The weather on the slopes of the Lokon volcano at that time was sunny and friendly with a fresh breeze blowing. A middle-aged mother walked nimbly down the slopes of the volcanic Lokon mountain and welcomed the ASBINDO Jakarta Team with warmth and a big smile. That is Mrs. Maritje Polii, 74 years old, a Kerk Lily flower farmer who is well known in Tomohon City to Manado. We have been planning to visit his 2 hectare garden on the slopes for a long time, but it finally happened on August 9 2023.

The mother, who has succeeded in supporting her two grandchildren to receive military and medical education, shared the secret of her success. A reliable marketing team and good land maintenance are the keys to her success. His involvement as a flower supplier is something to be proud of at the Tomohon International Flower Festival 2023 (TIFF 2023). Behind success, there are many obstacles that must be faced, said the energetic Mrs. Maritje. In the dry season, water becomes a challenge in itself. It is difficult to get water in the dry season and has to buy water, this Kerk Lily flower farmer has to dig into his pockets to buy a 5000 liter water tank, for IDR 500 thousand. He and several employees faced all challenges with grace, sincerity and patience. His enthusiasm to always provide the best quality flowers and his love for the Kerk Lily flower always burns brightly without remembering that he has entered his twilight years.
The ASBINDO team is grateful for the opportunity to visit the garden of Mrs. Maritje Polii, the most active and senior member of Gapoktan, wishing her continued health and success, and that her enthusiasm can be transmitted to the ASBINDO Gapoktan Members of TOMOHON CITY.



