



## Editorial

Dear Readers,

The challenges of agricultural development continue to increase amid demands for environmental sustainability. This newsletter features topics on greenhouse gas emissions and the appropriate application of pesticides to enhance your reference. Next, ICASEPS initiates advocacy for evidence-based agricultural development policies in line with its capacity as an institution that promotes upstream and downstream policy capacity building for various strategic Indonesian commodities.

This newsletter also covers information related to capacity building for *Gapoktan* (Farmer Group Federation) and reforms in the work of agricultural extension workers. Finally, you'll find several news items about ICASEPS activities and information on scientific articles in the *AKP* journal. So, don't miss out! Happy reading.

The Editor

### CONTENT

Agricultural Development Programs to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions	1
Have Farmers Used Pesticides Correctly on Rice and Vegetable Crops?	2
Making Agricultural Policy Work Through Evidence-Driven Advocacy in Indonesia	4
From Farmer Groups to Fertilizer Gatekeepers Publications	6
Harvesting Ideas: Aligning ACIAR Research with National Development Priorities	6
From Evidence to Action: Strengthening Agricultural Policy Advocacy in East and West Java Provinces	7
ICASEPS and JICA Exchange Ideas on Agricultural Planning Strategies	7
Dissemination of Agricultural Policy Analysis Findings	8



## AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Abdul Aziz, Wahida, Joko Mulyono, Riska Nurhafizhah, Frilla Ariani

### Introduction

Indonesia's agricultural sector plays a pivotal role in achieving national greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets. Under Presidential Regulation No. 61/2011 on the National Action Plan for GHG Reduction (RAN-GRK), Indonesia committed to cutting emissions by 26% through domestic efforts and up to 41% with international support, as guided by the National GHG Inventory (Presidential Regulation No. 71/2011). This commitment was strengthened in the Enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs, 2022), which raised the targets to 31.89% (domestic) and 43.20% (with international assistance). The latest policy, Presidential Regulation No. 98/2021 on the Economic Value of Carbon (EVC), integrates emission reduction into national development planning to ensure economic growth goes hand in hand with environmental sustainability. Through the Low Carbon Development Platform, the government promotes low-emission and resource-efficient growth. In agriculture, development programs are shifting from a sole focus on productivity toward sustainable and climate-resilient practices, bridging the gap between production goals and GHG mitigation targets to build a greener, more resilient agricultural sector.

### Key Findings

Indonesia's agricultural sector stands at the crossroads of two critical national priorities: achieving food security and reducing GHG emissions. As productivity increases, emissions often rise, creating a persistent policy dilemma. Under the government's food self-sufficiency program, efforts to strengthen national food security have led to higher GHG emissions through intensified land use, fertilizer application, and livestock expansion. The challenge lies in reconciling these productivity goals with emission-reduction targets, which require a shift toward low-emission, sustainable agricultural practices.

### Policy Actions and Initiatives

Since 2010, the Ministry of Agriculture has implemented a variety of GHG mitigation initiatives. Early programs such as the System of Rice



Intensification (SRI), Integrated Crop Management (ICM), and the use of low-emission rice varieties laid the foundation for more climate-resilient farming systems. Subsequent efforts introduced organic fertilizers,

biopesticides, and Organic Fertilizer Processing Units (UPPO), as well as livestock waste management through biogas conversion. From 2019 to 2023, the Ministry expanded these actions through the BATAMAS Biogas Program, a community-based initiative that promotes converting livestock waste into renewable energy while improving waste management and reducing methane emissions, as well as through Organic Villages, balanced fertilization, and carbon sequestration in perennial crops. Despite progress, many initiatives remain “tagged activities,” lacking formal integration as core emission-reduction programs.

### Achievements and Impacts

Between 2019 and 2023, Indonesia’s agricultural activities achieved annual GHG emission reductions of 13.9–20.9 million tons CO<sub>2</sub>-eq, surpassing the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target of 10 million tons CO<sub>2</sub>-eq (0.3%) by 2030. The Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) demonstrated further success, increasing fertilizer efficiency by over 60% and raising rice productivity by 28–43%. However, these outcomes are yet to be fully reflected within the Economic Value of Carbon (EVC) framework due to gaps in Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems. Inconsistent funding, incomplete baseline data, and varied NDC assumptions continue to limit accurate tracking of agricultural emissions and carbon savings.

