

Greening the food supply chain



Inaugural session of the APO Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference 26–28 October in Bali.

Eighteen years ago, Wayan Balik Ardika was struggling to educate his children. Now he earns INR200 million (USD15,625) monthly from only 0.8 ha of land. “It took nine years to get his field back to high productivity,” stated Damping Bali Organic Association (BOA) founder Ni Luh Kartini at the APO Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference, 26–28 October in Bali. In the BOA approach to “ecosystem farming,” 1 kg of worms produces 1 kg of compost in 24 hours with farm waste without artificial inputs. She noted that while the BOA had early problems with marketing, the food chain Bali Buda agreed to purchase from the more than 100 organic farmers under BOA supervision. “BOA supervision is seen as an alternative to organic certification,” she said.

Conference participants traveled to northern Bali to see ecosystem farming and meet organic farmer Ardika, whose

field Kartini referred to. They explored the successful results of ecosystem farming in Ardika’s greenhouses.

The conference was organized with Indonesia’s Directorate of Productivity Development, its Foreign Cooperation Division, and the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP). More than 70 participants discussed challenges in meeting national food requirements amid agricultural resource depletion and environmental degradation. Experts shared best practices in building green food supply chains. Indonesia’s Ministry of Village, Development of Disadvantaged and Transmigration Secretary General Anwar Sanusi was the chief guest on opening day. APO Alternate Director for Indonesia Kunjung Masehart, NPO Head Estiarty Haryani, and former CIRDAP Director General Dr. Cecep Effendi also attended. 🌱