



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
SABTU 21 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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UKKMOA

UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN & INDUSTRI ASAS TANI
(UNTUK EDARAN DALAMAN MOA, JABATAN DAN AGENSI SAHAJA)

21/9/2019

UTUSAN
MALAYSIADALAM
NEGERI

4

Nelayan, penternak akuakultur perlu langkah kawalan

KUALA LUMPUR 20 Sept.

- Golongan Nelayan dan penternak akuakultur perlu mengambil langkah kawalan dan keselamatan serta kesihatan berikutan keadaan jerebu dengan cuaca yang tidak menentu ketika ini.



Ketua Pengarah Perikanan, Datuk Munir Mohd. Nawi (**gambar**) berkata, pencegahan awal dapat mengelakkan risiko kematian ikan ternakan kolam, sangkar atau tangka sekali gus mengurangkan kerugian para penternak.

“Bagi penternak akuakultur, dinasihatkan untuk kurangkan kadar jumlah kemasukan benih ikan ke dalam sistem ternakan bagi mengurangkan kepadatan ikan dan mengelak tekanan. Pastikan kadar pemberian makanan yang sepatutnya kepada ternakan.

“Tuai ikan yang telah mencapai saiz pasaran. Guna peralatan seperti ‘blower’, ‘paddle wheel’ atau teknologi terkini untuk meningkatkan kadar oksigen terlarut dalam air,” katanya dalam kenyataan di sini hari ini.

Bot nelayan Vietnam ditahan

KEMAMAN 20 Sept.- Agensi Penguatkuasa Maritim Malaysia (Maritim Malaysia) berjaya menahan sebuah bot nelayan asing bersama tiga nelayan termasuk tekong beserta nilai rampasan RM700,000 kerana menceroboh perairan negara pagi kelmarin.

Bot nelayan Vietnam itu ditahan oleh kapal peronda KM Langkawi menerusi Op Iman dan Op Naga Barat Siri 1/2019 sekitar perairan Terengganu.

Pengarah Maritim Zon Maritim Kemaman, Komander Maritim Rashidilhadi Abd. Rashid berkata, bot nelayan terbabit dikesan melalui penglihatan dan radar sekitar pukul 6.43 pagi, Rabu lalu.

“Sewaktu dihampiri kapal ronda Maritim Malaysia, bot nelayan tersebut telah bertindak melarikan diri dengan belayar

menuju ke arah sempadan perairan Malaysia,” katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* di sini hari ini.

Bot berjaya ditahan dan diperiksa pada pukul 9.48 pagi bersama tiga nelayan Vietnam termasuk tekong berumur antara 22 hingga 38 tahun di sekitar 167 batu nautika timur laut Tanjung Mat Amin, Kuala Kemaman.

“Selain bot, turut dirampas ialah diesel dengan anggaran 9,000 liter dan peralatan menangkap ikan. Nilai rampasan kesemuanya dianggarkan RM700,000.

“Bot dan hasil rampasan bersama nelayan Vietnam telah dibawa ke Jeti Zon Ma-

ritim Kemaman pukul 6 petang semalam dan kes disiasat di bawah Seksyen 8 (a) Akta Perikanan 1985 kerana bot beroperasi tanpa lesen yang sah dikeluarkan oleh Jabatan Perikanan, dan Seksyen 6 (1) (c), Akta Imigresen kerana tidak memilikinya dokumen pengenalan diri yang sah,” katanya.

Katanya, operasi membanteras kegiatan pencerobohan nelayan asing khususnya dari Vietnam akan diteruskan.

“Maritim Malaysia juga gunakan pelbagai kaedah operasi bagi melindungi hasil laut negara dirimpak nelayan asing,” katanya.



RASHIDILHADI

Headline	Fisheries Dept refutes Traffic report on Malaysia's shark's catch Malay Mail		
MediaTitle	Head Topics (headtopics.com/my)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	3
Order Rank	7	Readership	1
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 900
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 2,700

Fisheries Dept refutes Traffic report on Malaysia's shark's catch | Malay Mail

Fisheries Dept refutes Traffic report on Malaysia's shark's catch Fisheries Dept refutes Traffic report on Malaysia's shark's catch
 PUTRAJAYA, Sept 21 — The Fisheries Department today denied a report by Traffic , the wildlife trade monitoring network, th...