### Challenges Ahead

Institutional and structural barriers remain significant. Low-emission agriculture is not yet a top priority in the Ministry’s budget, and there is no dedicated funding for GHG mitigation in the annual national development budget (DIPA). Dependence on chemical fertilizer subsidies, limited inter-agency coordination, and weak farmer education further constrain progress. With the implementation of Presidential Regulation No. 98/2021 on the EVC approaching, the Ministry of Agriculture is urged to reactivate its Climate Change Task Force, strengthen MRV systems, and allocate resources for carbon readiness. Thus, transitioning toward a low-carbon agricultural economy will require coordinated policy design, clear emission caps, and incentives for sustainable farming. Strengthening institutional capacity and aligning agricultural productivity with climate objectives will position Indonesia’s agriculture as a leading force in achieving national GHG reduction goals and advancing climate-resilient rural development.

### Conclusions

Indonesia’s agricultural sector has made measurable progress toward national GHG reduction targets, yet greater institutional focus and coordination are needed to sustain momentum. While programs such as SRP and biogas initiatives have delivered tangible results, the absence of a robust MRV system and limited budget prioritization hinder broader impact. As EVC implementation progresses, strengthening policy alignment, farmer capacity, and interagency collaboration will be key. With consistent commitment, Indonesia’s agriculture can evolve into a

low-carbon growth driver, ensuring food security while contributing meaningfully to national climate goals.

Contact: Dr. Abdul Aziz (ayizhar@yahoo.com)

## HAVE FARMERS USED PESTICIDES CORRECTLY ON RICE AND VEGETABLE CROPS?

**Amalia Ulpah, Erma Suryani, Cut R. Adawiyah, Resty P. Perdana, Sri Suharyono, Widnyadhari F. Setyaningrum**

### Introduction

Pesticides remain the primary “shield” for farmers against pests and diseases. However, when its use is excessive or inappropriate, this protected role can be reversed: environmental quality deteriorates, human health is threatened, and production costs increase. Currently, Indonesia is among the world’s highest pesticide users, ranking after Brazil and the United States, with consumption reaching 294.7 thousand tons in 2022 (FAO, 2023). Despite this high level of use, pesticide application has not been accompanied by good crop management.

Weak supervision, limited farmer understanding of safe pesticide use, and inconsistent implementation of the Six Rights principle (right target, right quality, right type, right time, right dose, and right method) remain persistent challenges. These shortcomings constitute a major obstacle to achieving sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture. Pesticide applications that do not comply with recommendations lead to adverse effects ranging from environmental degradation to heightened public health risks.

As attention to food safety and sustainable agriculture continues to grow, the management of chemical pesticide use in Indonesia warrants serious attention. In response to public concerns about pesticide use in Indonesia, especially on rice and vegetable crops, ICASEPS has conducted a study on pesticides used by rice and vegetable farmers. This study aims to: (a) evaluate pesticide governance in Indonesia; (b) explore pesticide application patterns at the farm level; and (c) formulate policy recommendations to support safer and more sustainable pesticide use.

### Methodology

The study was conducted from January to June 2025 in West Java Province, with sample locations in Cianjur and Sukabumi Regencies. Field-level respondents included rice and vegetable farmers, owners of agricultural input stalls, field extension officers, and Fertilizer and Pesticide Supervisory Officers (KP3). In addition, respondents from several central government institutions, including the Directorate of Fertilizers and Pesticides and the Directorate of Food Crop Protection, as well as regional institutions, such as the Regency’s Agriculture Office, participated in the study.

This study used primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through in-depth interviews, observations, and focus group discussions involving key informants at the central and regional levels. Data and information are then analyzed descriptively, qualitatively, and quantitatively.

### Pesticide Governance Challenges in Indonesia

Pesticide governance in Indonesia is controlled in several regulations, including the Government Regulation of the

Republic of Indonesia No. 7/1973 on Supervision of the Circulation, Storage, and Use of Pesticides, Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia No. 107/2014 on Pesticide Supervision, and Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia No. 43/2019 on Pesticide Registration. The technical rules for implementation are set out in the Decree of the Minister of Agriculture No. 369/2020 on Technical Criteria for Pesticide Registration.

Although it has been regulated through several measures, the effectiveness of implementation in the field remains low. Pesticide governance in Indonesia remains fragmented, with gaps in regulation, distribution, and the supervision of use. The implementation of pesticide supervision in the field still deals with various obstacles. Many violations go unaddressed due to weak law enforcement, limited sanctions, and inadequate coordination among agencies, including the KP3, which is supposed to serve as a cross-sector coordinator.

The performance of KP3 at the provincial and regency/city levels has not been optimal in overcoming problems in the field. This condition is caused, among other things, by limited resources, inadequate operational budget support, and the lack of integration of data and information between KP3 member agencies on the use and circulation of pesticides.

