

Sanggapati Village Head Appreciates TPL's Efforts to Help Make Indonesia a Rice Granary in Tapsel

PT Toba Pulp Lestari, Tbk (TPL) collaborated with the North Sumatra Agricultural Instrument Standardization Implementation Agency (BPSIP) to inspect rice farming land in Sanggapati Village, East Angkola District, South Tapanuli Regency (Tapsel) on Wednesday (28/08/2024).

TPL's collaboration with BPSIP North Sumatra in reviewing the rice fields in Sanggapati Village, Tapsel, aims to increase the productivity of rice farming in the area. Previously, TPL had partnered with BPSIP North Sumatra, formerly the Agricultural Technology Assessment Center (BPTP), since 2019. This is not the first time TPL has worked to enhance agricultural productivity.

"Our visit (BPSIP North Sumatra) is also part of the effort to increase the productivity of rice farmers in Tapsel Regency," said the Head of BPSIP North Sumatra, Dr. Khadijah El Ramija, SPI, MP, during the field inspection in Sanggapati Village with TPL.

According to Khadijah, her visit with the BPSIP North Sumatra team also aimed to improve the productivity of suboptimal rice fields, such as those without irrigation systems or rain-fed fields, like those found in Sanggapati Village.

"For example, we are working on enabling farmers to plant rice twice a year instead of just once. In Sanggapati Village, the situation is already quite good because farmers can plant rice twice a year," Khadijah explained.

Khadijah hopes that with the collaboration between TPL, BPSIP North Sumatra, the Tapsel Agriculture Office, and farmers, the planting cycle can be increased to three times a year. This would boost farmers' incomes and improve their overall welfare.

"We also hope that Indonesia, especially Tapsel Regency, can achieve rice self-sufficiency and no longer need to rely on imports," she added.

During the event, the Head of Sanggapati Village, Sulaiman Sinaga, expressed his gratitude and high appreciation to TPL for helping realize Indonesia's vision of making Tapsel a rice granary in the future. "TPL has responded positively and brought in BPSIP North Sumatra to help improve the agricultural production of Sanggapati Village, particularly for rice farmers. We highly appreciate this initiative," he said.

Meanwhile, Community Development (CD) Coordinator, Aya, stated that the "Golden Rice" program is part of TPL's corporate social responsibility (CSR) for communities surrounding its operational areas, particularly in supporting economic development.

Due to certain limitations, TPL has brought in experts to enhance the program's effectiveness. Aya affirmed that TPL is committed to supporting all government programs, especially in food security. "TPL always strives to contribute to the foundations of life in the communities where it operates. At the very least, we want to grow and develop together with the community," Aya emphasized.

She hopes that through the dissemination of the Golden Rice program, the people of Sanggapati Village will become self-sufficient in supporting the government's food security program. This aligns with Indonesia's vision of becoming a global rice granary by 2045.

Additionally, TPL's Community Development Officer for the Tapsel Sector, Charles Sitorus, added that TPL's presence is expected to improve the local economy, including through training initiatives. "For example, in the Golden Rice program, we apply a specific planting distance technique that helps with pest control, maintenance, and fertilization, making the process easier," he concluded.