International Cooperation Bureau

Edition #2 | 2021

Newsletter

Ministry of Agriculture
INDONESIA

In this Issue:

KostraTani
Millennials Go Organic
Digitalization in Agriculture
Food Heroes, and more

"Indonesia would like to call on leaders and international development partners to strengthen partnerships and collaborations to mobilise more investment to boost productivity and build farmers' resilience in rural areas."
Minister of Agriculture addressing GFFA high-level meeting, 22 January 2021

Scan this QR Code to read online

www.pertanian.go.id

Dr. Ade Candradijaya
Director

International Cooperation Bureau
Secretariat General
Ministry of Agriculture
Jl. Harsono RM No. 3
A Building, 6th Floor
Ragunan, South Jakarta 12550
www.pertanian.go.id

Our mailing address:
publikasi.kln@gmail.com

Spiderweb Rice Field in Manggarai District, West Nusa Tenggara
(Image credit: Romulo Rejon)

Foreword

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter.

In this issue, we explain how Indonesia is responding to the challenges of modernizing agriculture and inspiring younger people to take up farming, all amid the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

We also look at strategic programs being undertaken to strengthen national food security and accelerate food system transformation through the Strategic Command for Agricultural Development (KostraTani) program, digitalization, as well as farmers' regeneration programs. A highlight of this issue is an interview with one of our Millennial Farmer Ambassadors, who is helping to lead the way in making organic farming a cool and profitable profession.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for improvement of our publication. Happy reading!

POLICY DIRECTIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE 2020-2024

1. Maintaining National Food Security
2. Increased Added Value & Competitiveness of Agri Products
3. Maintaining Sustainability of Agri Resources, Infrastructure & Facilities
4. Improving Quality of Agricultural Human Resources
5. Bureaucratic Reform & Good Governance

FIVE KEY PROGRAMS

01 Availability, Accessibility and Quality of Food Consumption

02 Value Added and Industrial Competitiveness

03 Research and Innovation in Science and Technology

04 Vocational Education and Training

05 Management Support

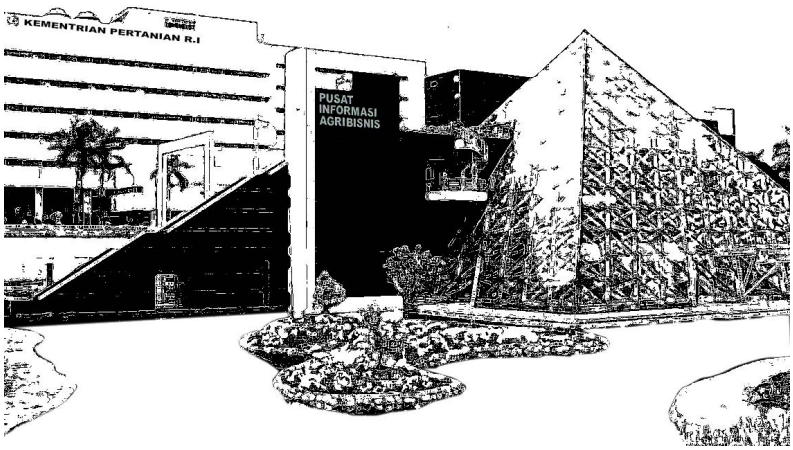
GOALS

Self-sufficient in meeting food demand of Indonesian people

Prosperous Farmers

RENSTRA MoA 2020-2024 in Indonesian can be downloaded from the following link: https://bit.ly/38jHhJE

IN THIS ISSUE



Our Office:
Ministry of Agriculture
Jl. Harsono RM No. 3
A Building, 6th Floor
Ragunan, South Jakarta 12550
www.pertanian.go.id

SEIZING THE MOMENTUM

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck the world over a year ago, there were fears of economic collapse and massive food shortages**.** In Indonesia, the Ministry of Agriculture responded by **seizing on the pandemic as the momentum to build greater resilience and sustainability through transformation.**

Farmers, especially smallholders, are among those worst-hit by COVID-19, as declining demand for various crops and vegetables saw prices fall. As a result, many farmers did not break even in 2020, spending more than they earned.

Fortunately, the government is providing financial assistance for those worst-hit. But beyond the 'quick fix' of cash handouts, **more long-term structural solutions are being developed** to ensure that farming remains an attractive and profitable profession. This is essential to reduce poverty, raise employment and achieve national food security.

The Ministry of Agriculture has implemented a **broad range of policies** aimed at improving farmers' welfare, accelerating production and increasing exports. From embracing digitalization to forming strategic command posts, to developing millennial and urban farming, there are many silver linings to the hardships of the devastating pandemic.

> *While Indonesia's economy contracted by 2.19% in 2020,* ***the agriculture sector recorded positive growth of 2,59%.*** *The number of* ***people working in agriculture grew to 29.76% of the total workforce****, while the agricultural sector accounted for* ***13.7%*** *of gross domestic product.* ***Agricultural export value also grew increasing by 1,63%*** *compared to 2019.*

Employing more than a quarter of Indonesia's workforce, the labor-intensive agriculture sector is able to absorb many of those left jobless in sectors worst hit by COVID, such as tourism and hospitality.

For many decades, young Indonesians have been leaving rural areas in pursuit of non-agricultural livelihoods in urban areas. Many would send home part of their off-farm earnings to supplement their family's income. Others might seek higher education or travel abroad as a migrant worker.

COVID has changed all this. Travel restrictions made it harder if not impossible to seek foreign employment. Some families are now unable to afford university fees. Companies are cutting costs and reluctant to hire new staff. This all means that many young people and new entrants to the workforce are turning to agriculture.

> *The influx of younger Indonesians into the agricultural sector is a much-needed shot in the arm to help provide innovation and adoption of best practices to raise incomes.* ***According to Statistics Indonesia (BPS), 46.3% of households facing poverty in 2020 were reliant on agriculture as their main source of income.***

Young Indonesians recently laid off from urban jobs are digital natives, savvy with technology that can help to improve productivity and profitability. Many are senior high school and even university graduates, keen to apply their learning to develop sustainable and decentralized food supply chains to help combat the impact of COVID-19. Others are developing online apps and start-ups to help farmers market their produce directly to vendors and consumers.

In this regard, the government is helping farmers to cope with economic pressures by providing loan interest subsidies and relaxing repayments through microcredit programs for livestock and cropping. There is also a social safety net targeting lowest-income farmers to ensure they can keep producing food. This includes financial assistance and provision of fertilizer and seeds. Yet demand for certain commodities has fallen as people are spending less due to the economic recession. Partly for this reason, but also because of effective supply planning, Indonesia avoided the extreme levels of panic buying and hoarding that hit some countries.

> ***"The pandemic is providing momentum to adopt digital solutions in response to pressures from consumers to ensure food safety and the sustainability of agricultural practices."***

The government is also planning for production and distribution levels for specific products to avoid excess supply.

The agriculture sector can continue to benefit from digital technologies of the 'new normal' in how businesses and consumers connect. Sales of agricultural commodities on e-commerce platforms soared in 2020 and show little sign of slowing in 2021. Digital platforms such as TaniHub, which sells agricultural products online, saw its gross revenue grow by over 600% last year, as many consumers opted to buy online rather than visiting traditional markets and supermarkets. TaniHub helped some 46,000 farmers in Java and Bali to increase their income by 20% and now plans to expand to other areas of Indonesia.

The wider adoption of technology among the Ministry of Agriculture's extension officers is also having a positive impact on farmers and agricultural services providers. This digitalized food supply chain is helping farmers to receive improved support including technical advice, financial services and market access.

There remains an ongoing need to ensure that lowest-income farmers are protected by the social safety net, but the entry of tech-savvy millennials can help to spur the adoption and familiarization of smart farming methods, resulting in greater yields and income.

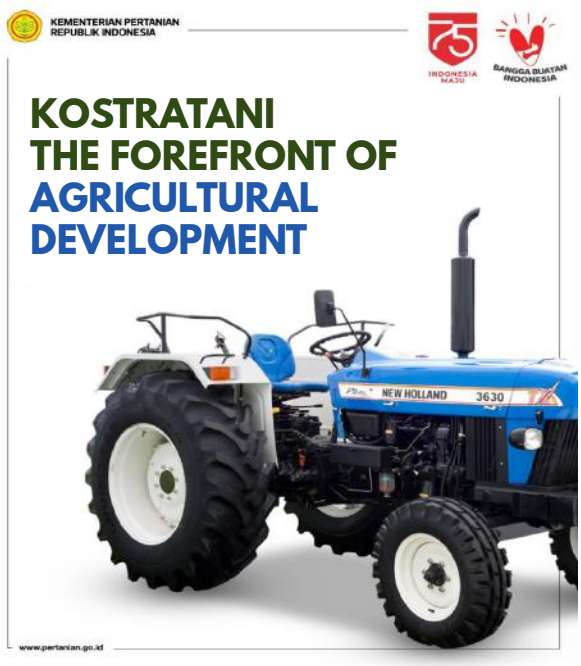
The Ministry of Agriculture continues to work with local and international partners to develop new strategies to improve food production, supply, storage and distribution. Whenever the pandemic is finally over, it is hoped that the positive changes being undertaken now will prove to be sustainable and provide lasting benefits to the improvement of Indonesian agriculture.