The number of pesticide supervisors is also very limited compared to the number of supervisors. In addition, the verification process for alleged violations is often hampered by limited laboratory infrastructure in the regions, making it difficult to prove pesticide violations. Another increasingly complex challenge is the rampant circulation of illegal and counterfeit pesticides, including online. The mechanism for monitoring the online marketing of pesticides has not been fully developed, making it difficult to control efforts. On the other hand, online pesticide sales systems allow for faster and wider distribution of products, while increasing the potential for abuse.

These conditions indicate that pesticide surveillance in Indonesia tends to be reactive rather than preventive. Therefore, pesticide governance reform is urgently needed to ensure food security, protect public health, and maintain the sustainability of national agriculture.

### Farmers are Still Relying on Chemical Pesticides

The results of this study reveal that most farmers remain highly dependent on chemical pesticides. The reason is simple: chemical pesticides are considered to have a faster visible effect and be more effective than biological pest control. However, its use still falls far short of the Six Rights principle.

In the field, several practices were found to be particularly concerning. Many farmers continue to over-spray pesticides, including applications made close to harvest, especially on vegetable crops. A significant number of farmers also mix several types of pesticides without a scientific basis, only based on experience or the advice of fellow farmers. The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is also still minimal because it is considered impractical. In addition, pesticides are often stored at home, and waste is disposed of carelessly, including being discarded into rivers.

Most farmers still obtain information from fellow farmers or agricultural input stalls rather than from extension workers or Plant Pest Organism Control Officers (POPT). This situation

indicates that the assistance and education system for farmers has not functioned optimally. Moreover, since the Integrated Pest Control Field School (SLPHT) program is no longer active, opportunities for farmers to learn about safe and sustainable agricultural practices have become increasingly limited.

### Conclusion



The problem of pesticide governance in Indonesia is quite complex, including regulatory, technical, and institutional aspects. Some problems are critical because they directly affect the safety of farmers,

consumers, and the environment. Surveillance activities are still reactive; they have not yet adopted a preventive approach.

The use of pesticides at the farmer level tends to be intensive and inconsistent with the Six Rights principle. This is allegedly influenced by farmers' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors. Although most farmers have basic knowledge of pesticide hazards and the principles of safe application, there remains a gap between their actual knowledge and their attitudes and behaviors. Most farmers are not accustomed to applying proper standards of use, such as correct dosages, appropriate pesticide mixing, full use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and proper management of pesticide waste.

### Policy Recommendations

The key to the success of pesticide management is the synergy between stakeholders from upstream to downstream. Regulators strengthen the system, supervisors enforce rules, extension workers/POPT intensify mentoring and education, kiosks become educational partners, and farmers become implementers of the Six Rights principle. Based on the results of the study, the recommended strategic steps include: (1) KP3 institutional reform (restructuring and strengthening cross-agency coordination, providing adequate budget support, and building a digital-based monitoring system for pesticide distribution); and (2) Tightening supervision of pesticide circulation and law enforcement through (a) the application of QR codes on pesticide packaging for tracking legal products, (b) strengthening the role of POPT officers in supervising the use of pesticides at the farmer level by increasing POPT officers and their capacity, and (c) enforcing legal sanctions against perpetrators of illegal and fake pesticide distribution.

Educating farmers about the appropriate use of pesticides by revitalizing farmer extension and training programs through: (a) adding training module designs that explain the correct use of pesticides and their dangers, (b) developing easy-to-understand educational media, such as videos, infographics, and modules in local languages, (c) the use of digital technology and online platforms, and (d) revitalizing SLPHT to re-intensify integrated pest control techniques at the farmer level by integrating SLPHT into the main program of the Ministry of Agriculture and strengthening the role of the Agricultural Extension Center (BPP) as the center for SLPHT implementation. The SLPHT program can collaborate with State-Owned Food Enterprises, private CSR organizations, agroinput companies, BUMDes, agricultural cooperatives, and other related institutions to finance and implement SLPHT.

Contact: Ms. Amalia Ulpah (amaliaulpah@gmail.com)

## MAKING AGRICULTURAL POLICY WORK THROUGH EVIDENCE-DRIVEN ADVOCACY IN INDONESIA

### Policy Advocacy Framework and Strategic Focus

In the first semester of 2025, ICASEPS held a high-level agricultural policy advocacy forum targeting the Secretary General, bureaus, and centers under the Secretariat General of the Ministry of Agriculture. The advocacy aimed to translate socio-economic policy analysis into actionable guidance for national agricultural programs and to strengthen evidence-based decision-making within the Ministry.

The advocacy covered five strategic policy domains: (i) expansion of rice and maize planting areas; (ii) governance of plantation commodity seed systems; (iii) production and quality enhancement for cassava and coconut to support downstream industries; (iv) implementation of the National Greenhouse Gas Action Plan (RAN-GRK) and readiness for Carbon Economic Value (NEK); and (v) regulation and supervision of pesticide use at the farm level. Across these themes, policy recommendations were presented to improve program effectiveness, institutional coordination, and sustainability outcomes.

