



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
ISNIN 18 NOVEMBER 2019**

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UKKMOA

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

Headline	Ministry delegation visits JonGrapevines & Figs Garden		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (KK)		
Date	18 Nov 2019	Color	Black/white
Section	Home	Circulation	18,290
Page No	6	Readership	54,870
Language	English	ArticleSize	269 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 750
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 2,250



Jontih (right) showing a ripe fig fruit to Sallehuddin. In the background is Ezri.

Ministry delegation visits JonGrapevines & Figs Garden

TAMPARULI: The Secretary-General of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries (MOA), Datuk Mohd Sallehuddin Hassan, on Sunday led a delegation to visit the JonGrapevines & Figs Garden at Kampung Bantayan near here in conjunction with MOA's Jelajah Agropreneur Muda (Young Agropreneur Tour).

He was accompanied by the director of the Young Entrepreneur Unit, Mohammad Ezri Shamsuddin and State FAMA director Ribin Wahid.

Also present were University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Agriculture Faculty Dean, Prof Dr Abdul

Hamid Ahmad; and operations manager of UMS Investment Holdings, Francis Vincent Ariffin Jnr.

They were received by the farm's technical advisor, Jontih Enghihon; manager Nonie Bansunin and assistant manager Jonovan Jontih.

The visitors were later briefed and shown around the grapevines and figs garden by Jontih, who started planting grape trees as a hobby in his backyard while working in Ipoh, Perak almost 10 years ago.

He was transferred back to Sabah five years ago and continued growing grapevines in

his backyard while learning the art of fig growing as well.

Since four years ago he started turning his orchard at Banyatan into a mini grapevines and figs garden and the rest is history. In 2018 JonGrapevines & Figs Garden Enterprise was officially registered and the farm started accepting visitors.

Today, it has a collection of 90 types of Kaltivar Table Grapes and 200 Kaltivar or Common Figs.

Among the VIPs who had visited the farm was Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau who is also Tuaran member of parliament.

Headline	Salahuddin: Analyse for reason on dissatisfaction among people		
MediaTitle	China Press		
Date	18 Nov 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	Nation	Circulation	127,822
Page No	A5	Readership	383,466
Language	Chinese	ArticleSize	498 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 9,823
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 29,470



大会主持开幕，左2为担基菲盟，沙拉胡丁阿育（右2）为诚信党森州联委会代表。

沙拉胡丁：將開檢討會議 分析人民不滿原因

（芙蓉17日讯）诚信党署理主席拿督沙拉胡丁阿育指出，希盟主席理事会将于下周召开检讨会议，讨论丹絨比艾国席补选失利，包括反映人民对政府不满一事。

他说，希盟领导层将进行选后检讨，并拟定后续行动方案。

他坦然接受希盟败选的结果，但

认为有必要讨论和分析人民对政府不满的原因。

沙拉胡丁阿育今早为诚信党森州联委会举行的第4届代表大会主持开幕后，在记者会上这么指出，在场者有州主席拿督祖基菲里。

他认为，上情下达的沟通问题，是促成丹絨比艾国席补选落败

的最大因素，特别是希盟尚未善加利用社交媒体这宣传媒介。

他说，当务之急，希盟最须要做的就是加强社交媒体的使用，这是一种现代化的趋势，特别是在人人有智能手机的时代，加强社交媒体的宣传功能须被正视。

他强调，希盟在这次补选以超过1万5000多数票惨败，对希盟而言，是一记很响亮的警钟，希盟昨晚在检讨选情结果，更发现今次选民的流失，比前几次补选如金马仑、士毛月及曼斗等还要严重。

補選公正自由

◆卫生部副部长李文材

选 民在丹絨比艾国席补选中作出选择，虽然希盟失利，但这也足以显见该场补选是公正及自由的。

希盟应注重有关补选，在第14届大选中，希盟获近70%选民支持，为何在18个月後，却出现如此的情况，希盟也需对此进行深入及详细的研究，以找出支持日益严重下滑的原因。

“不过令人感到欣慰的是，人民拥有了公正自由的补选，虽然希盟掌政似也不能时时确保取胜；虽然我们对其成绩感到失望，但我们会时时聆听民意及作出改变。”