KOSTRATANI: DRIVING A NEW ERA OF DIGITAL AGRICULTURE

One of the Agriculture Ministry's main efforts to improve farmers' welfare and national food production is the Strategic Command for Agricultural Development (KostraTani) program. Launched in November 2019, ***KostraTani aims to make agricultural development more coordinated, more modern and closely monitored at the local level, ensuring farmers are provided with optimum guidance and can benefit from technology.***

Just a few months after the launch, Indonesia was struck by the COVID-19 pandemic, which threatened food security and rural incomes. Fortunately, the development of KostraTani has empowered farmers to broaden their skills and diversify their crops to better meet market needs. It has also allowed the government to obtain better data on farmers and help those most in need.

In the initial months of the pandemic, rural incomes took a hit, especially because of reduced demand for various horticultural commodities. Many farmers were struggling to make ends meet. Despite this, the agriculture sector has proved resilient, partly thanks to the development of KostraTani.



KostraTani is a manifestation of Agriculture Minister Syahrul Yasin Limpo's focus on building an agricultural ecosystem through training and digitization. He developed KostraTani because of the crucial need for reliable data for decision-making. Using data and technology as a spearhead, rural areas can be guided to produce export-oriented commodities, thereby delivering higher earnings to farmers.

Rather than starting from scratch, **the program has built on Indonesia's pre-existing Agriculture Extension Centers (BPP), which function to extend the development of agricultural human resources.** BPP units advise farmers on a range of issues, such as planting, cultivation, harvesting and marketing.

These KostraTani posts submit data under a tiered reporting system, from the village and subdistrict levels to the district level, then to the provincial and national levels, providing a clearer picture of agricultural conditions throughout Indonesia. The data is used to generate information on supplies of strategic commodities, agricultural labor levels, loans for farmers, exports, investment, and all activities carried out at BPP units.

The information is used by the Ministry's central data control center, the Agriculture War Room, helping officials and stakeholders to determine appropriate policies for agricultural development. For example, KostraTani can recommend crop-planting opportunities, predict harvest times, and disseminate agricultural market information.

After floods hit rice fields in early 2021 in parts of Tangerang, Banten province, KostraTani units were able to advise on the likelihood and timing of rice harvests, as well as facilitate access to tools, fertilizer and machinery. Meanwhile, in South Sumatra province, KostraTani has been supporting the planting of sorghum in previously unproductive land to create a flour substitute and a livestock feed. In West Nusa Tenggara province, KostraTani is promoting and assisting corn planting based on price projections and demand for animal feed.

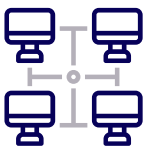
Security & Sovereignty

One of the long-term goals of KostraTani is to harness the power of technology to optimize the role of BPP in achieving both national food security and national food sovereignty.

Food security means ensuring that all people have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy life. Food sovereignty, on the other hand, is a system in which the mechanisms and policies of food production and distribution are controlled by the people, rather than by corporations and market institutions.

In Indonesia, this aims to protect farmers from commodity price volatility in international trade. It also involves empowering farmers to plant necessary crops for domestic consumption and exports. Ideally, Indonesia will be less dependent on food imports and be self-sufficient in certain commodities, such as rice, corn and soy.

In the short-term, KostraTani's objectives are optimizing facilities, infrastructure, institutions, human resources capacity and the implementation of information technology-based agricultural development at the district level.



At the end of 2020, **KostraTani had linked 5,700 of the country's total 5,733 BPP units to the Agriculture War Room.** The remainder are to be linked in 2021.

About **80% of the BPP units had been equipped with computers and modems in 2020**, while the remaining 1,964 are to be equipped in 2021.

5 Roles of KostraTani

1. A center for agricultural data and information. Data collected includes land area, commodities, climate, crop pests, human resources, infrastructure (buildings, machinery).
2. A center of the agricultural development movement. This includes mentoring and collaboration with extension workers and officers. Program targets include farmers' groups and associations, rural economic groups and millennial farmers.
3. A learning center involving institutions, academics, agricultural practitioners, and private and non-governmental organizations. Methods include training, apprenticeships, comparative studies, assessment and mentoring.
4. A business consulting center, where expert agricultural consultants from government agencies to private institutions deliver technical material. Materials cover cultivation, post-harvest activities and processing, marketing, mechanization and information technology. Management issues include entrepreneurship and institutions.
5. A center for developing marketing partnership networks.

Throughout Indonesia, KostraTani units are continuing to provide real solutions in the field to maximize farmers' skills and contribute to the acceleration of food system transformation.

MILLENNIALS TAKE ROOT

Similar to other developing countries, lack of regeneration among farmers and lack of innovation have long been among the biggest problems facing agriculture in Indonesia. **The Ministry of Agriculture is responding by implementing various strategies to get more millennials involved in farming.**

Driving through scenic parts of Indonesia, it's easy to admire the beautifully landscaped rice fields from the comfort of a vehicle. But when you stop and talk to the farmers busily engaged in the hard manual labor of planting, weeding or harvesting, you instantly notice how old they look. That's because most farmers are over the age of 45 years. ***Only 12% of the country's 35 million farmers are younger than 35 years.***

Farming has traditionally been a hereditary occupation, where youths followed in the footsteps of their parents. However, cultivating the land is widely viewed as extremely hard and unglamorous work that offers low financial rewards. Thus, many young Indonesians from rural backgrounds prefer to move to urban areas to find construction work, factory jobs or other better-paying employment options. Even many farming parents invest a substantial amount of their meager savings to educate their children, hoping they will find prestigious jobs.

This process of rapid urbanization and economic development from a rural to a manufacturing and services economy is part of the transition from a developing to a developed country. Nevertheless, in a country with the world's fourth-largest population and fertile soil, food security will be at risk if the number of farmers continues to decline.

Data from Statistics Indonesia shows the number of households producing food crops fell from 14.19 million in 2013 to 13.2 million in 2018. That's only to be expected amid ongoing urbanization, but the problem is a lack of generational renewal. **The number of farmers has declined by an average 1.93% each year from 2010 and 2014.**

The Ministry of Agriculture is promoting modernization of agriculture as a means of encouraging young people, broadly defined as 'millennials' to consider farming.

There is no strict definition of the term millennials. Some countries use it to refer to people born between 1981 and 1996, while those born from 1997 onward are referred to as Generation Z. **In Indonesia, millennial is more loosely used to refer to the generation of people born since the 1990s and 2000s.**

The presence of millennials can improve the agricultural sector, not only in terms of generational renewal, but also because younger people are much more responsive than older farmers to technological innovations and digital developments. They will be more willing to meet with consumers and learn about preferences in order to develop precision farming. Use of technology can help them to deal with problems involving climate change, pest attacks, crop diseases and market access.

In April 2020, the Director General of Agricultural Extension and Human Resources issued a decree creating the position of **Millennial Farmer Ambassadors** to support efforts to increase the role of the younger generation in agriculture. The first batch of 59 ambassadors, aged between 19 and 39 years, was then inaugurated by Minister Syahrul Yasin Limpo. The ambassadors have expertise in fields including crops, plantations, livestock and horticulture.

The ambassadors are expected to attract other millennials to become agricultural entrepreneurs. They are also tasked to accelerate community dissemination of the Ministry's programs aimed at improving the role of agriculture entrepreneurship in mitigating the impacts of COVID-19.

While many young Indonesians joined the agricultural workforce in 2020 because they lost jobs in other sectors, **the Millennial Farming Ambassadors are approaching young people with senior high school and university education to show that agriculture can be clean, green and cool.** Millennials are also forming cooperatives to help small-scale farmers to develop strategies to increase their productivity and broaden their market reach. Some start-ups by millennials are focused on starting organic farming and marketing – a key growth area.

There are various strategies for raising the number of millennial farmers. It's essential to demonstrate how the use of technology can make farming financially rewarding. Equally important is ensuring access to land. In some areas, fallow land could be made available for subsidized rental to young villagers. In East Nusa Tenggara province, local government has allocated Rp 1 trillion (US$70 million) in a subsidized microcredit program to support agriculture and livestock development. Young farmers starting from scratch are among the recipients.

To accelerate farmers' regeneration beyond mainstream government-funded programs, the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has since 2018 implemented **the Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Support Services (YESS) Program**. The program aims to enable young women and men to contribute to rural transformation and inclusive rural growth. The main outcomes of the project are: (i) young people acquire skills that enable them to take advantage of employment and business opportunities; (ii) young farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) access markets and services in the targeted value chains, and; (iii) young farmers, rural entrepreneurs, and migrants and their families have access to financial products and services to finance their businesses.

Multilateral cooperation with experienced foreign partners and development agencies on the adoption of best practices for smart farming can also help to foster the role of Indonesian millennials in agriculture.

Creative economy is another option for luring millennials into farming. Start-ups that use online platforms to deliver fresh products from farmers directly to consumers are able to cut through the complex supply chains that have long burdened traditional farmers.

Through government support and strategic policies, Indonesia wish to redraw its agricultural landscape to attract more millennials and therefore ensure the nation's lasting food sovereignty and security. Through this process of transformation, it is hoped that farming can become a prestigious and profitable occupation.

