Discussion of Resource Economics and Environment Department IPB at the Sinar Harapan Daily Newspaper

On May 25, 2010 Department of Resource Economics and Environment held a discussion in collaboration with the Afternoon Daily Sinar Harapan in Jakarta. The theme of discussion raised is the "ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE". The discussion featured the speakers: Prof. Dr. Bustanul Arifin (Professor of Lampung University), Dr. Ir. Aceng Hidayat (Head of Department of Resource Economics and Environmental IPB), Dr. Dwi Andreas Santosa (Lecturer from Department of Soil Science and Land Resources IPB), Prof.. Las Irsal (Head of R & D Center for Land Resources, Ministry of Agriculture). The discussion was guided directly by David Sinjal, General Leader of Sinar Harapan.

Dr. Dwi Andreas Santosa presented the material titled "Developing an Adaptive Agricultural System to the Threat of Climate Change." Early in his presentation, Dr. Andrean cited four food dimensions namely availability, access, stability and usage. In his view, global climate change will automatically have significant effect on the food supply in the world because of the importance of food position seen from the above four dimensions. Further, he explained how climate change affects the agricultural sector, such as decrease of soil moisture, increased pests and disease, increased atmospheric CO2, higher temperature and more expensive food price (in a moderate range).

With the various effects, then Dr Andreas proposed the importance of adaptation strategies and the change of paradigm from food security to food sovereignty. According to Dr. Aceng Hidayat, one alternative agricultural development to be implemented is Agro-Ekoogi Model. What is AGRO ECOLOGY? Agro-ecology is (1) an agriculture that applies ecological concepts and principles in planning, designing and managing sustainability, biodiversity and agricultural ecosystems; (2) an agriculture that develops agroecosystem with minimal dependence on external inputs; (3) an agriculture that optimizes the interaction and synergy among biological components to create a natural mechanism for the system of soil fertility, productivity and plant protection and (4) and agriculture that develops synergies
and interactions in harmony with social and cultural conditions of farmers. (mtd)