### Expanding Rice and Maize Planting Areas: Production Outlook and Policy Levers

This analysis assessed the projected impact of the rice and maize planting area expansion program (PAT) on national production in 2025. Comparative results between ICASEPS projections and the Area Sampling Framework (KSA-BPS) indicate that rice harvested area is expected to be slightly higher, while rice productivity and production remain marginally below official estimates. In contrast, maize projections show substantial gains, with higher harvested area, productivity, and production relative to KSA-BPS figures.

The findings highlight the importance of sustaining water pump assistance, land leveling, and land optimization programs initiated in 2024. For maize, successful implementation requires achieving new planting targets—particularly through collaboration with the National Police and private-sector participation. However, price policy remains a critical constraint, as the Government Reference Price (HAP) for maize has not sufficiently incentivized production. Key policy directions include accelerating land development programs, upgrading irrigation infrastructure, balancing producer–consumer price policies, and strengthening agricultural extension support.

### Strengthening Plantation Seed Systems for Cocoa and Sugarcane



This policy analysis examined the governance, production, distribution, and certification of plantation seeds, with a focus on cocoa and sugarcane. The findings reveal persistent structural, institutional, and technical constraints that limit the availability of quality, affordable, and timely seeds. Rising demand driven by cocoa rejuvenation and national sugar self-

sufficiency has not been matched by adequate production capacity or institutional readiness.

Seed production remains heavily dependent on public research institutions, while private and community-based seed breeders have yet to play a significant role. To address these challenges, policy recommendations emphasize revitalizing the plantation seed innovation system and reforming seed governance by expanding private sector participation, strengthening certification mechanisms, improving spatial proximity between seed production and plantations, and reinforcing supervision systems.

### Aligning Production and Quality to Support Downstream Industries: Cassava and Coconut

#### *Cassava Value Chain Transformation*

Cassava production faces declining harvested area, low productivity relative to potential yields, and persistent quality gaps—particularly low starch content that undermines industrial competitiveness. Fragmented smallholder production, weak market linkages, high ration deductions, and trader-dependent marketing further constrain farmer income and supply reliability. In addition, processing industries lack sufficient own-production land to meet installed capacity.

Policy responses focus on aligning varietal development with industrial demand, expanding access to superior cassava seeds, strengthening breeding systems for high-yield and high-starch varieties, promoting cassava as a strategic commodity, and developing core–plasma partnership models to stabilize supply and quality.

#### *Coconut Production and Processing Integration*

Coconut production is dominated by smallholder plantations dispersed across regions, while processing industries remain geographically concentrated. Aging trees, rising domestic demand for young coconuts, high exports of raw coconuts, and fragmented processing structures contribute to inefficiencies and high production costs.

Recommended policies include spatial rebalancing between raw material sources and processing facilities, revitalizing plantations through replanting and overlay systems, providing superior planting materials, and accelerating innovation in coconut cultivation and processing technologies.

### Low-Emission Agriculture: Readiness for RAN-GRK and Carbon Economic Value (NEK)

This analysis evaluated the agricultural sector's contribution to greenhouse gas emission reduction and its preparedness for implementing Carbon Economic Value mechanisms. Current implementation of RAN-GRK is constrained by fragmented budget tagging, the absence of dedicated institutional units for emission measurement and verification (MRV), and limited awareness of NEK among farmers and extension workers.

Policy priorities include piloting low-emission agricultural programs, assigning clear institutional responsibility for meeting RAN-GRK targets, encouraging private-sector participation, initiating agricultural carbon trading schemes, and establishing NEK Field Schools to build farmer capacity in carbon footprint calculation and climate-smart practices.

## Policy Issues

### FROM FARMER GROUPS TO FERTILIZER GATEKEEPERS



Strengthening the Farmer Group Federation (Gapoktan) as an independent, sustainable economic institution for farmers is urgently needed for agricultural development. Well-managed and

professional Gapoktan can improve access to production facilities, strengthen farmers' bargaining positions, open opportunities for business diversification, expand access to financing, and help build a fair, transparent, and efficient agricultural ecosystem.

Presidential Regulation No. 6/2025 on the Governance of Subsidized Fertilizers and Ministerial Regulation No. 15/2025 on the Implementing Regulations of Presidential Regulation No. 6/2025 on the Governance of Subsidized Fertilizers expand the mandate of Gapoktan by designating them as Fertilizer Recipients at the Handover Point (PPTS). This policy aims to improve data accuracy, shorten distribution channels, reduce irregularities, and ensure that fertilizers are available in the right quantities, at the right time, and at the right target recipients.

