Sudarto: Fostering prosperity through dairy farming

When Sudarto graduated from high school in 1992, he made an unusual decision to become a dairy farmer.

"I wanted to start a business that suited the rural area," said Sudarto, fondly referred to by his farmer associates as "Sudar".

He started his small business with two cows and two calves owned by his parents. Now, 24 years later, he owns 40 cows and 22 heifers, and lives in a decent house he built himself.

For the past two years, Sudar, who has been working with Dairy Hindia, in partnership with World Vision, Bantul, and Dairy Indonesia, has been supplying milk to Nestlé Keraton factory every day.

"Nestlé has not only provided us with necessary equipments for dairy farming, but also helped me learn how to manage my business," said Sudar.

Nestlé, in collaboration with Yayasan Pangan Sejahtera, has been providing technical and financial assistance to the surrounding communities, particularly dairy farmers, to help improve their productivity and well-being.

Nestlé believes that it can create social impact by doing business in ways that improve communities, particularly dairy farmers, and are aiming to reach 20,000 farmers in Indonesia by 2020. The initiative, called Nestlé Supplier Partnership, is a joint effort between Nestlé and the local community to improve the sustainability of the dairy farming sector.

Sudarto, like many other farmers, has seen significant changes in his farming practices since he started working with Nestlé. He has been able to increase his productivity and reduce costs, which has allowed him to improve the quality of his dairy products.

"The organic fertilizer is a by-product of our biogas digester, which can amount to 1,300 tons every day, and convert it into biogas. Through this approach, cow manure is no longer being treated as waste, but a source of energy, health impacts from cooking using firewood.

"When we burn firewood to cook food and sell it, I find it very inconvenient because of the smoke and ash that result from the burning process," said, a farmer's wife. "But the residue from the biogas digester is very convenient. It can encourage others to work together and take concrete action to ensure better environmental sustainability."