Handover Ceremony of “Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers (2KR)”

The handover ceremony of the fertilizers that have been procured through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s project on the “Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers (2KR)” was held on January 17, 2011 (Mon) in Makassar City, South Sulawesi.

The “Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers,” or known as the “Second Kennedy Round” (2KR), is financial assistance provided by the Government of Japan (GOJ) in the form of Grant for the procurement of agricultural equipments (such as agricultural machineries, pesticides, fertilizers) by the Government of Indonesia (GOI) as a means to achieve food security and poverty reduction in Indonesia. The procured equipments are sold by GOI to farmers, and the received fund will be set aside in GOI’s account as “Counterpart Fund” and utilized for project(s) to support underprivileged farmers.

The MOP (Muriate of Potash or potassium chloride) fertilizers that were handed over were requested by the GOI for improvement of quantity and quality of rice in the South Sulawesi Province, since it is difficult to be procured in the region.

As an effort to respond to the increase of domestic population, the GOI has been focusing on the production increase of rice, Indonesian people’s staple food. The South Sulawesi Province is the fourth region of the country in terms of rice production with a total of 4 million tons per year. As it also serves as a food supply base for the Eastern Indonesia region, including Papua and Maluku that are unsuitable for rice production, the goal is to achieve 2 million tons of annual surpluses (currently is 1.5 million tons) by increasing the rice production.

It is hoped that the provided fertilizers will help improve rice production increase as well as the farmers’ livelihood in the South Sulawesi Province as well as the Eastern Indonesia Region.