However, the institutional readiness of *Gapoktan* remains uneven. Some are still constrained by legal status, management capacity, financing, and coordination. As the capacity of Gapoktan as a PPTS determines the accuracy of e-RDKK (online Definitive Plan for Group's Needs), distribution transparency, and business sustainability, a nationally applicable study on institutional strengthening is needed.

#### Ideal Criteria for *Gapoktan* as PPTS for Farmers' Economic Development

Based on discussions with PT Pupuk Indonesia Holding Company (PIHC), the Extension Center, and the Directorate of Fertilizers at the Ministry of Agriculture, and with reference to Presidential Regulation No. 6/2025 and Ministerial Regulation No. 15/2025, several main criteria for Gapoktan as PPTS are determined to strengthen farmers' economic activities, including the following:

1. The Gapoktan institution must have complete legality, including NIB, legal entity status, deed of incorporation, and be actively registered in the Agricultural Extension Management Information System (SIMLUHTAN) and PIHC with a valid RDKK. Organizational structure, Articles of Association/Bylaws (AD/ART), official accounts, member commitments, management work targets, and the coverage of at least one village are functional institutional prerequisites.
2. Gapoktan activities are required to pass the PIHC assessment, sign the Sale and Purchase Agreement Letter (SPJB), prepare the annual RDKK, and manage finances in a transparent and well-documented manner. Fertilizer distribution is carried out in accordance with the Seven Rights principle and is recorded in the PEKAN application, a government-managed digital system for monitoring and documenting subsidized fertilizer distribution without

bundling, with minimal stockholding, clear capital management, and the capacity to address potential distribution inaccuracies.

3. Gapoktan Business Sector is expected to have experience in managing collective businesses, such as savings and loans, Agricultural Machinery and Equipment Service Enterprise (UPJA), or other agribusinesses, being able to process agricultural products, generate adequate profits, and manage businesses independently, including diversifying product sales outside subsidized fertilizers.
4. Entrepreneurship criteria include a realistic business plan, competent human resources in administration and finance, access to financing, mastery of digital technology, and market partnerships. Sales contracts and cooperation with off-takers are key to Gapoktan's business sustainability.

#### The Main Problems of Gapoktan as PPTS

As a Fertilizer Recipient at the Handover Point (PPTS), Gapoktan faces several structural and operational challenges that affect the effectiveness of subsidized fertilizer distribution and the sustainability of farmers' economic activities. First, many Gapoktan lack complete legal status as business entities, including notarial deeds, a Business Identification Number (NIB), a Trade Business License (SIUP), a Taxpayer Identification Number (NPWP), and dedicated institutional bank accounts. These legal gaps limit access to formal financing, hinder the opening of official accounts, and weaken Gapoktan's position as a recognized business entity. Second, limited operational capital remains a main obstacle. In some cases, Gapoktan relies on management's personal funds, posing risks to business sustainability and institutional accountability. Third, fertilizer storage infrastructure often fails to meet required capacity and safety standards, leading to distribution delays, especially during peak planting seasons.

Other challenges include limited human resource capacity in distribution management, financial administration, and information technology. Financial records are generally maintained manually, often mixed with personal finances, and there is minimal regular reporting, which leads to low transparency, difficulty of auditing, and limited access to financial institutions. In addition, most of Gapoktan remains program-driven, active only when government intervention occurs, with a strong social orientation but a weak entrepreneurial approach. Low margins in subsidized fertilizer distribution and overlapping roles with the Complete Fertilizer Kiosk (KPL) further contribute to inefficiencies in the distribution system.

#### Success and Best Practices

In contrast, Gapoktan that have successfully become PPTS demonstrate strong and professional institutional practices. They have a clear organizational structure, AD/ART, full legal compliance, and a strict separation between institutional and personal finances. A successful Gapoktan can distinguish between social services and business activities, conduct e-RDKK-based planning, and distribute fertilizers in accordance with official allocations. Transaction records are maintained systematically and transparently, supported by adequate storage facilities. Their success is also supported by mastery of digital applications, cross-stakeholder coordination, diversification of non-subsidized businesses, good managerial

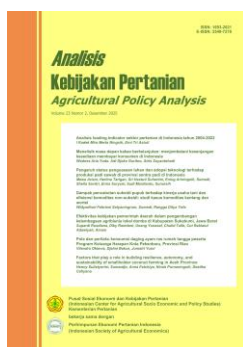
capacity, an internal supervision system, adaptability to regulations, and decision-making through member deliberation.