一起修復問題

◆联邦直辖区部长卡立沙末

丹 絨比艾国席补选惨败是希盟共同责任，但我们往往太过容易把错，怪在别人身上。

其实所有人都有缺点和弱点，同时也有优点和强项。

首相败选哈迪不可能没有经过大家同意就决定一件事，希盟必须巩固合作，一起修复所有问题，我相信团队精神。

Headline	MOA sasar 1,200 usahawan agroprenuer muda tahun hadapan		
MediaTitle	Bernama.com (www.bernama.com)		
Date	18 Nov 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

MOA sasar 1,200 usahawan agroprenuer muda tahun hadapan

KOTA BELUD, 18 Nov -- Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Asas (MOA) menyasarkan 1,200 usahawan di bawah program agroprenuer muda berjaya dilatih pada tahun hadapan. Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian itu, Datuk Mohd Sallehuddin Hassan berkata, RM20 juta diperu...

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Headline	Four research plots to study Musang King durians		
MediaTitle	The Borneo Post (www.theborneopost.com)		
Date	18 Nov 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	4
Order Rank	6	Readership	1
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,400
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 4,200

Four research plots to study Musang King durians

Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Datuk Seri Salahuddin Ayub, in replying to a question posed by Sarikei MP Andrew Wong Ling Biu in parliament recently, said the research plots were located at Semongok Research Centre (Kuching), Kebuloh Res...

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

Headline	MOA sasar 1,200 usahawan agroprenuer muda pada 2020		
MediaTitle	Malaysiakini.com (www.malaysiakini.com)		
Date	18 Nov 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	4
Order Rank	4	Readership	8
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,800
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 5,400

MOA sasar 1,200 usahawan agroprenuer muda pada 2020

Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Asas (MOA) menyasarkan 1,200 usahawan dilatih di bawah program agroprenuer pada tahun hadapan. Ketua setiausaha kementerian itu, Mohd Sallehuddin Hassan, berkata RM20 juta diperuntukkan melalui Geran Agropreneur Muda (G...

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

Headline	Orang Asli income programme extended to five more settlements		
MediaTitle	Malaysiakini.com (www.malaysiakini.com)		
Date	18 Nov 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	4
Order Rank	4	Readership	8
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,800
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 5,400

Orang Asli income programme extended to five more settlements

In the next three months, five more Orang Asli settlements will benefit from the government's programme to generate higher income for the community. Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Deputy Minister Sim Tze Tzin said the five settlements have been iden...

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

Headline	MOA sasar 1,200 usahawan agroprenuer muda tahun hadapan		
MediaTitle	Sinar Harian(www.sinarharian.com.my)		
Date	18 Nov 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	4
Order Rank	7	Readership	4
Language	Malay	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,200
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 3,600

MOA sasar 1,200 usahawan agroprenuer muda tahun hadapan

KOTA BELUD - Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Asas (MOA) menyasarkan 1,200 usahawan di bawah program agroprenuer muda berjaya dilatih pada tahun hadapan. Ketua Setiausaha kementerian itu, Datuk Mohd Sallehuddin Hassan berkata, RM20 juta diperuntukkan d...

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Headline	MOA secretary-general visits Kg Bantayan's JonGrapevines & Figs Garden		
MediaTitle	New Sabah Times(www.newsabahtimes.com.my)		
Date	18 Nov 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	4
Order Rank	5	Readership	1
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,600
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 4,800

MOA secretary-general visits Kg Bantayan's JonGrapevines & Figs Garden

TAMPARULI: The Secretary-General of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries (MOA), Datuk Mohd Sallehuddin Hassan on Sunday led a delegation to visit the JonGrapevines & Figs Garden at Kampung Bantayan near here in conjunction with MO...