Ministry of Agriculture Indonesia

IFAD
Investing in rural people

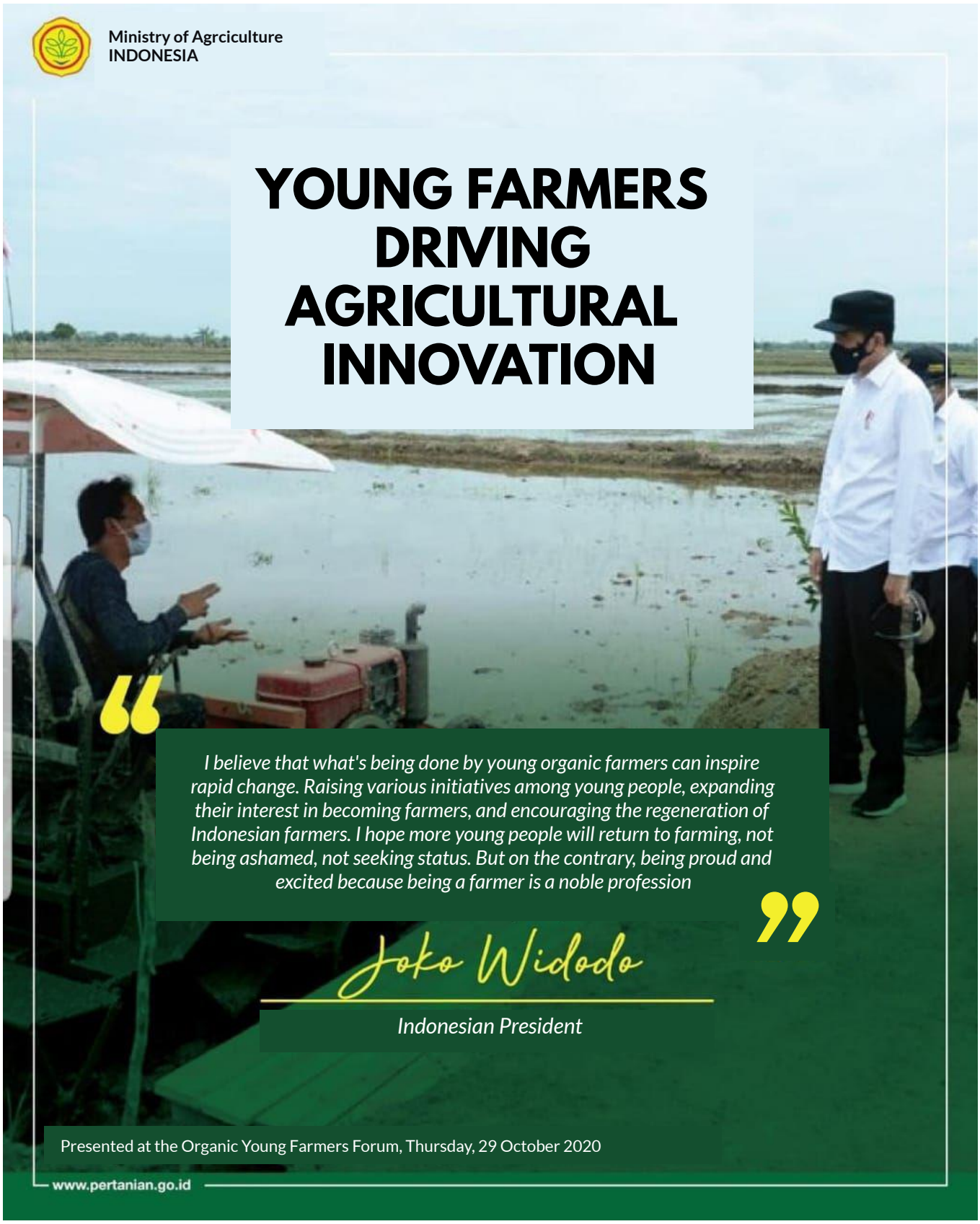
YESS PROJECT

2018 - 2025
Duration

15 Districts in 4 Provinces
Coverage

110,000
Target beneficiaries of young rural Indonesians

Obejctives: rural young women and men are engaged in the agri-based sector through employment and entrepreneurship


Ministry of Agrciculture
INDONESIA
YOUNG FARMERS DRIVING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION
"I believe that what's being done by young organic farmers can inspire rapid change. Raising various initiatives among young people, expanding their interest in becoming farmers, and encouraging the regeneration of Indonesian farmers. I hope more young people will return to farming, not being ashamed, not seeking status. But on the contrary, being proud and excited because being a farmer is a noble profession"
Joko Widodo
Indonesian President
Presented at the Organic Young Farmers Forum, Thursday, 29 October 2020
www.pertanian.go.id

DIGITALIZATION IN AGRICULTURE

Digital technologies are rapidly transforming business and society throughout the world, but agriculture in Indonesia has traditionally been a low-tech industry. **In recent years, the Indonesian government and tech entrepreneurs have been harnessing the power of information and communication technologies with the aim of modernizing the country's agricultural sector.** These developments have tremendous potential to improve productivity and profitability, and strengthen the whole food system.

Indonesia's increasing need for digitalization in agriculture is due to many factors. First, **the country's vast geographic span over thousands of islands and its uneven terrain make it difficult to obtain reliable and timely information on food production.** Prior to the introduction of communication technologies, information about disruptions to food systems could take months to reach senior policymakers in Jakarta. It could then take another month for any solution determined by the central government to be implemented in the affected region. This long process was inefficient and detrimental to farmers' income.

Another problem is **the inefficient market chain for agriculture products.** For example, in the case of rice farming, a recent study by the Ministry of Agriculture found that 56% of paddy farmers in Indonesia sell their unhusked rice to middlemen instead of directly to rice mills. This practice increases the consumer price of rice, yet farmers do not receive much of the profit margin. Similar patterns occur for other agricultural products, where middlemen take most of the profit.

A solution to these challenges is **wider use of technologies, such as platforms that share information in real time and connect farmers to markets.** The most common types of digital technologies used in agriculture include the internet, mobile phones, online apps, data collection and analytics, remote sensing, artificial intelligence, robotics, drones and sensors in precision farming management.

These technologies allow agricultural stakeholders t**o make the best decisions and utilize available resources in most productive and sustainable manner.**

Despite the many benefits, there is a "digital divide" between urban and rural areas throughout much of the world, where farming families in remote areas may lack access to reliable high-speed internet. Even in developed countries such as Australia and the US, where most farmers have internet access and conduct certain transactions online, rural households still tend to have lower levels of digital inclusion.

The digital divide between urban and rural areas is even more stark in developing economies and emerging markets, although mobile phone ownership rates are high.

With 45% of Indonesians living in rural areas and more than 90% of the nation's farmers being low-income smallholders, **the challenge is how to best provide access to suitable technology and promote the adoption of digital farming.**

At the simplest level, most Indonesian farmers have mobile phones and can therefore receive agricultural information and advice through text messages, even without internet access. Such access to real-time, accurate information is crucial for making strategic decisions, especially during the COVID pandemic.

When COVID-19 hit Indonesia in 2020, prices fluctuated for certain agricultural commodities, such as chilies, shallots and garlic. Farmers using certain agricultural apps were advised to plant alternative crops suitable for their land types and offering higher profitability. In this way, digital technology has helped farmers to reduce their exposure to the risk of market volatility.

Smartphones also give farmers greater access to end-consumers. Farmers have long complained that their crops are sold too cheaply because they often have to go through five to ten middlemen, who keep adding to the final cost of products by the time they end up in markets or stores. By connecting directly with markets, suppliers and consumers through smartphone apps, farmers can provide precisely what is needed and enjoy a more substantial profit.

In cases where farmers don't own a smartphone, the Ministry of Agriculture's Strategic Agricultural Development Command (KostraTani) program uses extension officers to gather data and provide farmers with the best guidance and advice.

DATA FOR SMART FARMING

> The Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture's Center for Agricultural Data and System Information (CADIS) in 2005 commenced the shift toward digitization of data, especially production data. The Ministry now has more than 700 online reporting systems. Processing and management of this data is facilitated by the Agriculture War Room (AWR) to streamline data collection and management for the development of digital farming.

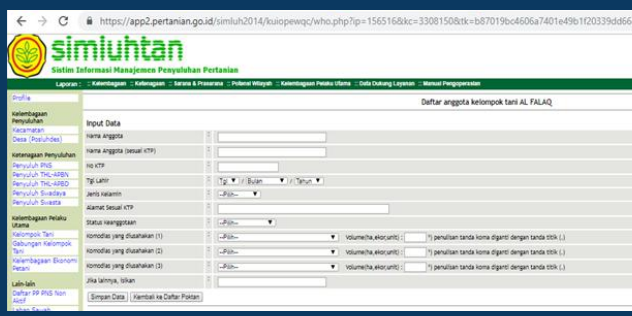
Digital farming, also known as smart farming and Farming 4.0, is viewed as a possible solution to Indonesia's problem of attracting younger people to the agricultural sector. Precision farming is the adoption of site-specific practices that use smart technology to cater to individual plots and crops. Examples include soil assessment sensors, aerial imagery and big data analytics to economize on irrigation, fertilizer and pesticides.

