

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Indonesia

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Indonesians Travel to Philippines for Farmer to Farmer Workshop

Report Categories:

Biotechnology

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Report Highlights:

A delegation of Indonesian farm leaders traveled to the Philippines to participate in the Farmer to Farmer Workshop: “Agricultural Biotechnology Outreach and Capacity Building”. The workshop was held on September 19 – 23, 2011.

General Information:

Indonesia is making steady progress towards adopting agricultural biotechnology. Indonesia is interested in the technology because they wish to enhance their food production, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and improve the farmer incomes. Since farmers are the immediate users of the technology, it is crucial that Indonesian farmers are informed, familiar, and knowledgeable about agricultural biotechnology.

FAS in coordination with the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA)/ Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) organized the Farmer to Farmer Workshop: “Agricultural biotechnology Outreach and Capacity Building” on September 19 – 23, 2011 for the Indonesian farmer delegation. The delegation consisted of farm leaders who are active members and/or leaders of farmer associations from the major corn producing provinces of East Java, Lampung, Central Java, North Sumatera, and South Sulawesi. During the workshop, the farmers met with their Filipino counterparts and witnessed firsthand how the technology has directly benefitted Filipino farmers. They also met with scientists, experts, and regulators from the Philippines, as well as key stakeholders who shared science-based facts and insights about agricultural biotechnology.

Following the workshop, the farmer participants indicated their strong support for planting transgenic crops, as they believe the technology can improve the lives of their families. In addition, they expressed their desire to create demonstration plots in Indonesia for promoting the technology. They also expressed their desire to see a strong pro-biotech advocacy association in Indonesia, similar to the Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines (BCP).

For more information on the workshop activities, the complete report provided by the ISAAA is available at: <http://www.usdaindonesia.org/news/read/2011/11/09/143853/A.Delegation.of.Indonesia>