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

Headline	Sallehuddin ketua rombongan Jelajah Agropreneur Muda		
MediaTitle	New Sabah Times(www.newsabahtimes.com.my)		
Date	18 Nov 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	4
Order Rank	5	Readership	1
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,600
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 4,800

Sallehuddin ketua rombongan Jelajah Agropreneur Muda

TAMPARULI: Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani Malaysia (MOA), Datuk Mohd Sallehuddin Hassan telah mengetuai satu rombongan dari MOA dalam siri lawatan Jelajah Agropreneur Muda ke Jongrapevines & Figs Garden di Kampung Bantayan d...

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

Headline	Sabah berpotensi jadi pengeluar produk makanan negara		
MediaTitle	Sinar Harian(www.sinarharian.com.my)		
Date	18 Nov 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	4
Order Rank	7	Readership	4
Language	Malay	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,200
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 3,600

Sabah berpotensi jadi pengeluar produk makanan negara

KOTA BELUD - Sabah berpotensi menjadi pembekal produk makanan kepada penduduk di negara ini kerana mempunyai kawasan tanah yang luas untuk aktiviti penanaman. Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani, Datuk Mohd Sallehuddin Hassan be...

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TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
18/11/2019	SINAR HARIAN	BISNES	21

BISNES
Sinar.COM
 BERKUALITI BERKUALITI

Eksperimen Sharif jadi bisnes

TANAMAN CENDAWAN GANTI BISNES PERABOT

BERANI mencabar diri sendiri dan sedia berdepan risiko menjadi kekusutan Sharif Taha dalam mengendalikan perniagaannya. Bermula dengan perniagaan membuat perabot dan peti berdepan pelbagai cabaran ketika memaksa lelaki berusia 50 tahun ini berhenti daripada menamatkan bisnes tersebut sekitar tahun 2000. Oleh kerana jwa kesihatan fisiknya amat kukuh, pembarantasan operasi perniagaan perabot itu tidak pernah memikatkan semangatnya. Sentiasa mendapat sokongan keluarga dan latar belakang, Rozita Razmi, 54, bapa kepada tujuh anak ini pantas memikirkan alternatif lain demi mencari rezeki bagi membesarkan anak-anak yang pada masa itu masih berskolah. Maka, dari situ bermulalah perjalanannya sebagai seorang usahawan cendawan.

Ketanya, idea mengusahakan tanaman cendawan bermula secara tidak sengaja mahu mencuba melakukan eksperimen setelah mendapat ilham ketika melawat ke pameran tanaman organik yang berlangsung di Pusat Dagangan Dunia Putra (PWTC) di Kuala Lumpur.

"Dalam keadaan sedang berfikir fikir nak buat apa setelah perniagaan perabot terpaksa dihentikan, ALLAH membuka peluang perniagaan baharu. Ketika berdagang-lerag seperti di pameran itu, kebetulan ada rasmi Jabatan Pertanian Malaysia dan mereka menawarkan kursus tanaman cendawan, saya terus daftar," katanya.

Graduan Sarjana Muda Malangnya dari Universiti Malaya (UM) ini menterubuhkan eksembelinya daripada kursus tanaman cendawan anuran jabatan pertanian itu. dia mempraktikkan apa yang dipelajari.

"Bermula dengan mahu melakukan eksperimen dengan izin ALLAH, percubaan itu nipanya menjadi peribadi perniagaan buat saya dan sehingga kini saya masih mengusahakan tanaman cendawan," katanya.

Sharif berkata, tidak sekadar mengeluarkan hasil cendawan, Kalong Tengah Kuching Trade turut memasarkan beg cendawan kepada perniagaan tanaman cendawan lain. Keseluruhan itu turut berkolaborasi perniagaan cendawan.

>>MS22



TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
18/11/2019	SINAR HARIAN	BISNES	22

Tak kedekut kongsi rezeki

BEKALKAN BEG CENDAWAN TIRAM SUTERA KEPADA PENGUSAHA LAIN

“ Satu beg pembenihan yang saya jual berharga RM18 dan boleh dituai lapan kali dengan keseluruhan tuai paling minimum 2.5 kilogram. Pulangan keuntungan memang 100 peratus.”

- SHARIF

SETELAH mengikuti kursus tanaman cendawan anjuran Jabatan Pertanian di Kuala Lumpur, Sharif berkata, beliau kemudiannya segera menterjemahkan ilmu yang dipelajarinya.

