IPB Rector, Prof. Dr. Ir. Herry Suhardiyanto believes that Indonesia will be able to overcome the dependence on the imported fruits and vegetables. This statement was expressed in the press conference in Agrinex Expo 2013, at the Jakarta International Convention Center, on 7 April 2013. According to Prof. Suhardiyanto, the current food habit of the communities has shifted; previously they consumed a lot of rice, currently they are beginning to shift to consume a lot of fruits and vegetables. The impact of the shift caused Indonesia has to import both fruits and vegetables, they cause Indonesia to spend about 17 trillion Rupiah on 2012 to import both fruits and vegetables.

He explained that the communities no longer rely on the fullness of their stomach. "Now people are getting concerned about fruits and vegetables. "It's already occur in Malaysia. This idea is to catch up with the status of the Japanese community on their eating habits," he said.

Thus, according to Rector, we have to strengthen our fruits, vegetables, and milk production. If we fail to increase our products then we will have problems. "I'm confidence that Indonesia is capable to overcome it, but we work all-out for such programs, both upstream-downstream must be completed. They shouldn't be fragmented. Fruit and vegetable production is getting better. An example is the mangosteen, papaya and mango which are flourish well, but not orange as it is still infested by many diseases. This year mangosteen come in good harvest, we produce plenty, it is evidence of our success in mangosteen cultivation, therefore, we have to maintain these two commodities production continuously," said Rector.

Furthermore, Rector stated that we have to breed seeds, to cultivate appropriately, and to establish partnerships with reliable parties. More importantly, we to prepare better human resources. IPB in collaboration with PTPN VIII will plant in 3000 acres of land with mangosteen and 3000 acres of land with durian. In both plantation fields, before the harvest seasons, papaya and banana will be planted. Feasibility study for such projects had been carried out.

"We must have strong commitment to for farmers. If farmers fail to harvest, our import dependence will cause a large problem to us. Thus, agriculture is mandatory," he said. (Wied)