To read the rest of the article, click [View Full Article](#)

Headline	Fisheries Dept refutes Traffic report on Malaysia's shark's catch Malaysia		
MediaTitle	Martin TF Wong (martintfwong.com)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	1
Order Rank	10	Readership	1
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 150
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 450

Fisheries Dept refutes Traffic report on Malaysia's shark's catch | Malaysia

A fishing village in Kerteh, Terengganu. The Fisheries Department said it was drafting a conservation and management plan for sharks to ensure continuity in fish management, as well as to recognise six Marine Protected Areas in Sabah as shark sanctuaries....

To read the rest of the article, click [View Full Article](#)

Headline	Fisheries Dept refutes traffic report on Malaysia's shark's catch		
MediaTitle	Bernama.com (www.bernama.com)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	5
Order Rank	4	Readership	1
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 2,250
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 6,750

Fisheries Dept refutes traffic report on Malaysia's shark's catch

PUTRAJAYA, Sept 21 -- The Fisheries Department today denied a report by Traffic, the wildlife trade monitoring network, that Malaysia ranked eighth in the highest catch of sharks in the world. It said the report released by Traffic last Sept 11 that Mala...

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Headline	Fisheries Dept refutes Traffic report on Malaysia's shark's catch		
MediaTitle	Malay Mail(www.malaymail.com)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	4
Order Rank	3	Readership	4
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 2,000
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 6,000

Fisheries Dept refutes Traffic report on Malaysia's shark's catch

PUTRAJAYA, Sept 21 — The Fisheries Department today denied a report by Traffic, the wildlife trade monitoring network, that Malaysia ranked eighth in the highest catch of sharks in the world. It said the report released by Traffic last September 11 that ...

To read the rest of the article, click [View Full Article](#)

Headline	No, we're not catching that many sharks, says fisheries		
MediaTitle	Free Malaysia Today(www.freemalaysiatoday.com)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	4
Order Rank	6	Readership	4
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,400
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 4,200

No, we're not catching that many sharks, says fisheries

Shark fins drying. Five of the 68 shark varieties found in Malaysian waters are protected. (AFP pic)
 PUTRAJAYA: The Fisheries Department today denied a report by Traffic, the wildlife trade monitoring network, that Malaysia ranked eighth in netting shark...

To read the rest of the article, click [View Full Article](#)

Headline	No, we're not catching that many sharks, says fisheries		
MediaTitle	Head Topics (headtopics.com/my)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	3
Order Rank	7	Readership	1
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 900
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 2,700

No, we're not catching that many sharks, says fisheries

The department says the figures by Traffic, the wildlife trade monitoring network, included landings of stingrays.

The department says the figures by Traffic, the wildlife trade monitoring network, included landings of stingrays. FMTNews The department s...

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TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
21/9/2019	SINAR HARIAN	SINAR UTARA	35

225 asnaf terima zakat Nafas



Phahrolrazi (tengah) bergambar bersama penerima zakat pada Program Kasih Peladang Kedah PPK Lubuk Batu semalam.

JITRA - Seramai 225 asnaf menerima sumbangan zakat perniagaan daripada Pertubuhan Peladang Kebangsaan (Nafas) yang melibatkan peruntukan sebanyak RM45,000.

Pengerusi Ahli Jemaah Pengarah Nafas, Datuk Phahrolrazi Mohd Zawawi berkata, semua penerima berkenaan terdiri daripada ahli peladang dari sembilan Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK) di negeri ini iaitu Lubuk Batu, Langkawi, Asun, Changlun, Pokok Sena, Kubur Panjang, Naka, Kuala Nerang dan Pendang Selatan.

Menurutnya, pemilihan

penerima dilakukan melalui semakan dan kerjasama daripada Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah (LZNK) serta sembilan PPK terbabit.

“Penganjuran program ini adalah bagi menunjukkan komitmen Nafas dalam memastikan setiap keuntungan dari aktiviti perniagaan dikongsi semula bagi manfaat ahli peladang,” katanya ketika ditemui pada Program Kasih Peladang Kedah PPK Lubuk Batu di sini semalam.