“Oleh kerana mahu mencuba, saya terus bina tempat khas untuk melakukan eksperimen tanaman cendawan dengan modal sekitar RM4,000 di kawasan rumah.

“Apa yang ada saya guna, malah pondok untuk tanam cendawan pun saya buat sendiri daripada buluh. Saya juga tidak mahu buat sebarang pinjaman.

“Tanaman cendawan saya ini bermula sekitar tahun 2000 iaitu tahun yang sama perniagaan perabot dihentikan. Saya tidak tunggu lama untuk bangkit mencari alternatif sumber rezeki demi keluarga. Pada ketika itu cendawan yang saya tanam ialah cendawan tiram kelabu.

“Ketika itu juga boleh dikatakan 95 peratus pengusaha cendawan di Malaysia mengusahakan tanaman cendawan tiram kelabu dan medium tanaman digunakan ialah habuk kayu getah. Alhamdulillah tanaman cendawan tiram kelabu saya semakin dikenali di kawasan Hulu Selangor.

“Melihatkan kepada pencapaian itu, saya mula nampak bahawa tanaman cendawan boleh pergi jauh. Maka dengan sokongan keluarga, saya mulai fokus mengusahakan tanaman kulit. Ini dengan menubuhkan syarikat Kalong Tengah Mashroom Trade pada tahun 2004,” katanya.

Cendawan diserang wabak

Menurutnya, pada tahun 2008 dan 2007 merupakan kemuncak perusahaan tanaman

cendawan tiram kelabu di kawasan Hulu Selangor.

“Ketika itu di Hulu Selangor sahaja memiliki lebih 65

pengusaha cendawan yang

berdaftar dengan

Jabatan Pertanian. Tetapi

apabila masuk tahun 2010, satu

peratus pengusaha cendawan di Hulu

Selangor mula tutup operasi dan

sehingga kini tinggal saya seorang sahaja yang

masih meneruskan perusahaan ini,” katanya.

Ketanya, keadaan tersebut

pada masa itu amat memberi

tekanan kepadanya.

“Keadaan itu berlaku

kerana cendawan tiram kelabu diserang penyakit

kulat hijau. Wabak itu merabek dengan cepat

sehingga memaksa ramai



KELOPAK cendawan tiram sutera lebih lebar hasil eksperimen yang dilakukan Sharif.

pengusaha tarik diri daripada meneruskan.

“Saya sendiri terkesan dengan keadaan itu. Ini kerana penyakit itu tidak boleh dirawat sebaliknya beg cendawan yang telah dijangkiti perlu dihapuskan. Kerugian yang dihadapi turut memeningkan kepala saya,” katanya.

Hasilkan formula sendiri

Tidak mahu mengalah, anak kelahiran Melaka ini pantas melakukan kajian bagi mencari alternatif lain dalam penanaman cendawan.

Kata Sharif, pada tahun 2011 beliau mengorak langkah melakukan kajian berkaitan cendawan tiram sutera menggunakan beg besar dengan sokongan Pnrasatuan Penyelidikan Cendawan Malaysia (PPCM).

“Medium tanaman cendawan jenis ini tidak menggunakan habuk kayu getah sebaliknya jerami padi. Campuran formula dan kajian dilakukan sehingga tahun 2012. Selepas itu barulah saya berani pasaran.

“Tetapi ketika ini saya tidak hanya pesarkan tuai cendawan, malah turut menawarkan beg besar pembenihan cendawan yang mana formulanya dihasilkan oleh saya sendiri.

“Saya tidak jual benih, saya jual beg cendawan yang telah dibenihkan kepada pengusaha-pengusaha cendawan di seluruh Malaysia. Aktiviti pemasaran beg pembenihan cendawan ini bergiat aktif pada tahun 2015 dan pemintaannya amat positif,” katanya.

Sharif memberitahu, beg pembenihan cendawan tiram sutera dijual pada harga

RM18 setiap satu.

“Pengusaha boleh memperoleh keuntungan 100 peratus kerana harga pasaran sekilo cendawan tiram sutera yang ditetapkan oleh Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Perserikutan (FAMA) ialah RM18.