Among the policy recommendation on this issue, include: (a) Regulatory reform through a review of margin fees and improvement of SPJB according to costs and field conditions; (b) Institutional strengthening with management coaching, establishment of official business units, as well as financing and market partnerships; (c) Digitizing governance through

updating e-RDKK, Integrated Subsidised Fertilizer (iPUBERS application), and improving the digital literacy of administrators; (d) Strengthening human resources by regenerating young farmers and increasing the capacity of multifunctional agricultural extension workers (PPL); (e) Infrastructure support and financing through warehouses, distribution facilities, and access to PPTS work credit; and (f) Multi-stakeholder collaboration for cross-ministerial program integration and ongoing operational coordination.

## Analisis Kebijakan Pertanian Vol. 23 No. 2, December 2025

1. *Analisis leading indicator sektor pertanian di Indonesia tahun 2004-2022* (Leading indicator analysis of the agricultural sector in Indonesia in 2004-2022) (I Kadek Mira Merta Ningsih, Erni Tri Astuti)
2. *Menelisik masa depan kakao berkelanjutan: menjembatani kesenjangan kesediaan membayar konsumen di Indonesia* (Exploring sustainable cocoa futures: bridging the consumer willingness-to-pay gap in Indonesia) (Wednes Aria Yuda, Adi Djoko Guritno, Atris Suyantohadi)
3. *Pengaruh status penguasaan lahan dan adopsi teknologi terhadap produksi padi sawah di provinsi sentra padi di Indonesia* (The influence of land tenure and technology adoption on lowland rice production in central rice-producing provinces in Indonesia) (Mewa Ariani, Herlina Tarigan, Sri Hastuti Suhartini, Ening Ariningsih, Sumedi, Sheila Savitri, Erma Suryani, Sudi Mardianto, Sunarsih)



## ICASEPS Publications

4. *Dampak pencabutan subsidi pupuk terhadap kinerja usaha tani dan efisiensi komoditas non-subsidi: studi kasus komoditas kentang dan wortel* (The impact of fertilizer subsidy removal on farm performance and efficiency of non-subsidized commodities: a case study of potatoes and carrots commodities) (Widyadhari Febriani Setyaningrum, Sumedi, Ranga Ditya Yofa)
5. *Efektivitas kebijakan pemerintah daerah dalam pengembangan kelembagaan agribisnis lokal domba di Kabupaten Sukabumi, Jawa Barat* (The effectiveness of local government policies in developing local sheep agribusiness institutions in Sukabumi Regency, West Java) (Supardi Rusdiana, Diky Ramdani, Unang Yunasaf, Chalid Talib, Cut Rabiatul Adawiyah, Amam)
6. *Pola dan perilaku konsumsi daging ayam ras rumah tangga peserta Program Keluarga Harapan Kota Pekanbaru, Provinsi Riau* (Patterns and behavior of broiler chicken meat consumption in households participating in the Program Keluarga Harapan in Pekanbaru City, Riau Province) (Vilandra Oktavia, Djaimi Bakce, Jumatri Yusri)
7. *Factors that play a role in building resilience, autonomy, and sustainability of smallholder coconut farming in Aceh Province* (Henny Sulistyorini, Sumardjo, Anna Fatchiya, Ninuk Purnaningsih, Destika Cahyana)

## HARVESTING IDEAS: ALIGNING ACIAR RESEARCH WITH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES



ICASEPS participated in *Harvesting Ideas*, a strategic dialogue that involved the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Executive Board with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, National Development

Planning/Bappenas, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), and universities such as IPB University, Diponegoro University, and Brawijaya University. The engagement aimed to harmonize Indonesia's national development agenda with future research priorities, particularly within the framework of Indonesia–Australia cooperation.

Bappenas opened the dialogue by reaffirming that the 2025–2029 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN), mandated through Presidential Regulation No. 12/2025,

outlines several overarching national targets: increasing per capita income to approach advanced-economy levels, reducing poverty and inequality, strengthening human capital competitiveness, enhancing Indonesia's global leadership, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions toward net zero. To achieve these objectives, the government is advancing several flagship programs, including the Free Nutritious Meals Program (MBG), food self-sufficiency, energy and water security, education, health, and agricultural downstreaming initiatives.

The dialogue was complemented by takeaway messages from the high-level discussion that was held on September 23, 2025. Setting the scene was led by ACIAR Country Manager Mr. Teddy Kristedi, who highlighted the importance of aligning research priorities with national flagship initiatives, including Koperasi Merah Putih, MBG, waste-to-energy management, and water and energy sovereignty. The high-level dialogue produced several key research themes for further development, including digitalization and smart technologies (AI, smart irrigation, digital farm systems, and marine monitoring), downstreaming and value-added innovation, productivity enhancement, green and blue economy development, climate resilience and risk mitigation,

## ICASEPS News

biodiversity conservation, and sustainable infrastructure for inclusive growth.