Phahrolrazi berkata, pada 15 Julai lalu, Nafas telah menyampaikan zakat perniagaan berjumlah RM518,613.24 kepada

LZNK.

“Nafas kemudiannya memperoleh pulangan semula 3/8 sumbangan zakat melalui konsep wakalah untuk diagihkan kepada asnaf, fakir miskin dan fisabilillah,” katanya.

Beliau berkata, diharap dengan bantuan kewangan yang disampaikan itu dapat membantu meringankan kos perbelanjaan seharian serta memanfaatkan penerima dan ahli keluarga.

“Dalam masa terdekat, Nafas akan menjelajah ke selatan Kedah untuk menyempurnakan agihan zakat ini sebelum berakhirnya tahun 2019,” katanya.

Headline	Lebih 1,000 penerima di Kedah dapat manfaat Program Kasih Peladang		
MediaTitle	Bernama.com (www.bernama.com)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	5
Order Rank	4	Readership	1
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 2,250
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 6,750

Lebih 1,000 penerima di Kedah dapat manfaat Program Kasih Peladang

KUBANG PASU, 21 Sept -- Lebih 1,000 penerima akan mendapat manfaat daripada Program Kasih Peladang di Kedah anjuran Pertubuhan Peladang Kebangsaan (Nafas).
Pengerusi Ahli Jemaah Pengarah Nafas Datuk Phahrolrazi Mohd Zawawi berkata setiap mereka akan mend...

*To read the rest of the article, click **View Full Article***

Projek perintis durian dilancarkan

ALOR SETAR - Projek perintis penanaman durian Kolej Pertanian Malaysia memberi impak baik kepada pasaran tanaman berkenaan.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Tetap Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani, Pengangkutan dan Industri Utama Kedah, Azman Nasrudin berkata, projek itu juga bertujuan memberi peluang latihan kepada pelatih dalam aspek penanaman dan pengurusan durian.

Katanya, projek itu juga dapat mempertingkatkan pengeluaran durian melalui pemindahan teknologi daripada Ejen Pengembangan Pertanian.

"Ia bagi menepati kehendak pasaran yang semakin meningkat," katanya ketika berucap pada majlis berkenaan kelmarin.

Menurutnya, dengan kepelbagaian insentif yang telah disediakan, beliau amat berharap projek menanam durian di Zon Utara ini berterusan.

"Dalam NKEA (Bidang Ekonomi Utama Negara), durian adalah tanaman yang boleh ditanam secara integrasi dengan tanaman sing-



Azman (duduk kiri) turut menanam benih pokok durian sebagai simbolik perasmian di Alor Setar kelmarin.

kat masa seperti tembikai, pisang, nenas dan sayuran.

"Ia akan menyumbang pendapatan harian dan bulanan sehingga pokok tersebut matang untuk berbuah dan keadaan ini jelas menggambarkan durian tersenarai sebagai tanaman yang dapat menyumbang kepada peningkatan pendapatan," ujarnya.

Katanya, selain menghasilkan buah segar, penanam durian juga antara aktiviti hiliran yang dapat menambah nilai kepada raja buah itu melalui proses menghasilkan produk seperti jus, jem, kordial, sos dan kerepek," katanya.

Beliau juga yakin dapat

menarik generasi muda terutama siswazah untuk melibatkan diri dalam pertanian itu.

Katanya, pada majlis berkenaan, Jabatan Pertanian Malaysia telah menyumbangkan sejumlah 900 anak pokok durian D99 (Kop Kecil); D159 Monthong; D200 (Ochee); D175 (Udang Merah); D168 (Hajjah Rosmah) dan D197 (Musang King).

"Insya-ALLAH program pada hari ini (kelmarin) akan menyumbang ke arah peningkatan pengeluaran buah durian negeri Kedah dalam tempoh lima hingga tujuh tahun lagi," katanya.

