The Study Program of Management Sciences, Graduate School (SPS) of Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) held a guest lecture in Baranangsiang Campus of IPB Bogor, Monday (1/6). Present as a resource person was Prof. Hermann Waibel from the Faculty of Economics and Management, Leibniz University of Hannover, discussing "Agricultural Value Chains in South East Asia and Their Implications for Food Security".

The activity moderated by Head of the Study Program of Management Science, Dr. Jono M Munandar was attended by tens of participants, involving students of Management Sciences, faculty members, alumni and guest participants from LIPI, Communication and Information Technology, Research and Development centers and STEI of Tazkia.

Head of the Department of Management, Dr. Mukhamad Najib expressed his hope that the Department of Management Science particularly the Management Science Study Program familiarize itself with international lectures in accordance with the vision of IPB. According to him, the challenge of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) should be addressed strategically by strengthening research networks and increasing international activities.

Meanwhile, Prof. Hermann Waibel in his lecture stressed the importance of strengthening agricultural value in the ASEAN region for several reasons, among others, ASEAN economic and market developments, poverty, population growth, changing diets and the importance of food security after the crisis of 2008. On the one hand, the agricultural output composition of ASEAN compared with that of 1970 has declined such as in cereals, but other output composition has expanded such as livestock and fruit. Poultry industry, such as Charoen Phokpand in Thailand, contributes significantly to the increased agricultural output.

Food security, Prof. Hermann Waibel said, occurs when all citizens at all times can access sufficient, safe and nutritious food physically, socially, and economically to the appropriate nutritional needs and preferences for an active and healthy life. This concept implies availability, access, utilization and stability of food. Based on data from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the percentage of the household budget for food consumption, especially in rural Indonesia, is high (above 50 percent). "Therefore, food security in rural areas is particularly vulnerable," he added.

Under these conditions, Prof. Hermann Waibel put forward two hypotheses: 1) value chain modernization program can improve efficiency by cutting costs and improving quality through standardization. This can increase the income of farmers but does not automatically improve food security. 2) Value chain activities can also negatively affect food security, for example replacing food crops with crops for energy, reducing the diverse sources of nutrients plant to focus on competitive plants; the negative effect on the opportunity of a particular group (e.g., reducing the role of women in protecting children and breast-milk nutritious foods) can result in lower food security ". (Mtd)