“Satu beg pembenihan yang saya jual berharga RM18 dan boleh dituai lapan kali dengan keseluruhan tuai paling minimum 2.5 kilogram. Pulangan keuntungan memang 100 peratus,” katanya.

Kongsi rezeki

Tidak setakat memikirkan keuntungan semata-mata, lebih daripada itu Sharif mahu berkongsi rezeki dalam kalangan pengusaha tanaman cendawan.

Menerusi usaha Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM) Hulu Selangor di bawah Pusat Pemulihan Dalam Komuniti (PPDK) di Batang Kall telah menjadi batu loncatan dalam mengembangkan lagi perniagaan cendawan tiram sutera oleh Kalong Tengah Mashroom Trade.

“PPDK Batang Kall beli beg pembenihan cendawan tiram sutera kami dan mereka berjaya memperoleh keuntungan jualan sebanyak 100 peratus.

“Daripada situ beg pembenihan cendawan tiram sutera kami mula dikenali dalam kalangan PPDK Banting, PPDK Seoharto, PPDK Serendah dan banyak lagi. “Secara tidak langsung Kalong Tengah Mashroom Trade telah membantu pihak lain merana pendapatan. Kini tidak hanya PPDK di Selangor malah PPDK di Terengganu dan Johor juga,” katanya.

SHARIF menunjukkan tuai pembenihan cendawan tiram sutera.



By C.H. GOH
starsmebiz@thestar.com.my

NOT many crops can rival the kind of glamour and interest that is generated by large-scale commercially grown durians.

What makes durian particularly attractive is the fact that this thorny fruit is one true Malaysian premium agriculture product, especially the grafted premium varieties that have been acknowledged as among the best in the world.

In recent years, more and more farmers have turned to this new golden crop for better profitability. Existing plantations have been cleared and replanted with durian trees and new orchards opened to add to the supply of the fruit.

Newleaf Plantation Sdn Bhd is one of the newest players to get on the commercial durian farming bandwagon.

Although new to the game, Newleaf aims to make an impact in the industry which has come to be known for its inefficient small holders, lack of scale and absence of an organised ecosystem.

Newleaf currently owns and operates a 50-acre farm in Raub, Pahang with more than 2,800 trees and is in the process of securing the lease for another 1,000 acres in the nearby district of Rompin.

Founder and managing director Kenny Wan Mun Hoe, along with his partner Keadan Ho, started the company about five years ago to test their hands at planting the increasingly popular cloned durian. But what had initially started off as a hobby quickly morphed into a serious business. The pair started raising funds from investors to open a commercial-scale farm and even laid out an aggressive plan to help feed the fast-growing market for premium durians.

It is still looking for additional land, including some potential joint ventures with land owners in different parts of Pahang, to expand its acreage.

The company is one of 14 local firms that have been granted approval to sell fresh durians directly to China since June this year. This opens up a large new market for Malaysian durian and Newleaf intends to make full use of this opportunity.

At the moment, it exports its produce to major cities in China including Guangzhou, Shanghai, Ningbo, Beijing and Hong Kong, using the nitrogen freezing technique to keep the fruit fresh for up to 18 months. Some 80% of its revenue is currently generated from the export market.

Wan says they are also actively seeking out new markets as well as more marketing partners in China that they can work with to expand its reach there. The China market remains largely untapped for Malaysian durian exporters as less than 1% of the population there have tasted Malaysian durian. Even so, the prickly fruit is already the third highest in terms of import value, says Wan.

But it's not just the Chinese market that is turning out to be promising as new markets with lucrative potential for Malaysian durian are also emerging. Australia, for example, is one of the fastest growing markets for durians, while talks are ongoing with some importers from the Middle East to open up the market there.

The company expects to contin-

Newleaf in the durian boom

China remains a largely untapped market for this planter



Advanced farming: Newleaf uses its proprietary intelligent farming system to monitor the health of its trees.



Thorny issue: Wan dismisses concerns that there would be an oversupply of fruits in the market as new durian farms mature over the next few years.