Headline	Pelan Pembangunan Pertanian Sabah dilancar Oktober ini		
MediaTitle	Bernama.com (www.bernama.com)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	5
Order Rank	4	Readership	1
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 2,250
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 6,750

Pelan Pembangunan Pertanian Sabah dilancar Oktober ini

KUDAT, 21 Sept -- Pelan Pembangunan Pertanian Sabah akan dilancarkan Oktober ini, kata Ketua Menteri Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal. Beliau berkata berkata pelan pembangunan itu perlu dilancarkan segera sebelum pembentangan Bajet Negeri dijangka dilaksanak...

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Headline	Pelan Transformasi Sektor Pertanian Di Peringkat Akhir, Akan Dilancar Oktober		
MediaTitle	Borneo Today (www.borneotoday.net)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	4
Order Rank	10	Readership	1
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 600
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 1,800

Pelan Transformasi Sektor Pertanian Di Peringkat Akhir, Akan Dilancar Oktober

Oleh **RODELIO JUNJUN TAUCAN**

KUDAT: Pelan transformasi pembangunan sektor pertanian, perladangan dan pemakanan Sabah dilancar bulan depan yang akan memberi transformasi kepada industri pertanian negeri secara menyeluruh sebagai satu sumber pendapatan utama...

*To read the rest of the article, click **View Full Article***

Headline	Blueprint Mafi dilancar sebelum pembentangan Bajet Negeri		
MediaTitle	Sabah News Today (www.sabahnewstoday.com)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	4
Order Rank	9	Readership	1
Language	Malay	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 800
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 2,400

Blueprint Mafi dilancar sebelum pembentangan Bajet Negeri

Oleh Sitti Nor Azizah TalataKUDAT: Pelancaran Blueprint Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri (Mafi) Sabah yang ditunda Ogos lalu akan diadakan pada Oktober ini. Ketua Menteri Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal berkata pelancaran Blueprint tersebut perlu disegera...

*To read the rest of the article, click **View Full Article***

Headline	Elak Persepsi Negatif, Ceburi Pertanian Juga Boleh Jadi Jutawan		
MediaTitle	Borneo Today (www.borneotoday.net)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	4
Order Rank	10	Readership	1
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 600
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 1,800

Elak Persepsi Negatif, Ceburi Pertanian Juga Boleh Jadi Jutawan

Oleh JENNIFER TUGUNG MICHAELKOTA KINABALU: Masyarakat terutama golongan muda perlu mengubah persepsi negatif terhadap bidang pertanian kerana sektor tersebut kini menjadi penyumbang utama kepada pendapatan negara.

Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, ...

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Headline	Industri pertanian ditambah nilai dalam memastikan pengeluaran bekalan makanan cukup		
MediaTitle	Sabah News Today (www.sabahnewstoday.com)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	4
Order Rank	9	Readership	1
Language	Malay	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 800
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 2,400

Industri pertanian ditambah nilai dalam memastikan pengeluaran bekalan makanan

Oleh Sitti Nor Azizah TalataKUDAT: Pengeluaran bekalan makanan menjadi tanggungjawab besar kepada peladang, penternak dan nelayan negeri ini. Sehubungan itu Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan akan memastikan dasar dan polisi kerajaan sentiasa sel...

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Headline	Chiang Rai: 200 pigs slaughtered		
MediaTitle	United Daily News (Kuching)		
Date	21 Sep 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	39,116
Page No	A4	Readership	117,348
Language	Chinese	ArticleSize	125 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 665
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 1,995



預防非洲豬瘟 清萊府撲殺200頭豬

（曼谷20日综合电）泰国北部距离缅甸约30公里的清莱府美真地区本周扑杀了200头猪只，以预防非洲猪瘟爆发。泰国政府密切监控全国各养猪场的状况，若有疑似非洲猪瘟将全面扑杀。

中南半岛的越南、寮国、柬埔寨和缅甸都已经是非洲猪瘟疫区，泰国尚未传出疫情。民族报（The Nation）报导，清莱当局本周下令扑杀在美真（Mae Chan）地区约200头猪。

报导指出，与美真地区相隔一条河的缅甸大其力（Tachilek）地区爆发非洲猪瘟后，缅甸的农民将死亡猪只丢到河里。清莱当局扑杀猪只是采取预

防性措施。

清莱府畜产局局长诺彭（Nopporn Mahakantha）表示，已经把猪只的组织样本送验，确认有没有感染非洲猪瘟。

泰国农业部畜产局局长索拉威（Sorawit Thanito）表示，已经要求畜产局密切监控全国各养猪场的状况，如果有猪只出现疑似非洲猪瘟的症状，畜产局会买下全部猪只并扑杀。

