

Farmer Field School and Training of Trainer opportunities. Educated farmers who have advocacy skills are able to increase the influence of farmers over public policies that directly influence agriculture. In addition to conducting dialogues with district legislatures, IPM alumni have conducted provincial and district level IPM farmer congresses.

Many of the association's efforts have yielded results:

- Farmers have established a regular direct line of communications with their local government.
- Several appeals of farmers have been listened to, accepted, and acted on by district legislators: in one district, water use fees, which were being paid to local governments by farmers, are now collected and managed by the farmers' water user association; in Nusa Tenggara, farmers were able to obtain funds and equipment from the local government.
- Inappropriate agriculture department policies have been successfully rejected.
- Village level development funds have been increased and directed to agriculture
- Many agricultural university students want to join with the farmers and support their activities.

Food Security Program

Farmers were invited to attend a meeting to discuss the government's Food Security Program. Farmers made suggestions about how to conduct the program; about how farmers should run the program themselves, and that they didn't support packages or loans for farmers as these often placed too many pressures on them. By having a close relationship with the government, farmers hope that future government programs will be more suitable to their local conditions, offer farmers legal protection and address farmers' needs.



Human Rights Commission

National meetings are being held with the Human Rights Commission in which IPM farmers collaborate with other farmer associations and organisations that support agrarian reform, to fight for farmers' rights. Farmers demand the right to:

- manage land
- access government services
- determining prices
- access accurate information
- produce their own seeds

- manage irrigation systems
- market their own products
- form associations
- freedom of expression

Farmers' Newspaper

One of the most prominent achievements of the IPPHTI has been the publication of a farmer newspaper, PETANI (Indonesian for 'farmer'): for farmers, by farmers. Over 10000 copies are distributed monthly to 11 provinces across Indonesia. Farmers enjoy reading the newspaper for several reasons:

- Excellent way for farmer-to-farmer sharing of technical innovations and the results of experiments, particularly about mix cropping systems and ecologically sound pest management techniques
- Serves as a medium to inform farmers about what crops are being grown elsewhere, giving farmers the opportunity to analyse the market before planting their own crops
- Available to policy makers, local governments and organisations wanting to support IPPHTI

Sections of the paper include main reports, farmers' science, farmers' advocacy, farmers' profile, community profile, farmers' opinion, and letters to the editor.



An example of a letter in a recent edition: "Congratulations and success to the newspaper. I hope that PETANI will:

1. Remain an independent Farmers' newspaper...
2. Report on Farmers' advocacy activities to stimulate readers to struggle for their rights...
3. Provide special topics each issue, for instance, about loans, which many farmers do not understand about
4. Publish both success and failure stories of farmer experiments, so that farmers can learn...

I hope the farmers' voice will be heard by many...good luck with your paper".

Darto/Panggah, Member of Environment Care Group,
Central Java Province



IPPHTI: "Kita Pasti Menang" (We will Definitely Win)