AgriTech, another term for the use of technology in agriculture and horticulture, is increasingly being used to refer to start-ups that use digital platforms to introduce farmers to precision farming, markets and financial services. Among the major AgriTech start-ups in Indonesia are TaniHub (an online marketplace for trading agricultural commodities), Chilibeli (a network that connects farmers and suppliers), 8Villages (a mobile phone subscription service connecting farmers based on their crops, location and needs), RiTx Bertani (an application that advises farmers) and iGrow (partnering farmers and agribusinesses).

DIGITAL

AGRICULTURE WAR ROOM (AWR)

Launched in February 2020, the War Room serves as a control center for data, monitoring and mapping, providing up-to-date and accurate information on yields and supplies of agricultural products, as well as the needs of farmers.



Agricultural Extension Management Information Systems (SIMLUHTAN)

SIMLUHTAN is a web-based information system that provides data and information on government extension institutions and personnel, as well as farmer organizations and profiles.

IZATION IN AGRICULTURE

National Integrated Animal Health Surveillance System (iSIKHNAS)

iSIKHNAS is Indonesia's integrated animal health information system, built on an approach which sees everyone as a decision-maker with the right to relevant, timely data. Data can be submitted in a variety of ways (SMS, IM, spreadsheet, etc) and it becomes immediately available in accessible, flexible formats, tailored to specific needs. The system was developed under cooperation with the Australian Government.

Foreign Grant and Loan Reporting Information System (SIPOR-PHLN)

SIPOR-PHLN is an application to facilitate monitoring and reporting on foreign loans and grants managed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Such applications can broaden farmers' knowledge and opportunities, while reducing their risks, protecting their crops from pests and diseases. They are guided to grow crops that will be in highest demand and can then gain access to markets at the right times to sell at the best prices.

Big data and artificial intelligence support the development of predictive modeling to forecast pest and disease outbreaks, such as infestations of locusts and caterpillars or occurrences of bacterial leaf blight. Modeling also provides recommendations for best seed varieties and planting times, in addition to determining when products will fetch the best prices.

Digital tools also assist market agents in coordinating commodity supply and demand, improving trade, transport and storage networks, thereby reducing transaction costs and food waste.

Technology may not be a remedy for all problems faced by Indonesian farmers, who need advice tailored to their needs, as well as affordable fertilizers and seeds, and access to markets to sell their products. The government is therefore streamlining policies and making strong partnerships with development agencies and the private sector to use technology to put rural areas on the path to greater productivity and income.

As noted at the 35th session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in September 2020, the use of digital technologies to improve food production and trade, especially among smallholder farmers, helps to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Farming in Indonesia has long been viewed as low-income and dirty work, while middlemen and traders make much more money, but digitalization is now helping to make agriculture a more lucrative and appealing profession.

#FOOD HEROES
WORLD FOOD DAY 2020

The 2020 World Food Day marked the 75th anniversary of the founding of FAO. It has come a long way since its establishment on October 16, 1945, with the aim of combating hunger all around the world. In 2020, bringing the theme of "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together – Our Action are our Future", FAO called for the appreciation of Food Heroes, the people who produce, plant, harvest, fish or transport our food, no matter the circumstances. As the whole world still trying to heal from the widespread effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial to acknowledge the work of the people in the front line of food and agriculture, who help bring food to our table.

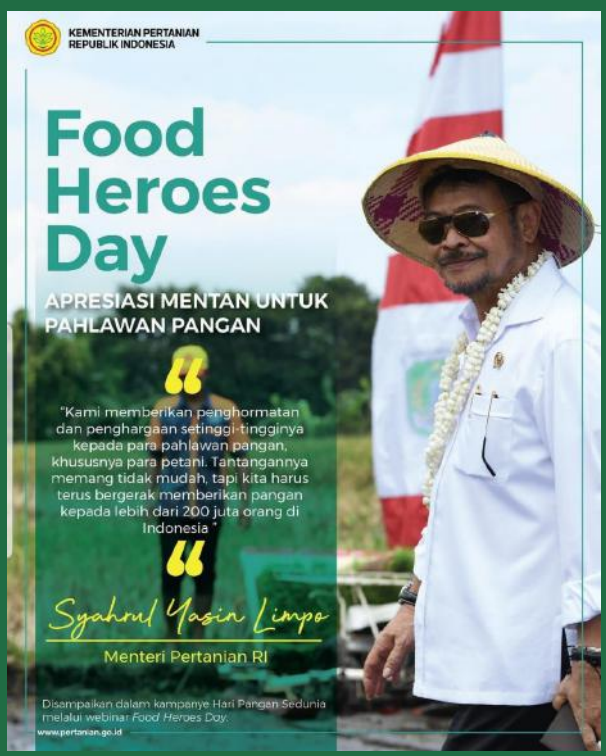
Minister of Agriculture, Syahrul Yasin Limpo, in his remarks to celebrate World Food Day virtually, expressed his appreciation towards Indonesia's Food Heroes, especially farmers.

> ***"It is not an easy task to provide sufficient food for more than 273 million people across the country. The work ahead will be challenging, but we will have to keep moving to secure food supply for people across Indonesia."***

Last year's celebration of World Food Day was quite different, as social distance restrictions continued to be applied to prevent widespread infection. World Food Day campaign and outreach activities in Indonesia were done virtually via digital platforms. Minister Limpo stated that virtual activities are not a disadvantage, rather an opportunity that make it possible to reach a wider audience. One of the 2020 World Food Day activities was Food Heroes Virtual Exhibition where visitors could explore various displays of FAO's projects and the struggles of Food Heroes to continue providing food for their community despite COVID-19 restrictions. The lifelike experience is available at www.pahlawanpangan.com.

THE COMMITMENT OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT

Minister Limpo commemorates World Food Day to promote awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and encourage healthy diets for all (16/10/20)



COVER STORY

Minister Limpo Joins 77 Agriculture Ministers at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA), 22 January 2021

The 13th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) was held virtually from 18–22 January 2021 focusing on the topic "How to Feed the World in Times of Pandemics and Climate Change". GFFA is an international conference that focuses on central questions concerning the future of the global agri-food industry, hosted by the Federal Agriculture Minister of Germany.

During the Agriculture Ministers' Conference, Minister Limpo conveyed Indonesia's experience to ensure adequate food in the new normal era. "We are creating an advanced, independent and modern agricultural sector through a transformation from a production-based approach to a food system approach. In this slowing economic growth condition due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our e□orts have resulted in an increase in GDP growth in the agricultural sector by around 2.59%, as well as an increase in agricultural exports by 10.37%," he said. In his closing remarks, Minister Limpo reiterated his commitment to strengthen collaborations and partnerships to build a better future for the global food system.

A total of 110 speakers from 120 countries met virtually, comprising 78 ministers of agriculture and high-level officials from 13 international organisations. A Joint Communique was adopted as an essential contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit to be held later in 2021.

Highlights of the Final Communiqué of the Agriculture Ministers' Conference:

1. Intensify efforts despite COVID-19 to achieve the UN's 2030 Agenda goal of "No Hunger".
2. To sustain food production, keep markets open and supply chains functioning in the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. To prevent future pandemics, support the "One Health" approach, create resilient animal health systems, and improve health management for wildlife species.
4. To further climate change mitigation, improve carbon sequestration in soils, reduce food loss and waste.
5. To support the approach for integrated, sustainable and resilient food systems and thus contribute to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021.

LATEST NEWS ON AGRICULTURE MINISTER

LEFT. H.E. Ambassador Peta Andonov of Bulgaria with Minister Limpo.
BELOW. H.E. Ambassador Jose Amir Da Costa Dornelles of Brazil with Minister Limpo

Bulgaria

H.E. Ambassador Petar Andonov of Bulgaria paid a courtesy call to Minister Limpo on 28 January 2021 at the Minister's office in Jakarta.

The Minister encouraged Bulgaria to invest in developing sugar, maize, and soybean industries in Indonesia. He also asked for market access facilitation for Indonesian poultry products to be sold in the Bulgarian market, noting that Bulgaria's growing Muslim community is a target market for Indonesian halal products.

Meanwhile, the Ambassador of Bulgaria expressed his strong desire to strengthen bilateral relations between Indonesia and Bulgaria, as well as the business-to-business relations between the two countries. Therefore, Ambassador Petar Andonov intends to intensely conduct private-to-private sector webinars that raise the issue of domestic market access of the two countries. It is hoped these business webinars can be conducted regularly to help the two nations both enjoy the benefits of increased trade.

Brazil

Minister Limpo received a courtesy visit from H.E. Ambassador Jose Amir da Costa Dornelles of Brazil on 26 January 2021. The Minister emphasized the need to strengthen bilateral relations through accelerating the implementation of an MoU on agriculture, which includes market access facilitation, technical cooperation and investment.

The Minister also expressed Indonesia's intention to increase the export value of Indonesia's strategic agricultural commodities, such as palm oil, rubber and coconut, and requested tariff reductions for those commodities. While Indonesia is asking for facilitation of Indonesian horticultural exports to Brazil, Brazil is hopeful for Indonesia's facilitation for Brazilian beef and other agricultural products to Indonesia.