泰国公视（Thai PBS）报导，清莱当局宣布未来6个月禁止活的猪只出入清莱府，并在周边设下12个路检站，全面防堵非洲猪瘟在泰国爆发。

LIVELIHOOD AT STAKE

BENTONG'S GINGER FARMS UNDER THREAT

Farmers face uncertainty after being told their land will be used for private project

T.N. ALAGESH
BENTONG
alagesh@nst.com.my

ARE the glory days of the Bentong ginger, the country's premier ginger, grown on the hilly slopes of Kampung Bukit Tinggi, near here, coming to an end?

Farmers, who had been planting the rhizome for the past five decades, are facing an uncertain future as they are unable to renew their land permits with the Pahang Forestry Department to continue operating this year.

Some 231 farmers have been operating their farms, which cover 286ha of the hilly slopes of the Bukit Tinggi forest reserve, since 2008.

They never encountered prob-

lems until early this year, when reminder letters from the Forestry Department to renew their land use permits did not arrive at their doorstep.

The farmers were perplexed when told, at a dialogue session with a state executive council member to seek clarification about their land status on May 13, that their farms would make way for a private development project and they would instead be given another piece of land to farm on.

The series of development has given rise to concerns among the farmers as they have been working on ginger farms for three generations, and it has been their only source of income.

Although the farmers want to continue working on their piece of land, the act of some individ-



Ginger farmers holding up placards protesting the decision not to renew their land permits at Kampung Bukit Tinggi near Bentong recently. PIX BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDDIN

uals, believed to have links with the private company, undertaking a survey and painting red markings in certain areas of their farm has left them feeling uneasy.

Sun Chin, whose father was among the first generation of farmers to clear the land and venture into vegetable farming in the 1960s, said he used to help his father plant water spinach (*kangkung*).

The 66-year-old father of one said due to the poor water quality, which was contaminated as the surrounding areas were being developed, their spinach did not grow well, prompting his father, along with the other farmers, to plant ginger.

"Surprisingly, ginger grew well and everyone began planting it. During the off season, we planted other vegetables. I can claim to be an expert on ginger. I started with zero knowledge about ginger and still practise traditional farming methods till today.

"Failure to obtain the permit is making us worried. Most of the farmers are elderly and we do not have much time if the government orders us to move elsewhere. Cultivating ginger takes about three years and there will be no income for the first year before we can sell it."

He described plans to relocate

the farmers as being "easier said than done".

Sun said they had been legally operating on the land since 2008 and never expected to face such a dilemma.

"The state government proposed a piece of land about an hour from here. That area is not suitable for ginger plantation as the soil has lots of pebbles.

"Back in the 1970s, people went there to start farming but they failed as the ginger did not grow well; its size was only as big as one's palm.

"The new site is surrounded by hills and remains as the 'only site where no one has explored major farming. The farmers here know that the soil there is not suitable to grow ginger, so how do you expect us to move there?'"

He added that the farmers would do whatever it took to remain at the site.

"Time is running out. We are not young and we cannot spend long hours preparing the farm or building infrastructure. Since we have been operating legally, why don't they allow us (to stay on the current land)?"



Red markings seen at the ginger farming site in Kampung Bukit Tinggi near Bentong recently.



Sun Chin

Farmers' association concerned over private development project

BENTONG: A total of 231 farmers have been operating on their farm plots here that have been described as the "pulse" of ginger farming in the country since 2008.

However, when a group of individuals, armed with land surveying equipment, visited ginger farms at Kampung Bukit Tinggi here on a regular basis early this year, the farmers sensed something amiss.

To worsen matters, they did not receive the reminder notice from the state Forestry Department to renew their land permit, which they have been paying annually since 2008.

Since the district Forestry Department could not provide the farmers with a satisfactory explanation, they held a dialogue with a state executive council member, who confirmed that the farmers had to move out by next year as the land had been approved for private development.

