

Encourage Improvement of Agroindustry Competitiveness, 11 Universities Establish APTA

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YOGYAKARTA - As many as 11 universities including UGM, UB, Udayana University, Sea and Land Industries Polytechnic, University of Lambung Mangkurat, University of Bengkulu and Lampung University declared the establishment of Agro-Industry Technology Professionals Association (APTA), Thursday (16/12), on the campus of the UGM Faculty of Agriculture Technology.


Syaify who is also former reporter of KR added that more general disease cases are found than dental and oral cases. Most patients have itchy skin, headache, rheumatic pain, cough and hypertension. Residents of Code River who are hit by Merapi cold lava flood have drawn sympathy.

The most cases of dental problems are cavities, remaining tooth root and gum diseases. Some of them also asked for tartar cleaning. However, due to limited tools, patients were recommended to Oral and Dental Hospital and Public Health Center.

The Professor of UGM Faculty of Agricultural Technology suggests that as an agribusiness subsystem, agro-industry has great potential to boost economic growth, increase community incomes, employment, and improve the development distribution and its results as well as accelerate regional development. According to Maksum, the lack of agro-industry competitiveness is due to the absence of policy incentives from the government in protecting agro-industry business sector. "Lack of incentives from the government led to the decrease of competitiveness of our agricultural industries," he said.

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The lack of attention to agro-industrial sector made the industry products in the field of agriculture stagnant for decades. If only there is any improvement, it is only on the amount of raw material products that are sold. "If we export cocoa, then other countries will import chocolate. We send rubber, later it is sent in the form of a car wheel," he said.

He also lamented the central government policy which always determines the price of food products with the reasons of food price stability. Yet, according to Maksum, this policy is not profitable for farmers. "There no hope that our farmer will become prosperous, if this still happens," he said.

On the same occasion, agro-industry observer from UB, Amal Santoso, asserted that if the government seriously fixes agro-industrial sector, it certainly would encourage the national economy. He also expects all stakeholders from universities, industry and banking to commit to promote agro-industry sector. "It is time for all stakeholders to cooperate to develop agro-industry," he said.

The Declaration of APTA conducted in the same time with the Seminar of *Institutional and Scientific Reorientation of Agricultural Technology Studies in Indonesia Towards the Global Era*. This seminar presents Chief of Logistic Affairs, Ir. Sutarto Alimoeso, and Director General of Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products, Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture, Prof. Dr. Ir. Zaenal Bacharudin, M.Sc.

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