Considering Brazil's status as a developed country with a strong sugar industry and agricultural technology, Minister Limpo invited Brazilian investors to invest in modernizing Indonesia's sugar industry. As for cooperation in developing agricultural technology, the Minister hopes that both countries could immediately implement cooperation programs in the transfer of cultivation technology and agricultural mechanization.

LEFT. H.E. Ambassador Ms. Fawziya Edrees Salman Al-Sulaiti of Qatar with Minister Limpo.
ABOVE. Charge d'Affairs of Poland, Mr. Piotr Firlus with Minister Limpo

Qatar

The Ambassador of Qatar to Indonesia, H.E. Ms. Fawziya Edrees Salman Al-Sulaiti, virtually met with Minister Limpo on 26 January 2021 and invited him to participate in Qatar Horticultural Expo 2023, which will be held in Doha from 2 October 2023 to 28 March 2024. The Minister gladly accepted the invitation and noted that Indonesia's participation in the Expo would provide great opportunities for Indonesian horticultural entrepreneurs while strengthening Indonesia's nation branding in the world.

The Minister and the Ambassador also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the agricultural sector through the initiation of an MoU on Agriculture, which will accommodate the formation of a Working Group on Agriculture as a formal forum for the two countries in formulating and implementing strategic cooperation, as well as finding solutions to resolve trade barriers between the two countries.

In order to increase investment, the Minister is very open to collaborating with Qatar through an investment scheme in the agricultural sector. According to him, with the current Indonesian government policy that encourages investment, Qatar can invest in the development of agricultural commodities to support food needs and agricultural-based industries in Indonesia and Qatar through various investment schemes.

Poland

On 26 January 2021, Mr. Piotr Firlus, the Embassy of Poland's Charge d'Affairs, paid a courtesy visit to Minister Limpo to boost Polish-Indonesian cooperation in agriculture.

During their productive discussion, the Minister emphasized the important need to strengthen the two countries' bilateral relations by accelerating the implementation of an MoU in agriculture, which comprises market access, technical cooperation and investment. Minister Limpo also invited the Polish private sector to invest in the dairy products sector in Indonesia. He hoped that Poland will not only export dairy products to Indonesia, but also establish dairy product industries in Indonesia.

Responding the Minister's remarks, Mr. Piotr Firlus stated his commitment to improving agricultural cooperation between Indonesia and Poland by offering several collaborative programs, such as research and development in the agricultural sector, human resource capacity building, and partnership programs for the development of horticultural commodities, cattle and the dairy industry. He also offered Masters and Doctoral scholarship programs, as well as student exchange programs between agricultural universities in both countries.

LEFT. H.E. Ambassador Juan Camilo Valencia Gonzalez of Colombia with Minister Limpo.
ABOVE. UN Resident Coordinator Mrs. Valerie Julliand with Minister Limpo

Colombia

Colombia is committed to opening the widest possible market access for veterinary medicines, such as animal vaccines, from Indonesia to the Colombian market. This was conveyed by the Ambassador of Colombia to Indonesia, Juan Camilo Valencia Gonzalez, during a courtesy call on Minister Limpo on 20 November 2020 in Jakarta.

In addition to veterinary medicines, the Minister also encouraged increased market access for Indonesian plantation commodities, such as rubber, palm oil, essential oils, spices and tropical fruits. In the livestock sector, the two countries agreed to collaborate to increase cattle productivity in Indonesia through the introduction of a Colombian Brahman breed, suitable for Indonesia's tropical climate.

They also agreed to collaborate on knowledge-sharing in supply chain management and international market information access for floricultural commodities. Another agreement reached during the meeting covers the exchange of superior germplasm from each country for oil palm, coffee and cocoa varieties to improve Indonesia's existing varieties of those commodities.

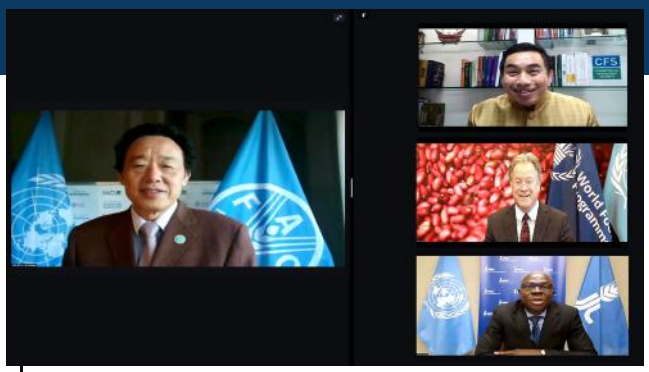
United Nations Resident Coordinator

On 23 November 2020, the new United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Indonesia, Valerie Julliand, paid a virtual courtesy call on Minister Limpo. The UNRC had presented her credentials to the President of Indonesia earlier in November.

The meeting with the Minister discussed UN support for Indonesia, especially in the agricultural sector, as well as UN contributions toward the sector's post-COVID-19 recovery.

Minister Limpo welcomed Julliand and extended the Ministry of Agriculture's support during this challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. He explained the role and strategies of Indonesia's agricultural sector in responding to the outbreak as one of the keys to the country's COVID-19 response.

He further highlighted the roles played by the three UN Rome-based agencies (UN RBAs) in supporting the Indonesian agricultural sector: FAO, IFAD and WFP, as well as the United Nations Development Programme.



RIGHT. Minister Limpo at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) High-Level Special Event on Strengthening Governance

Julliand appreciated the performance of Indonesia's agricultural sector in response to COVID-19 and mentioned the UN has been following Indonesia's policies closely and believes that lessons could be drawn upon and shared with other countries. She also shared details of the UN's priorities in Indonesia, which include supporting the country in responding to and mitigating the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 through a focus on rebuilding, as well as in bridging the digital divide and promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

CFS High-Level Event

The Minister of Agriculture, Syahrul Yasin Limpo, was one of the key speakers at a High-Level Virtual Special Event on Global Governance of Food Security and Nutrition held over 13–15 October 2020, organized by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The session brought together prominent food security experts and decision-makers to explore various means to strengthen global governance of food security and nutrition, as part of the global sustainable development agenda. Participants also discussed two ongoing CFS policy convergence processes on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, as well as agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Potential contributions were considered for the preparation of the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021.

Minister Limpo conveyed four main points. First, he commended the role of CFS as an innovative multi-stakeholder platform in promoting and supporting sustainable development and formulating a strategy for world food security. Second, he supported the initiative of the CFS in developing Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, as well as CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches.

Third, he noted the crucial role of the Indonesian agricultural sector in providing employment and ensuring national food security. Fourth, he stated Indonesia's commitment to share its expertise and experiences, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, in addressing the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on food systems and to contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in these challenging times.

ABOVE. Artis International Russia.
RIGHT. H.E. Australian Minister of Agriculture, David Littleproud with Minister Limpo.

BELOW. World Bank Country Director for Indonesia, Ms. Satu Kahkonen with Minister Limpo

Artis International Russia

Private company Artis International Russia has stated its commitment to invest in developing wheat, maize and stevia in Indonesia. The Minister of Agriculture welcomed this commitment and proposed the cultivation be done in Flores, East Nusa Tenggara province and South Sumatra province.

Representatives from Artis International Russia were to have visited Indonesia in October 2020 for further discussion, as well as to conduct a field survey of the proposed locations. To follow up the commitment, the Agriculture Ministry is preparing supporting data on the proposed location areas.

Australia

The newly appointed Australian Minister of Agriculture, David Littleproud, paid a virtual courtesy call on the Indonesian Minister of Agriculture, Syahrul Yasin Limpo, on 28 September 2020. The meeting discussed strengthening agricultural cooperation, increasing trade relations and exploring technical cooperation in the agricultural sector.

Minister Limpo proposed drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Agricultural Cooperation between the two countries to create stronger future bilateral cooperation. The initiative was welcomed by Minister Littleproud. Both ministers hope they could meet to sign the MoU when the global pandemic situation improves.

The World Bank

The Indonesian Minister of Agriculture held a virtual meeting with the new World Bank Country Director for Indonesia and Timor Leste, Satu Kahkonen, on 16 September 2020. The meeting discussed ongoing and future collaboration between the MoA and the World Bank.

Minister Limpo welcomed the new and ongoing cooperation projects with the World Bank, including the I-CARE project, which is focused on developing a model for inclusive and diversified agricultural production systems through analysis and research. The Minister hoped for further strengthening cooperation through a pilot project that could become a show window for agricultural business from upstream to downstream with an export orientation that focuses on the horticulture and livestock sub-sector.

