

Welcome to PRISMA's February newsletter!

Working closely with both the public and private sector to achieve lasting change is one of PRISMA's key activities. In our last issue we shared some perspectives from our private sector partners regarding what 2021 might look like.

In this issue, we turn our focus towards our public sector partners, including BAPPEDA and other agencies, who share their reflections on collaboration with PRISMA and how to move forward in the face of persistent challenges related to the pandemic.

We hope you enjoy reading and welcome any and all feedback.

Yours,
Goetz Ebbecke

PRISMA supports BAPPEDA NTB to achieve food sector national development target during the pandemic



As in other working provinces, PRISMA's work in Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB) is closely aligned with BAPPEDA's priorities for achieving the Medium-term Development Plan to improve food security in the province. Active in NTB since 2014, PRISMA has been recognized by BAPPEDA as the most collaborative development program for four years running.

Mr. Muslim, Head of the Economic Development Planning department at BAPPEDA NTB, acknowledges PRISMA's tangible contribution to food sector development in NTB: "PRISMA's assistance to farmers through the private sector, particularly SMEs in the food sector and agriculture, has had a positive impact on our economy during the pandemic."

As 2021 unfolds, Muslim is enthusiastic about PRISMA and BAPPEDA's continued collaboration to push the development of agricultural industry using local production.

Collaboration supports safe dairy farming practices in Central Java during the pandemic



One of the priority focus areas of the animal husbandry department in Boyolali district, Centra Java, is development of the dairy sector. In 2019, Boyolali contributed 50 per cent of the province's milk supply alone. To ensure safe dairy farm activities during this pandemic, PRISMA's partner PT. Nufeed International Indonesia has developed educational posters on safe milk production and shared them with six district animal husbandry departments, including Boyolali, for distribution to dairy farmers.

Gunawan Andriyanta, Head of the Animal Production Unit in Boyolali, shared his appreciation for these informative posters on safe milk production during COVID-19: "The activities were beneficial and useful for us as they fit with our program objectives to maintain safe farm practices during the pandemic."

Looking forward to 2021, the department plans to continue its work for providing better access to quality feed, animal health services, water, and quality cattle breed for their farmers. Gunawan expects PRISMA's work with the private and public sector will help to contribute to the development of the dairy sector in the district.

Backed by research, NTT government drives maize development to support food security



Head of NTT Agriculture Provincial Agency Lecky Frederich Koli appreciates years of collaboration in the maize sector with PRISMA and the Assessment Institute of Agricultural Technology (BPTP) - a government body mandated to disseminate research. One of the outcomes of the collaboration is the strategic document "*Langkah Taktis Pengembangan Jagung di Nusa Tenggara Timur*" (Tactical Steps in NTT Maize Development). The document translates years of scientific research done by BPTP in the maize sector into actionable strategies and sustainable solutions for the provincial government, and provides a compact guideline for maize development programs in the province.

Dr. Tony Basuki, a senior researcher at BPTP, echoed Lecky's comments on the joint work: "I see the collaboration with PRISMA coming with the right momentum, when the NTT Provincial Government has planned to double the production of maize from 0.9 million tonnes in 2019 to reach 1.8 million tonnes in 2023."

Furthermore, Dr. Basuki shared his optimism that the strategic document would enhance synergies between government programs across departments. He also hopes finding in the document will enhance food security and alleviate stunting, and improve the community's livestock development in NTT.

East Java government uses online MSME platform to market perishable agriculture products



"As much as 80 per cent of the private sector has been affected by the pandemic, including millions of MSMEs," says Nurareni Widi Astuti, Head of the Tourism, Cooperatives, and MSMEs sub-sector at BAPPEDA, East Java. This includes the agriculture sector, which is largely affected by supply chain disruptions and sluggish trading at traditional wet markets, and trade between MSMEs and farmers resulting in lower absorption of farm products.

During the pandemic, online marketing and trading have become a solution for many of these market actors. TukangSayur.co, is one such online off-taking solution for farmers. They collect agriculture products from farmers and sell them through an agent system. "Many consumers are going online now and TukangSayur.co provides the tools needed to accommodate their need," Nurareni said.

With the collaboration between the Provincial Government of East Java, PRISMA and TukangSayur.co, farmers and MSMEs off-takers can secure new sales channels for trading their products and earn additional income as agents or suppliers in TukangSayur.co platform. Such initiatives are also aligned with the government's agenda which, among others, supports MSMEs to connect with farmers. "Moving forward, this type of collaboration is needed because the conditions are changing and provincial government is no longer able to work alone," Nurareni concluded.

Transforming seaweed research into action: experience from Papua



"I had started my chair as Head of Marine Aquaculture Development Center in Ambon (BPBL Ambon), a national research unit under the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, with zero knowledge of seaweed. Through the work with PRISMA, I've had the privilege of absorbing everything I need to know about seaweed in Papua in less than six months. Even though our pilot project implementation is about to start, it has been a perspective-changing period in creating a new way of thinking in how to create effective private and public sector partnerships," stated Nur Muflich Juniyanto, Head of BPBL Ambon in a call with PRISMA.

In 2021 with the collaboration of PRISMA and seaweed facilitator Kalimajari, the research centre will try a new method for delivering seaweed nurseries with seedling grants. Plantlets will be acclimatized by local intermediaries to overcome both logistics and supply constraints that bottleneck the supply of quality seedling to rural areas of Papua.

"We've always had one foot set in Papua, and PRISMA is bringing our other foot there for us to really start creating changes to the sector. We hope that our learnings through the pilot with PRISMA and Kalimajari can be shared with other key actors - government players, research centers and businesses alike" Juniyanto added.

DISCLAIMER

PRISMA and Palladium attempt to verify the data and/or information in this report but, due to the rapid nature of the COVID-19 response, there may still be errors, inaccuracies, or omissions. Subsequently, PRISMA and Palladium assume no responsibility or liability for the content of this report.

[Visit our website](#)

Copyright © 2021 PRISMA, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

