

Prof Dr Ahmad Sulaeman: Built Nationalism from the Mouth

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Professor of Field of Food Safety, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Prof.Dr. Ahmad Sulaeman, said, the residues of pesticides and pharmaceuticals in food showed the low level of food safety. Pesticides were the chemical compounds that could disrupt the endocrine system. Another result was hypothyroidism, children stunting (short), intellectual disorders, decrease in stamina and level of attention, decline in memory and hand-eye coordination which was impaired. In addition, the antiandrogenic or missing the masculine traits in boys, reduction in sperm count, reduced the fertility even the direct poisoning. While the residues of pharmaceuticals like growth hormones would accelerate the sexual maturity of children.

Prof. Ahmad conveyed this in the press conference of pre oration in Executive Lounge of Campus of IPB Baranangsiang Bogor, Thursday (26/3). On Saturday (28/3), Professor of Faculty of Human Ecology (Fema) of IPB would give a speech with the title of "Keamanan Pangan, Gizi dan Kualitas SDM di Era Globalisasi / Food Safety, Nutrition and Quality of HR in the Age of Globalization", in Auditorium Andi Hakim Nasoetion, Campus of IPB Dramaga Bogor.

According to him, the existence of two agreements of World Trade Organization (WTO) i.e. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement and Technical Barrier to Trade Agreement, made Indonesia as one of the members of WTO that could not resist of the entry of food products from other countries. Unless the product did not meet the two agreements.

"The impact is so many products from overseas into Indonesia which do not yet have a system which can be applied to monitor the entry of food products, especially the fresh products from other countries. As a result, our country is really flooded by a variety of fruit and vegetables which are not secured," said Vice Dean of Fema of IPB.

It was said, one of the countries that protected the people from the exposure to pesticide and growth hormone was Russia. The year of 2014, Russia rejected the import of beef from Australia because it allegedly contained the hormone of Trenbolon Acetate (the growth hormone for poultry and animal meat). This hormone like steroid, which if consumed by humans, would give the negative impact such as increasing the masculine traits in women, cancer and reproductive disorders. "Even 6-8 percents of American people become gay and lesbian due to the exposure to the pesticide residues," he said.

Then how were the efforts to ensure food safety? In accordance with the recommendation of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO) and in accordance with the agreement of WTO about Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT) and Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), in every country were required the presence of a system of quality assurance and food safety. Law of Republic of Indonesia No 18 in the year of 2012 about food mandated the effort to supervise entry and exit of food products to and from Indonesia.

However, based on the result of the study of Prof Ahmad, the food safety issue of fresh

agricultural product was not a concern almost all relevant actors. So how was to avoid of food products which were unsafe? Following the advice of Prof Ahmad: back to the local food, planting himself in yard by following the ways of good fresh food production, acquiring or buying from neighbour which developed Region for Sustainable Food House (KRPL), buying from the sources or suppliers who were really trustworthy, and buying certified product safety.

“Back to the local food is the right choice. Besides, our mouth must fully sovereign, not colonized by food products coming from outside. This is one of our efforts to build the nationalism though our mouth,” he said.(zul)