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

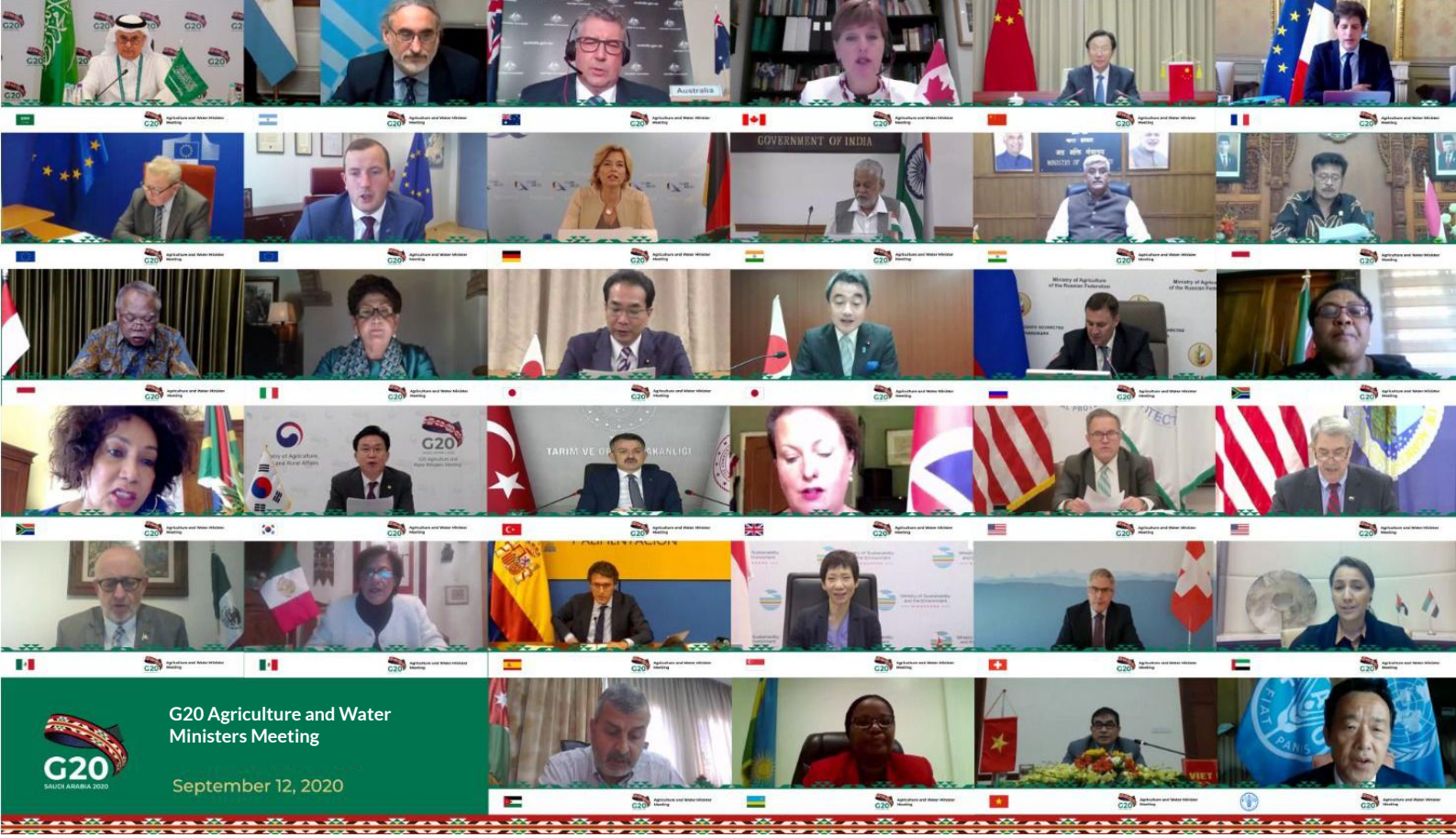
The Minister of Agriculture, Syahrul Yasin Limpo, discussed efforts to strengthen Indonesia's cooperation with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), in a virtual meeting with the Director General of IRRI, Dr. Matthew Morell, on 16 September 2020.

IRRI is a member of the Consultative Group on International Research and Development (CGIAR), a global agricultural research network, which recently reformulated its platform to become One CGIAR.

One CGIAR places CGIAR's 15 centers, including IRRI, under a single governance to enable its partnerships, knowledge, assets and global presence to achieve greater integration and impact in the face of interdependent challenges facing the world.

Indonesia and IRRI have signed a new five-year work plan for 2020–2024 with the aim of increasing the sustainability and productivity of rice-based agrifood systems across the country, especially in regions with high paddy production.

> *"The Indonesian government has a long-standing relationship with IRRI and other CGIAR organizations. They have an important contribution to play in ensuring the productivity and quality of Indonesian agricultural products. Through One CGIAR, hopefully will make the collaboration more effective and stronger in providing support to the agriculture sector in the world, in Southeast Asia region, and especially in Indonesia."*
>
> **Syahrul Yasin Limpo**
> Minister of Agriculture



The Minister of Agriculture attended the G20 Agriculture and Water Ministers Meeting (AWMM) which took place virtually over 10–12 September 2020, back-to-back with the G20 Deputies Meeting.

In line with the dynamics of regional development, amid the limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indonesian government continues to encourage the important role of the agricultural sector in creating rural employment, providing social protection, increasing the incomes of farming families, and ensuring national food security.

The G20 Ministers of Agriculture and Water recognize the importance of intensifying efforts toward food and nutrition security, and toward sustainable and resilient water management at all appropriate levels, and strengthening cooperation with all relevant stakeholders to achieve common goals.

Minister Limpo delivering his statement at the 35th Session of FAO APRC

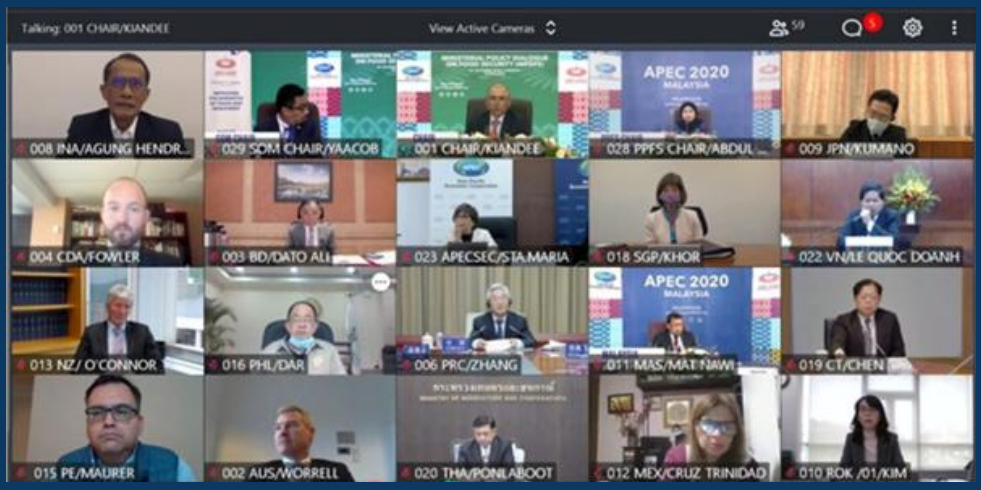
The 35th Session of FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) Ministerial Meeting

The Minister of Agriculture has addressed the 35th session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC), held virtually over 1–4 September 2020. The meeting was attended by nearly 400 participants representing 41 FAO member countries in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as representatives of international organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs) as observers.

On the Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs agenda, the Minister of Agriculture conveyed: 1) appreciation of the efforts of FAO and the Government of Bhutan to organize APRC during the pandemic; 2) the importance of the APRC forum to discuss shared priorities in the Asia-Pacific region; 3) the critical role of the Indonesian agricultural sector in providing employment and ensuring national food security; and food security; and 4) Indonesia's commitment to synergize with FAO, IFAD and WFP in addressing the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on food systems and taking necessary measures to improve Indonesia's resilience.

The APRC emphasized efforts to invest in agricultural research, extension and education systems to meet the objectives of transforming agriculture and food systems through upgraded training and extension services.

APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS), 15 October 2020



Through the 16th Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS), which took place virtually on 15 October 2020, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum emphasized its seriousness in addressing food security in the region.

PPFS discussed project initiatives such as food security information platforms and e-commerce. The meeting highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships (PPP), supply chains, PPP promotion, infrastructure, the adoption of technology, as well as essential nutrition.

The meeting supported the adoption of the Review of APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020 and the Second Draft Ministerial Statement on Food Security. The 17th PPFS will be held virtually by New Zealand as the host of APEC in 2021.

The 42th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), 21 October 2020

Under the chairmanship of Cambodia, ASEAN Member States (AMS) exchanged views on the COVID-19 situation in ASEAN at the 42nd AMAF meeting on 21 October 2020. An important highlight for Indonesia was AMAF's endorsement of a Certificate of Approval for the National Veterinary Drugs Assay Laboratory in Gunung Sindur, Bogor, West Java. On another matter, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture expressed Indonesia's readiness to host the 43rd AMAF, which will be held in October 2021 in Bandung, West Java.

‘We will restore our nation's glory in agriculture’

Interview with Millennial Farmer Ambassador

Anak Agung Gede Agung Wedhatama (36), better known as Weda, was born in 1984 in Singaraja, a port town in northern Bali. After receiving his master's degree in information technology from Yogyakarta's Gadjah Mada University, in 2013 he started an organic fertilizer business to assist Balinese farmers. He then began combining information technology with local wisdom and best agricultural practices. His vision and success caught the attention of the Agriculture Ministry, which appointed him a Millennial Farming Ambassador.

