health, poverty, to unemployment.

The pandemic also warns of a possible threat to a country's food security. In order to prevent the occurrence of impacts and threats and its possibility of getting worse, the government has made various recovery initiatives, both in the health and economic sectors.

In addition, efforts to anticipate food crisis threat have become one of the government's main concerns. To strengthen food security, the government is undertaking several initiatives, including preparing for building food estate. The ratification of the Job Creation Law will also encourage investment and innovation in the agricultural sector which will ultimately lead to increased national food security.

However, these efforts need to be supported with fundamental reform of the agricultural sector. The biggest challenge in improving this field is that there is still incomplete upstream-downstream. So far, only the palm oil industry has a complete upstream-downstream ecosystem. Meanwhile, ecosystem of other commodities, such as livestock, fisheries, horticulture, food, and other plantations, remain incomplete.

Issues concerning land, seeds, irrigation, fertilizer, financing, marketing and agricultural facilities and infrastructure are obstacles in the food and horticulture sub-sectors. In the horticultural in particular, storage facilities remain a challenge. Meanwhile, obstacles faced by fisheries industry centered on cold storage, financing, logistics, and facilities and infrastructure, while animal husbandry faces breed, land, financing, and livestock farmer organization issues.

As a matter of fact, an inclusive closed loop system considered to be a solution to solve these various ecosystem problems. This is a mutually beneficial upstream-downstream partnership scheme to maintain production continuation, price stability, and farmers' welfare. The palm oil industry has high competitiveness, high productivity, and more prosperous farmers, because it has an inclusive closed loop partnership or a complete ecosystem, which encompasses farmers,

cooperatives, banks and offtakers. This business model is currently being applied in that of other commodities, such as the inclusive closed loop horticulture for chilies in Garut as initiated by KADIN Indonesia.

Arif Rachmat, Chairman of Standing Committee on Forestry

- Mandatory requirements in the implementation of inclusive closed loop system are the completeness of the upstream-downstream ecosystem, collaboration between the government, private sector & farmers. The implementation of inclusive closed loop system for corn has been successful.
- Inclusive closed loop system closely relates to oil palm projects. For example, PIR Trans, the programs enable fresh fruit bunches (FFB) price to be well controlled.
- PRISMA case study (Australia-Indonesia cooperation program for poverty alleviation in agriculture). The use of superior seeds is very useful to improve farmer's productivity, as proven in the corn commodity. Seed technology is useful to increase productivity many times, complemented by application of good agricultural practices.
- Farmers' land legality is very much required because many farmers are constrained to get access to financing since they do not have land certificates or the lands are not legal.
- Partnership must be made between universities and corporations. In Germany, agriculture able to advance thanks to the cooperation between universities and corporations.