Lucrative market: The company is one of 14 local firms granted approval to sell fresh durians directly to China.

ing engaging potential investors, including those from China, to fund its expansion plans for next year. These plans include expanding its factory and acquiring new plantation land and small-scale farms within the durian growing regions in Pahang.

Soaring land prices

The durian craze has only grown over the years. Demand for the premium varieties is strong in both the local and export markets and any supply is quickly snapped up during peak season.

This has not only pushed up prices of the fruit, it has also sent land prices up the roof.

In recent years, agricultural land planted with durians has stood out with astonishing price growth. The durian plantation land market is so hot that transaction prices have more than doubled to new heights in less than five years, says Wan.

He notes that transaction prices for land parcels in Raub used to average around RM120,000 to

RM150,000 per acre. Recent transactions are at RM600,000 per acre.

As at 2017, around 72,000ha of land in Malaysia were cultivated with durian trees, according to the Department of Agriculture.

But why concentrate its durian estates in Pahang? While every state in the country can be a potential durian producing region, he explains, Pahang has a unique topography and soil conditions that make the state particularly suitable for large-scale durian planting.

Consequently, he says, Pahang has been producing what many durian connoisseurs describe as the best quality Musang King durian in the country.

"It has been proven that Pahang has the best environment for durian growth, especially for full-grown durians. Durian trees here are widely believed to yield more fruit, and the durians are not only larger, they also have great texture and taste, thus commanding better pricing as well," says Wan.

Musang King, or D199 based on its official registration code, is by

far the most popular variety, especially among Mainland Chinese consumers. It is no surprise then that the majority of the trees at Newleaf's estate are of the premium variety.

But in recent times, newer cloned durians have emerged, adding to a string of "latest sensation". This includes the Black Thorne variety, which has commanded higher average selling price than the Musang King.

Modern farming

Commercial farming of durians is much more complicated than most people would realise. There are a myriad of factors that could affect the health of the durian trees, and ultimately affect the yield and longevity of the plantation operation.

Weather and diseases are some of the most common problems that affect the growth of the durian trees. But unlike oil palm trees, which have a 25-year life cycle, durian trees can continue to pro-

duce fruits even after 100 years. One of the oldest durian trees on record is more than 120 years old and is still producing fruits every season, says Wan.

Modern farming techniques can help a planter better manage an orchard and enhance efficiency and productivity at the farm.

It used to take at least five to six years for a durian tree to mature and start bearing fruits. But advancement in farming technology, especially with grafting techniques and use of better fertilisers, has managed to shorten the timeline to around four years now.

However, the local durian plantation sector is currently largely run by first generation planters who have not fully employed the use of modern tools to maximise the potential of their plantations.

In that sense, Newleaf has an advantage. The company has its proprietary intelligent farming system (iFarm), which includes sensors to detect air temperature and

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humidity, the soil moisture and pH value, a data management system to record each individual tree's health condition, harvest, fertilisation, and other vital information, according to Wan.

The company aims to start adopting some of the most advanced technology and sustainable farming practices which are used in other countries such as China. But these technologies generally require a larger amount of investment and effort in the early implementation stages and in the maintenance of the IT system.

Nevertheless, Wan says Newleaf has been ahead in the sector with its application of modern agricultural practices and new farming techniques such as a fall-prevention roping system to secure the fruit's grade and value, as well as QR code for better and more efficient plantation management.

Wan also dismisses concerns that there would be an oversupply of fruits - thereby affecting prices and reducing the appeal of durian-related companies like Newleaf - as new durian farms mature over the next few years. Given that the consumption of durians in other



Looking abroad: About 80% of its revenue is derived from exports. Apart from China, the company is also looking at new growth markets for its produce.

countries is only in the early stages, there is a lot of room for demand to grow.

Going forward, Wan says Newleaf is also looking to move downstream as there is potential to develop durian-based food, which is equally attractive to the consumer market.

In fact, Newleaf is expected to complete the acquisition of a manufacturing plant by the end of this year to help its expansion plan.