His company Bali Organik Subak (BoS) helps Bali's organic farmers to reach export markets, while his other business, BoS Venus, promotes digital agriculture through retail apps, e-commerce and fintech for farmers. In this interview, he discusses his efforts to make farming cool and profitable, even amid the COVID pandemic.

Tell us about your movement, Cool Young Farmers.

I formed Cool Young Farmers (PMK) back in 2014 to empower my friends because there is a stigma of farmers being dirty, poor, unattractive. But by saying that young farmers are cool, they have become a brand. Our members are increasingly confident and less embarrassed to be farmers. The perception has changed by first changing the mindset.

PMK led to the creation of the Bali Young Farmers Forum, which encourages development of agriculture from upstream to downstream. Our concept is small-scale integrated smart farming systems. So even though farms are small, they are located across villages and PMK has thousands of members being assisted with good agricultural solutions.

Our vision at PMK is organic food, healthy life and sustainable business. We encourage farmers to do organic farming, with the aim of having healthy farmers, healthy consumers, healthy soil, and a healthy environment, so it can be sustainable.

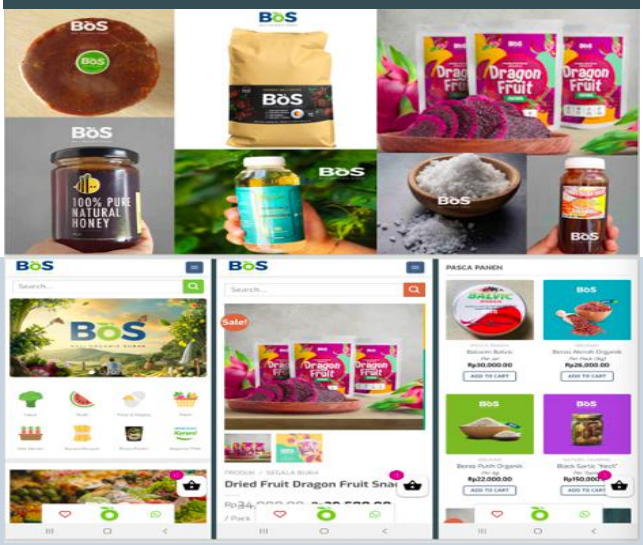
As young farmers we have to help our water, land and mother nature. We also have a tree-planting campaign to combat flooding and erosion. Since 2019 we have planted tens of thousands of trees.

Beyond local wisdom, how do you add value to farming?

Our upstream activities include making fertilizer and bio-pesticides, agricultural development and education, and farming technology. Our farmers focus on making quality produce, which is collected for washing and grading at our packing house, then distributed for export, retail, local markets, as well as online sales. In 2018, Bali’s governor issued a regulation requiring restaurants and hotels to buy products from Balinese farmers. We signed MoUs with seven hotels.

In the downstream, we have empowered our farmers to switch from conventional farming to applying technology, making them smart farmers. They can now assemble tech tools, sensors, drip irrigation themselves, spreading their knowledge to other farmers. They can check soil pH, as well as access information via smartphone.

PRODUCTS INNOVATION



What apps have you developed?

We developed three major apps: Farmers App, BoS Fresh and Nabung Tani. Farmers App collects and uses Big Data for farmers. They input when they planted on how much land, then an algorithm generates information on when to harvest, when to irrigate or fertilize, and calculates yields. So we can know when we will have precise amounts of particular commodities. The challenge for farmers has been to find a market after harvesting, but demand or prices could be low. However, with Big Data, we can automatically prepare. For example, in April we will have 20 tons of potatoes, so we can look for markets in advance.

BoS Fresh is the first app in Bali to allow consumers to order deliveries directly from farms. Other applications have an advance order system, but we are real time. Nabung Tani is a fintech app, in which PMK farmers can access state-subsidized microcredits from state-owned banks.

Are farmers reluctant to use apps?

There are many well-intentioned apps, but they can be challenging if the concept is top-down. Whereas our apps have a bottom-up system, so the system is born from farmers. That's the difference. We listen to feedback and give training in each village, so our farmers are increasingly technology literate. It has become a standard operating procedure for our community. At first, many farmers were confused because they were only familiar with WhatsApp, but once they found the benefits, they became addicted. They know when to plant, irrigate and harvest. It is very beneficial for farmers.

How is COVID affecting exports and farmers?

In 2017, BoS started exporting mango, dragon fruit, salak and mangosteen to China, Singapore, Europe and the Middle East. In 2019, we were Bali's largest exporter of agricultural goods. Since 2020, COVID lockdowns forced us to focus more on the local and domestic markets. Amid the pandemic, we collaborate with villages to help rural communities impacted by the downturn in tourism to focus on farming fruits and vegetables best suited to their conditions. The villages will progress if the farmers progress. We also collaborate with villages in the central government's Cash for Work program. This involves unproductive land being cultivated by villagers, who are paid in the form of products produced in the village. This has a tremendous impact.

Has COVID prompted a return to farming?

Balinese people are too dependent on tourism. We want to change the paradigm of Balinese society, making agriculture the root or core, and making tourism a bonus. When COVID occurred, many tourism workers returned from the south to their hometowns. They were initially a burden because they had no income, but they can now earn a living by farming.

They enjoy farming and are convinced that we can build agricultural tourism in villages in the north, west and east, where tourism is still poor. Until now, those who benefit from tourism are investors from outside and foreigners. The Balinese people are only objects. But farmers can sell the agricultural experience and make farming homestays.

How do you feel about the future of Indonesian agriculture?

The hope is that we, as the nation's children, will be more enthusiastic about being farmers. Our strength as a nation is in the agricultural sector. We have an extraordinary climate, a lot of sunlight, fertile soil and plants. We will return to our nation's glory in agriculture, but we must become smart, environmentally friendly, organic farmers. Because if we want to move forward, we have to love nature, love the Earth. When we use chemicals, such as excessive pesticides, we have consciously poisoned nature itself.

Now, with the agricultural revolution under the Ministry of Agriculture, it is my hope that more and more young people will become organic farmers so they can be advanced, independent and modern.

1 TUNISIA

Indonesia is seeking greater market access for its agricultural products in Tunisia, under the framework of a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) signed in 2018. In recent bilateral negotiations, Indonesia proposed preferential tariffs for 42 agricultural commodities. These include palm oil and its derivates, food and beverage products (coffee, cocoa, fish, fruits, instant noodles, pepper, seaweed, tea), rubber, paper, glass products, timber products (furniture), textiles and medicines.

Indonesia's top export to Tunisia is palm oil, with a value of USD 39.8 million (accounting for 90.98% of Indonesian exports to Tunisia), followed by coconut exports of USD 2.5 million (5.83%), cloves (1.05%), cashews (0.86%), and tobacco (0.50%). Despite being the predominant export, Indonesian palm oil products have only 0.3% of the Tunisian market share. Thus, by encouraging greater market access, Indonesia hopes to increase its market share of palm oil in Tunisia.

Through the Indonesia-Tunisia PTA, the competitiveness of Indonesian products in the Tunisian market is expected to increase with the reduction of high Tunisian import duties. Tunisia is expected to become a hub for Indonesian products to other Middle Eastern countries.

2 QATAR

In an effort to further penetrate the Qatari market, the Ministry of Agriculture has held coordination meetings and webinars to identify market opportunities for Indonesian products in the oil-rich Arab nation. Qatar generates 70% of its wealth from the oil and gas sector, whereas its agricultural sector contributes just 0.2% because of the country's unfavorable climate and lack of agricultural land. This imbalance presents many opportunities for Indonesia, which has a strong agricultural sector. In relation to total bilateral trade, exports of Indonesian agricultural products to Qatar are still relatively small.

In 2019, Indonesian exports to Qatar reached USD 168.4 million, which included: coconut charcoal (USD 3.2 million), dry coconut (USD 1.15 million – equivalent to 94% of the Qatar market share), chocolate (USD 485,000), cloves (USD 327,000), palm oil (USD 317,000), and fresh coconut (USD 231,000). For other commodities, the Ministry of Agriculture continues its efforts to target the Qatar market, which has many opportunities for Indonesian agricultural commodities.

3 SINGAPORE

The Ministry of Agriculture is seeking to improve market access for Indonesian agricultural products to Singapore, especially horticultural commodities. In 2019, horticultural products contributed 10% or USD 31.4 million of Indonesia's total exports of USD 314.5 million to Singapore.

STRENGTHENING MARKET ACCESS TO PARTNER COUNTRIES

This was a 7% decrease in agricultural exports from USD 33.8 million in 2018. In the last five years, Singapore's import volume of Indonesian fruit and vegetables has tended to decline. In response to this situation, the challenge for Indonesia is to increase the volume and variety of products exported to Singapore.

At the 16th Indonesia-Singapore Agribusiness Working Group Meeting (IS-AWG), held in August 2020, the two nations agreed to strengthen agribusiness cooperation. Indonesia needs to pursue an agreement to reduce or remove existing barriers, in terms of both logistics and transportation

4 BANGLADESH

The Ministry of Agriculture has negotiated a reduction in import duties for certain Indonesian agricultural commodities being exported to Bangladesh. The negotiation took place during an online forum the Indonesia-Bangladesh Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), held by the Ministry of Trade over 21–22 October 2020. Among the commodities covered by the agreement are natural honey, coffee, nutmeg, tea, ginger, rice and palm oil.

