IPB was holding a Friday Tour in the village of Ciherang (22/8). It took place on the yard of Kindergarten Ananda. In his speech, the Village Chief of Ciherang, Suherwin, SH expressed thanks the IPB team of Friday Tour visiting his village. "The presence of IPB at Ciherang village has a positive impact. We feel the assistance to the community, ranging from waste management training to the provision of medical equipment," he said.

According to Suherwin, Ciherang village has an area of approximately 251.7 hectares with a population of 12,000 inhabitants, consisting of 300 families, 49 RT or neighborhoods and 11 RW or groups of neighborhoods. Further, he mentioned some problems in his village. For example, the agricultural land in his region has been converted to residential area. Apart from that, there is also hygiene problem.

District Chief of Dramaga, Drs. Baihaqi added, "In the near future, Dramaga District will change, especially with the development plan to solve the traffic congestion heading for Dramaga campus of IPB. With this, it can be predicted that there will be more new comers to Dramaga." Along with these changes, he put forward his desire to preserve the commodity crops, the hallmark of Dramaga District, namely nutmeg and guavas.

However, District Chief does not deny the coming effects: not only the positive side, but also the negative side. "So, it is necessary to anticipate them. The community must be prepared. In particular, by promoting religious aspects toward the moral development of young generation," he hopes.

Vice Head of Community Services Division, Institute for Research and Community Service of IPB, Dr. Hartoyo cited the purpose of Friday Tour, "IPB’s Friday Tour to villages around the campus is nothing but to build relationship with the community."

Responding to the view of Dramaga District Chief, Dr. Hartoyo said, "Along with the change of Dramaga region from agricultural land to residential building land like that of urban areas, the community development should be facilitated in order that they are kept in the positive corridor. Criminal issues, such as pornography, drugs, etc., often occur because people are not prepared for changes with the modernization platform. As for hygiene issues, this year IPB is targeting a number of hygiene assistance programs for the communities around the campus. "In addition, IPB is also planning a fumigation technique training so that people are skillful at using fogging equipment.

"Not only has the village changed, IPB has also changed. IPB’s knowledge is not only of farming, but it has evolved into a social direction, such as the Department of Islamic Economics, which is one of the best in Indonesia. IPB also has the Department of Computer Science, Department of Nutritional Sciences, and Department of Family and Consumer Sciences," said Dr. Hartoyo.
"IPB hopes such sciences can be useful for the community. IPB is ready to help. If you would like to consult, please contact with LPPM-IPB as the institution in charge of coordinating IPB’s services to the community. Communities can also consult with relevant Posdaya and Early Childhood Education to improve the quality of early childhood. You can also make partnerships of small-medium businesses in which IPB has a number of experts in the field," he said.

With respect to the icon and the hallmark of Dramaga District with nutmeg, Dr. Hartoyo agrees. "IPB has held a seminar on nutmeg – recovery program of nutmeg in Indonesia. In fact, some time ago in the program Bina Cinta Lingkungan (Loving Environment Development), IPB has distributed about 2000 nutmeg plants to all villages around the campus," he explained.

"If there is land that can be planted with nutmeg, IPB is ready to help. This year IPB is admitting 3700 new students of S1 plus those of the Diploma Program. I really hope the villagers around the campus can be teachers for them. If they do not behave appropriately, please reprimand them because students must also learn to live in a society," he concluded.

The event was closed with some donation to the orphans, the submission of fogging equipment, medical equipment, and also guidebook for early childhood education in the village of Ciherang. (Mtd)