Wan acknowledges that there are many challenges in building up a successful large-scale commercial durian farm. Given the long gestation period and the volatile nature of the durian trees, maintaining a good quality farm can be a particularly thorny venture.

But as most entrepreneurs would know that successfully navigating past the thorns can get you to a very rewarding and fruitful end.



Selected breed: The majority of the trees at Newleaf's estate are of the premium variety.

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Pushing for sustainable farming

Industry needs to observe good practices in acquiring and managing their plantations

By C.H. GOH
starsmebiz@thestar.com.my

THE rapid expansion of the palm oil industry in the 1980s saw vast swathes of land taken up for oil palm plantations over the last few decades. Up until 2018, the total oil palm planted area in Malaysia is estimated at 5.85 million ha, the bulk of these plantations are in Sabah and Sarawak.

In recent times, the plantation industry has been under the spotlight over negative press coverage. Critics are accusing the industry of irresponsible practices, loss of natural forest reserves and for replanting the diverse natural ecosystem with a monoculture crop, among other things. Oil palm growers have been receiving the bulk of the blame.

As the local plantation industry looks to diversify into other crops, with durians being the recent favourite, there is renewed concerns about farming practices which could be damaging to the environment.

In a time when environmental awareness is at its peak, planters will need to be more cautious in the way they acquire and manage their plantations.

Notably, high profile cases such as the alleged encroachment of farmland by durian plantation companies in Gua Mising, Kelantan, which is home to a sizeable group of indigenous people, has not helped the farmers' cause.

And with durian farming clearly becoming the next big thing for Malaysia's agricultural sector, all eyes will be on these large-scale durian plantations, waiting to see if they have adopted good practices including planting on existing agricultural land rather than clearing native forest, planning other crops among the durian trees to avoid creating a monocrop area and reducing the amount of pesticides



Smaller scale: Durian plantations will not reach the size and scale of oil palm anytime soon, says Wan.

and herbicides used.

However, Newleaf Plantation Bhd founder and managing director Kenny Wan sought to clear the air over the fear of a repeat of forest destruction that may happen in the wake of commercial-scale durian cultivation.

To be sure, durian plantations will not reach the size and scale of oil palm anytime soon, given that the commercial planting of oil palm was way ahead of other commercial agricultural products, according to Wan.

He adds that the vast majority of the land currently used for durian farming were previously timber logging areas and secondary jungles.

One of the requirements for logging concessions is that the timber companies had to carry out replanting efforts to replenish the logged timbers.

"But not all of them are willing or able to meet the requirements. Many are willing to work with plantation companies to rehabilitate the logged areas, hence providing the opportunity for plantation



Leveraging others: Newleaf could tie-up with major plantation companies to plant more durian trees.

companies to develop new durian farming lands.

"As far as we are concerned, no new land is being cleared to make way for new durian plantation. All the plantations are either on existing agriculture land, or lands that are ripe for reforestation. There are still plenty of land available and there is no shortage of land to develop new plantations," says Wan. With demand set to grow, more established plantation companies are eyeing opportunities to move into the durian business. Even major plantation companies like IOI Corp and Sime Darby

Plantations are also starting to venture into durian farming, says Wan.

Other recent entries include FCY Holdings Bhd, the largest plantation land owner in Malaysia.

The Felda-listed arm has also engaged Newleaf with a plan to venture into the durian business with plans for export to China.

This is a big boon for Newleaf as there is the potential of planting durian trees on around 1,400ha of Felda's landbank.

Going forward, with the entry of large established plantation players into the durian farming space, the

industry may see more technology advancements that can help planters adopt good farming practices and reduce environmental impacts, he says.

Malaysian farmers have generations-old experiences and decades of ecological studies on planting durian, allowing them to cultivate countless varieties of durians that are well known and have export quality. If planters can couple their know-how with advanced technology and good farming practices, the industry could become a strong example of what sustainable farming would look like.

Wabak rabies: 140,103 anjing telah divaksin

SEREMBAN - Sebanyak 140,103 daripada kira-kira 205,000 ekor anjing telah divaksin sejak 2017 sehingga kini dalam usaha mengawal penularan wabak rabies di Sarawak.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar, Datuk Dr Quaza Nizam zamuddin Hassan Nizam berkata, kajian mendapati 95 peratus penularan wabak rabies adalah menerusi bawaan anjing.