In 2019, Indonesia enjoyed a trade surplus of USD 756 million with Bangladesh. Indonesia's top value agricultural exports to Bangladesh in 2019 were palm oil (USD 710 million), coconut (USD 15 million), areca nut (USD 12 million), cotton (USD 5 million) and nutmeg (USD 2 million).

Indonesia's main imports of agricultural commodities from Bangladesh were tobacco (USD 4 million), fiber (USD 265 million) and cotton (USD 152 million).

5 CHINA

The Ministry of Agriculture continues to work on resolving trade barriers with partner countries, such as China. In June 2020, China banned imports of konjac chips from Indonesia because the commodity was considered not in line with provisions of China's Food Safety Law. The measure was initiated by the Import and Export Food Safety Department of the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) through a Notice on Stopping Release of Imported Konjac Chips. The action, taken without a Notification of Non-Compliance (NNC) from China, has hurt Indonesia's small-scale farmers, specifically, growers of konjac, which is known locally as porang. According to data from Indonesia's Agricultural Quarantine Agency, the country exported 839 tons of porang to China in 2018, increasing sharply in 2019 to 8,300 tons with a value reaching USD 24.8 million and a market share of 55.23%. Seeking to resolve the ban, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Indonesian Embassy in Beijing in September 2020 conducted negotiations with GACC, including through the preparation and submission of technical information on Indonesian konjac chips for risk assessment by GACC. Indonesia is hopeful the two countries will be able to sign an export protocol on agricultural products in 2021.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates signed 11 cooperation agreements back in January 2020. These included agreements on research and investment in agricultural technology between the Ministry of Agriculture's Agency for Agricultural Research and the UAE's Elite Agro Group (EAG), a leading producer and distributor of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Despite delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, it is hoped the partnerships will literally start bearing fruit in 2021. The UAE has limitations in producing food because of its extremely arid climate and desert environment. It therefore uses advanced agricultural and irrigation technology, which can be adopted by Indonesia to boost horticultural production and exports.

Under the cooperation scheme, the EAG has agreed to lease land owned by the Indonesian Vegetables Research Institute in Lembang, West Java province. This land will serve as a 'show window' or center of excellence for research on berries and vegetables, including chilies, eggplant, cherry tomatoes and onions. A plot of 19.5 hectares (ha) is to be provided in two stages, covering 10 ha and 9.5 ha respectively. The mechanism for the land lease scheme is still in the assessment stage, conducted by a team from the Ministry of Finance.

SOUTH KOREA

Development of Modern Agriculture is a collaborative project between the Ministry of Agriculture and Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI), which aims to develop modern agriculture in Way Kanan district, Lampung province. Funded by a grant of USD 350,000 (IDR 4.9 billion), the project's activities include joint research, field studies, invitational training and workshops. The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) will also participate in joint research activities. A training session and workshop of Korean Agricultural Policy Experiences for Food Security (KAPEX) were held virtually in November 2020.

The Ministry of Agriculture is also working with South Korea on a project that aims to enhance Indonesia's food security response through improved information on sugarcane production. The project is being conducted with the Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Service in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS).

It involves establishing a Real-Time ASEAN Food Security Information System and developing human resources in Indonesia. Activities include Online Cane Application Development and Sugarcane Production and Size Estimation Methods, carried out through the creation of a sugarcane production information system. The activities are expected to increase the capacity of local and central officials responsible for agricultural statistical information and forecast systems. This collaboration is part of the ASEAN + 3 Food Security Information System initiative and is funded by a grant from the Government of South Korea.

FURTHERING TECHNICAL AND INVESTMENT COOPERATION WITH PARTNER COUNTRIES

CAMBODIA

Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture also made serious efforts in strengthening technical cooperation with neighboring countries, such as Cambodia. Cambodia sought for Indonesia's assistance to develop the agricultural sector in Cambodia through a Joint Research in Agro-Processing and Post Harvest; Improving Farm Household Income Through Promoting Value Chain Agricultural Cooperative. Another collaboration proposed by Cambodia is to develop One Village One Product (OVOP) program for villages in Cambodia.

The Cambodian side also asked for Indonesia's support and assistance to conduct benchmarking in implementing the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. In addition, the Cambodian side also encouraged trade cooperation, especially agricultural products and agricultural machinery, while also accelerated the discussion of the MoU in agriculture between the two countries. Indonesian MoA welcomed Cambodian side's proposals while trying to have further discussions on the proposed programs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Agricultural Counselor of the United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS) in Indonesia, Chris Rittgers, has offered cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture in the animal feed sector. In response to the offer, the Ministry proposed a broad plan of activities covering: (1) Capacity-building for Human Resources in the Directorate of Animal Feed; (2) Strengthening the Feed Quality Assurance System; (3) Good Manufacturing Practice Training; (4) Study and Pilot Project for Strengthening Indonesia's Feed Logistics System; (5) Study and Pilot Project for Strengthening Dairy Cattle Feed at Milk Production Centers.

The proposed cooperation and an umbrella agreement on cooperation with the USDA FAS are still under internal discussion in the Ministry of Agriculture. Indonesia's animal feed industry has enjoyed strong growth over the past decade, although the Covid-19 pandemic slowed demand for livestock feed in 2020.

FURTHERING TECHNICAL AND INVESTMENT COOPERATION WITH PARTNER COUNTRIES

DENMARK

The Organic Dairy Farming System is an Indonesia-Denmark collaboration that seeks to develop Indonesia's organic milk industry with funding of DKK 8.5 million (IDR 18 billion). The collaboration is conducted through policy formulation and the creation of networks between cooperatives of dairy farmers and the public/private sector through the Danish Market Development Partnership (DMDP).

The main stakeholders of DMDP in Indonesia are Indofood subsidiary PT Indolakto, Danish multinational Arla Foods and Setia Kawan Cooperative in Pasuruan, East Java province. The cooperation is expected to contribute to wider availability of dietary protein sources in Indonesia, while increasing the income of dairy farmers. It is also hoped that organic dairy farming will generate rural employment and open access to profitable export markets.

UNITED KINGDOM

The UK and Indonesia have signed a grant agreement for the Fleming Fund Partnership on Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance in Indonesia. Antimicrobial agents play a critical role in reducing communicable diseases, but the emergence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) makes treating basic infections more difficult.

The assistance project aims to strengthen surveillance systems for controlling AMR in human and animal health. The assistance is in the form of a grant of GBP 4.8 million (IDR 92.7 billion), channeled through development consultancy DAI and the Fleming Fund, while the Ministry of Agriculture prepares proposals for procurement and training, among others. In this collaboration, integrated AMR control data will be regulated in a joint agreement between the UK and Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries.

ENSURING FOOD SAFETY THROUGH ASEAN AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS

ASEAN's concern on developing agricultural standards is reflected in the implementation of Key Deliverables 2020 of the 42nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), held virtually on 21 October 2020.

The Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture plays an active role in the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL), one of the subsidiary bodies of the AMAF forum. The Ministry of Agriculture initiated the establishment of a Manual for Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Slaughterhouse and Meat Cutting Plants to be the Indicative Deliverables for the Livestock Sector in 2020. The first draft of this document has been circulated and received feedback from ASEAN Member States.

Moreover, for the Deliverables 2021, Indonesia is leading a Regional Assessment Study on Newcastle Disease in ASEAN and the establishment of Regional Reference Centre (RRC) for Bioinformatics. Supporting documents for these initiatives are expected to be finalized prior to the 29th ASWGL meeting in July 2021.

The technical cooperation initiated by Indonesia aims to ensure food safety through agricultural standards, as well to strengthen ASEAN market access. As ASEAN progresses to a single economy, it is important for ASEAN to have uniform standards for application and adoption by its member states.

AMAF's Decades of Achievement

(1968)
Established the **ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)**

(2011)
Signed **ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve Agreement (APTERR)** in Jakarta, Indonesia

(2016)
Signed Agreement on the Establishment of the **ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ)**- Indonesia's initiatives

(2018)
Adopted the **ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry**

(2019)
Adopted **ASEAN General Guidelines on Halal Food**

(2020)
Endorsed (i) **the Certificate of Approval for the National Veterinary Drugs Assay Laboratory, Gunung Sindur, Bogor, Indonesia** and (ii) **ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework**

(2021)
Indonesia is the **Host Country of the 43rd AMAF**

1. DG of Food Security Agency at the 164th Session of FAO Council; 2. Virtual Meeting with Ambassador of New Zealand; 3. SecGen MoA at the 130th Session of IFAD Executive Board; 4. SecGen MoA at the ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry; 5. Virtual Meeting with UNDP Resident Coordinator; 6. DG of Food Security Agency at the APEC Ministerial Meeting 2020

Want to know more of our latest updates?
Let's get connected!

@Kementerian Pertanian
@KLN Pertanian

Contact Us:

Newsletter

Editorial Team

International Cooperation Bureau
Secretariat General
Ministry of Agriculture
Jl. Harsono RM No. 3,
A Building, 6th Floor
Ragunan, South-Jakarta 12550
email: publikasi.kln@gmail.com
www.pertanian.go.id