Participants at the harvesting ideas event highlighted critical implementation challenges, including the need to strengthen linkages among research, policy, and field-level practices, as well as to improve inter-institutional coordination. Global issues such as climate change, EUDR compliance, food safety, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and ecosystem health were identified as priority areas requiring stronger research responses. Participants further underscored that research outcomes must extend beyond academic publications to inform policies, business models, and practical solutions for smallholder farmers.

In closing, *Harvesting Ideas* reaffirmed that action research is essential to ensuring that research translates effectively into implementation. The initiative also highlighted the need for regular multi-stakeholder forums to align perspectives and reinforce collaboration. Looking ahead, priority areas include agricultural digitalization, farmer regeneration, downstreaming industries, and strengthened food security through more integrated and responsive cross-institutional research collaboration.

## FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION: STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL POLICY ADVOCACY IN EAST AND WEST JAVA PROVINCES



ICASEPS of the Ministry of Agriculture conducted a series of agricultural policy advocacy forums in two provinces, East Java and West Java, to translate evidence-based policy analysis into actionable regional programs. These events aimed to strengthen national food sovereignty by aligning national priorities with regional agricultural realities through structured dialogue between central and local stakeholders.

In East Java Province, a hybrid policy advocacy forum was held on 25 September 2025 at the Provincial Agriculture and Food Security Office in Surabaya. Chaired by the Acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Ali Jamil, the forum emphasized the strategic importance of coordination among central, provincial, and district governments to accelerate priority agricultural programs. With the participation of provincial and district agriculture offices, the Agricultural Assemblies and Modernization Implementation Center (BRMP) demonstrated strong regional commitment to adaptive and sustainable agricultural development.

In West Java Province, ICASEPS organized an advocacy and policy discussion forum on 18 November 2025 at the Food Crops and Horticulture Office in Bandung. The forum engaged key stakeholders, including district agriculture offices, rice seed centers, secondary crops, and horticulture, as well as the Provincial BRMP. Director of ICASEPS, Dr. Sudi Mardianto, highlighted the role of policy advocacy in bridging analytical

findings with program implementation to ensure policies are responsive to farmers' needs and local production systems.

Across both provinces, discussions focused on shared strategic priorities: projected impacts of expanding rice and maize planting areas in 2025, strengthening governance of rice and horticultural seed systems, and reforming agricultural extension services following Presidential Instruction No. 3/2025. It was also stressed the urgency of improving pesticide supervision at the farm level to safeguard food safety and environmental sustainability. Some key recommendations include increasing the capacity of agricultural extension officers, improving coordination between the central and regional levels, and harmonizing policies to avoid duplication and inefficiencies in implementation.

Through these advocacy initiatives, the Ministry of Agriculture reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening agricultural governance from upstream to downstream. The policy recommendations generated by ICASEPS are expected to serve as a strategic reference for central and regional governments in formulating more inclusive, efficient, and competitive agricultural policies, supporting productivity growth, improving farmers' welfare, and advancing sustainable national food security and sovereignty.

## ICASEPS AND JICA EXCHANGE IDEAS ON AGRICULTURAL PLANNING STRATEGIES

ICASEPS of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Planning Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture held a discussion on the



*Project for Formulation of Agricultural Planning Strategy of National Food Security.* This meeting was an important step toward aligning perspectives among institutions to strengthen data- and evidence-based agricultural planning strategies, with a primary focus on increasing national food self-sufficiency, particularly for rice.

Mr. Hideaki Hiruta, JICA representative, emphasized the importance of developing an evidence-based agricultural planning system that relies on accurate data to formulate targeted policies. Mr. Hiruta also highlighted key challenges, including data limitations and inconsistencies, as well as the need for validation through collaboration with local entities, such as local governments and ICASEPS. JICA also affirmed its commitment to gaining a deeper understanding of the duties and functions of various institutions in Indonesia to ensure effective cooperation.

ICASEPS highlighted several important challenges, including the lack of comprehensive baseline data, weak intermediate indicators, and persistent data inconsistencies across institutions and regions. ICASEPS encourages the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation system based on Plan–Do–Check–Action (PDCA) cycle, spatial and temporal data mapping, and strengthened technical collaboration with BPS-Statistics Indonesia, National Food Agency of Indonesia (Bapanas), BRIN, local governments, and other stakeholders.