Menurutnya, ketika ini Sarawak adalah antara negeri yang amat terdedah kepada wabak berkenaan

di mana setakat ini ia telah meragut 21 nyawa.

"Di semenanjung, kita buat operasi mevaksin anjing di Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan dan Perak iaitu di kawasan 50 hingga 80 kilometer daripada sempadan Thailand yang dikenali sebagai kawasan imun. Dengan kaedah begini kita dapat kawal supaya ia tak merebak di negeri di sebelah selatan," katanya kepada pemberita selepas merasmikan Sambutan Hari Rabies Sedunia 2019 di sini semalam.

Dr Quaza Nizamuddin

berkata, tiada kes jangkitan rabies dilaporkan semenanjung sepanjang tahun ini.

"Rakyat tak perlu bimbang cuma di Sarawak, ia masih dalam program kawalan penyakit.

"Kebanyakan kawasan di Sarawak kita telah vaksin, cuma usaha yang lebih tinggi perlu dilakukan di kawasan Kuching," katanya sambil menambah bahawa selain anjing, turut positif sebagai pembawa wabak rabies adalah kucing namun bilangannya adalah rendah.

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Over 140,000 dogs vaccinated in S'wak

SEREMBAN: The Veterinary Department has vaccinated 140,103 of the 205,000 dogs in Sarawak, which have been checked since 2017, as part of the department's effort to curtail the spread of rabies there, said Veterinary Services director-general Datuk Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan Nizam.

Quaza said Sarawak recorded the highest number of fatalities (21) from rabies and studies have shown that in 95% of the cases, the disease spreads through dogs that were infected.

"In the peninsula, we have conducted vaccination operations in Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan and Perak, in immune areas about 50km to 80km from the border with Thailand. This way, we are able to control its spread to states further south," he said after launching World Rabies Day yesterday, themed "Vaccinate to Eliminate".

So far this year, there have not been any reported cases of rabies in the peninsula. More effort has also been taken to carry out vaccinations in Kuching.

Meanwhile, Quaza said besides dogs, cats have also tested positive as carriers of the disease, but their numbers were small. He advised the public, especially those in Sarawak, to vaccinate their pets in order to stop the spread of rabies. – Bernama

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Kembali bangkit selepas rumah rakit sepi penyewa

Muar: Walaupun pernah hilang pelanggan selama hampir dua tahun, seorang usahawan rumah rakit di sini, tidak pernah mengalah untuk meneruskan perniagaan.

Usahawan Rumah Rakit Wak Zali di Renchong Lenga di sini, Sajali Wagiman, 62, berkata, dia menjual beberapa bot termasuk enjinnya bagi menampung kehidupan selepas berdepan masalah perniagaan.

"Kebetulan hasil tangkapan udang galah dan ikan baung juga berkurangan disebabkan faktor pencemaran sungai.

"Malah ketika musim tengkujuh, saya menutup operasi atas faktor keselamatan. Biasanya pelanggan menyewa rumah rakit untuk memancing selain bermalam," katanya.

Menurutnya, dia memu-

lakan perniagaan itu dengan modal RM70,000 hasil simpanan selain sebahagian wang Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP).

Katanya, dia juga mempelbagaikan sumber pendapatan dengan membekalkan enjin bot dan membuka kedai makanan di rumah rakit selepas kekurangan penyewa.

"Saya menjadikan sebahagian rumah rakit sebagai kediaman keluarga sejak tujuh tahun lalu bagi memudahkan isteri, Rogayah Bujang, 62, menguruskan gerai makanan.

"Saya bersyukur dapat mengharungi dugaan itu. Kini saya ada 50 bot sewa, selain membantu nelayan tempatan membekalkan pulih enjin bot hasil kursus disertakan anjuran Jabatan Perikanan Malaysia dan Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM)," katanya.

SAJALI membaiki enjin bot sebagai pendapatan sampingan.



RUMAH rakit milik Sajali di Renchong Lenga, Muar.