Bentong Smallholders' Association chairman Chaw Ngok Ling said farmers at the dialogue asserted that they were not prepared to move out as they had spent a lot of money and energy working on their farms.

He said the farmers over the years had raised funds amounting to hundreds of thousands of ringgit to clear the area, make paths, install pipes for water supply and build roads. The work took three years before they could plant ginger.

"We were informed that a new piece of land had been allocated for us and the developer, (who is taking over the land) will bear the cost to install the basic infrastructure.

"The new area is not suitable. Most of the land around Bukit Tinggi is being used for farming,



Ginger farmers putting up a banner underneath a sign at Kampung Bukit Tinggi near Bentong recently.

but no one is doing any activity on that piece of land, except for some farmers planting spinach on a small scale," he said.

Chaw said they met Forestry Department officers, who said they were only doing their job and the decision concerning the land came under the jurisdiction of the state government.

He said before operating on the current land, the farmers had been forced to move on six occasions since the 1970s as they were farming illegally.

"We were operating in smaller groups and the authorities often cut the ginger trees since we were doing it without approval in Janda Baik and here.

"In 2008, the state government awarded a piece of land to the farmers for vegetable and ginger farming, which was a relief for many of us.

"The location is fertile, moist and rich with tropical soil, allowing for ginger cultivation. The surrounding area has clean and cool air around the 23°C range. Although farmers in other parts

of Pahang plant ginger, the Bentong ginger is special as it is rich in nutrients, large in size and remains fresh for about a month (after harvest)," he said, adding that Bentong ginger was sold at RM20 per kg.

Chaw said a majority of the farmers here were above 75 years and had led hard lives, working under the sun and rain to ensure a continuous supply of ginger all year long.

"If they were to lose their livelihood, who is going to hire them? What about the 231 families who rely on the income from the farms for a living and the younger generation who returned from the city to help their elderly parents on the farms?

"We hope the authorities will listen to us and hold dialogues with us so that we can contribute to agro-tourism in Kampung Bukit Tinggi. We have adopted sustainable farming methods.

"We are unsure why the authorities want development projects to be carried out on the hillslope here."



Bentong ginger is rich in nutrients and can fetch RM20 per kg.

Younger generation of farmers left in a dilemma

BENTONG: Wong Jing Yi was working at a private firm in Kuala Lumpur when his father-in-law rang him in 2010 to ask if he was interested to work on the family's ginger farm at Kampung Bukit Tinggi near here.

Wong, 36, decided to quit his job in the city in exchange for life on a traditional farm. Everything went smoothly for nine years until May.

The father of three, who saw a huge potential in farming, put all his effort into farming but as uncertainty loomed over the future of his land, his plans are in jeopardy.

Wong, a Tunku Abdul Rahman College Business Administration diploma holder, said he decided to give farming a try after his father-in-law suffered a fall in 2010.

"There was no one to take care of the farm, so I thought why not give it a try. I became engrossed in it and was hoping to expand the popularity of Bentong ginger through agro-tourism. Now, I am uncertain about what lies ahead and whether young farmers would be able to continue working on the farms.

"News that farmers will not have their permits renewed has

shocked the community here as these farms are inherited across generations. We had been operating here for only 11 years and have to relocate again. We appeal to the state government to allow us remain here."

He said a majority of the villagers here were involved in farming as they did not complete secondary school education.

"In the 1990s, there were no secondary schools in Bukit



Wong Jing Yi

Tinggi and the nearest school was in Bentong or Kuala Lumpur. So a majority of the villagers completed primary school education before choosing to work on the farms.

"When the farmers began working on this land in 2008, they spent a lot of money to build facilities, as the place is steep and accessible only with four-wheel-drive vehicles and motorcycles. They slogged hard to prepare the land

to ensure ginger and vegetables can grow well," he said, adding that each farmer owned between 1.2ha and 1.6ha of land.

Wong said should they lose their livelihood, there was no way the elderly farmers could find alternative jobs or move elsewhere as "farming runs in their veins".

"I can't imagine what will happen if the farms are closed as many people will lose their jobs and face an uncertain future. These are people who have spent their entire lives growing up on farms here. Where do you expect them to go?"