Membangun Hortikultura di Era Globalisasi

Totong

ABSTRACT

Should horticultural development be properly, gradually, and clearly planned, focused, and carried out, it will potentially increase farmers' revenues and foreign exchange for the country. Indonesia is endowed with diverse genetic resources and agro-ecological systems. Therefore, policies and programs in horticultural development should not be composed in a uniform manner. In contrary, it should be designed through local specifically high quality commodity approach. WTO agreement on the one hand provides opportunity for any Member Country to market its goods and services including horticultural produce to the other Member Countries, provided that it complies such technical requirements as SPS agreement (for the aspects of human, animal, and plant health) and TBT agreement (for the aspects of product quality standards). On the other hand, WTO agreement is a contention. Shouldn't any Member Country be able to produce commodities complying with requirements of both agreements in a competitive price, it will only be the marketplace for imported horticultural produce. The critical question is that, does Indonesia have capacities to take advantage of the opportunity and cope with such contention after having been for 15 years becoming the Member of WTO. There are some significant hindrances in horticultural development. Each of the hindrances is not sterile, one hindrance is not free from influences of the others. They are interdependent one with another. Should Indonesia be of capable to cope with them, it will be able to increase farmers' revenues and foreign exchange for the country. In contrary, if it is unable to cope with them, it will only be the marketplace for imported horticultural produce. Such hindrances are: 1) The domestic market is not integrated, 2) Farmer resources do not have intention to implement GAP, 3) Horticultural land units are small, 4) Improper infrastructure, 5) Credit and finance is hard to access by farmers, 6) No clear, focused, and gradually national development and guidance for the farmers, 7) Seeds and technological innovation is hard to access by farmers, 8) Uncertainty tenure policy for horticulture, and 9) Steady conversion of agricultural lands.