Dr. Sumedi from ICASEPS emphasized the importance of synergy between data-producing institutions, planners, and policy researchers/analysts as key to producing effective, evidence-based policies. ICASEPS also highlighted the significance of accurate baseline data to ensure that policies are well-targeted, beneficiaries do not overlap, and resources are utilized efficiently. In addition, the policy indicator system needs refinement to capture intermediate outcomes better and facilitate evaluation during program implementation.

ICASEPS provides several suggestions, as follows: (a) formulation and validation of *baseline data* by integrating data sources from BPS-Statistics Indonesia, National Farmer Panel Survey (Patanas) surveys, the Ministry of Agriculture, and verified field survey results; (b) establishment of SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) indicators that are linked to medium-term development planning, work plans, and activity and budget plans; (c) standardization of planning processes and indicators accompanied by capacity building for all planners within the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure consistent capacities and perspectives; and (d) strengthening coordination between planners and policy implementers so that program implementation is more synchronized with field needs. This meeting led to a common understanding that the agricultural planning framework must be both methodologically and operationally robust and adaptive to the dynamics of the agricultural sector.

## DISSEMINATION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY ANALYSIS FINDINGS



ICASEPS held a landmark meeting on the Dissemination of Agricultural Policy Study Results on December 17, 2025. This event was a strategic forum for national agricultural development that

reaffirmed ICASEPS's role as a crucial node for data- and evidence-based policy analysis and its critical function as a link between research, implementation, and decision-making.

One key message that emerged was the importance of sustaining Patanas data as a "treasure trove" of rural analysis. With consistent farmer panels spanning decades, Patanas data enables credible micro-reading of rural socio-economic dynamics. Discussion participants emphasized that this wealth of data must continue to be transformed into relevant and communicative policy recommendations, including through thematic publications accessible to policymakers.

In the context of international trade, studies on the impact of changes in US import tariffs remind us that dependence on specific markets leaves Indonesian agricultural exports vulnerable. Market diversification and strengthening domestic

consumption are considered important, but must be accompanied by improvements in structural competitiveness, productivity, quality, cost efficiency, and production sustainability, as well as by encouraging greater downstream added value in the supply chain.

The transformation of the National Logistics Agency (BULOG) was another equally strategic focus. The discussion emphasized that institutional change is not merely a matter of organizational form, but also of clarity of mandate, boundaries of authority, and risk mitigation when the regulator and operator functions are housed within a single institution. BULOG's transformation aims to strengthen food stabilization, reserve management, consumption diversification, and crisis response through integrated and accountable governance.

At the upstream production level, the study on rice milling optimization opened an important discussion on market structure imbalances. Small-scale rice mills face severe pressure from overcapacity, uneven competition, and very thin margins. Policy recommendations position the state as a structural regulator, a facilitator of technology and financing, and a protector of small-scale players to prevent erosion of the small-scale milling base and maintain local food security.

Meanwhile, swampland optimization was emphasized as a medium to long-term structural policy, not an instant solution. Its success requires clarity of objectives from the outset, differentiation of approaches between tidal and lowland swamps, and consistency across government periods. Without strong land governance and protection, investments in swamps risk leaking into non-food sectors.

The discussion also highlighted the governance of agricultural extension services following Presidential Instruction No. 3 of 2025, including institutional readiness, the APBN-APBD budget scheme, and an adaptive extension worker performance assessment system. Extension services are positioned as the primary bridge between innovation and farmers, making their effectiveness a key determinant of the success of food self-sufficiency.

Finally, the agenda for revitalizing the agricultural innovation system emphasizes the urgency of truly impactful research. Synergy among the Ministry of Agriculture, BRIN, the private sector, and farmers needs to be strengthened by strengthening bridging institutions, seed system reform, flexible research funding, and the digitalization of the innovation chain. The measure of research success is no longer simply the number of publications, but rather the extent to which innovation improves farmer welfare.

Overall, this dissemination emphasized one common thread: effective agricultural policy requires consistency, cross-institutional coordination, and the courage to undertake structural reforms. Input from the discussants and participants is crucial to ensuring that ICASEPS recommendations do not remain merely analytical documents, but truly shape the direction of Indonesia's agricultural policy going forward.

**Publication Adviser:** Director of ICASEPS | **Chief Editor:** Sahat M. Pasaribu | **Editors:** Erma Suryani, Bambang Sayaka, Wahida Maghraby, Ening Ariningsih, Lira Mailena | **Lay-out and Production:** Ibnu Salman | **Publication and Distribution:** Frilla Ariani, Rina Cantayani

**Correspondence Address:** ICASEPS, Jalan Tentara Pelajar No. 3B, Bogor 16111, Indonesia, Ph. +62-251-8333964, Fax. +62-251-8314496  
E-mail: publikasi\_psekp@yahoo.co.id, Website: <http://psekp.setjen.pertanian.go.id/web/>