



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
RABU 15 JANUARI 2020**

BIL	TAJUK KERATAN AKHBAR	KEMENTERIAN / JABATAN / AGENSI
1.	GANTUNG LANGSIR DALAM KERETA UNTUK SELUDUP KAMBING, SINAR NEGERI KELANTAN, SH -36	JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN KUARANTIN PEMERIKSAAN MALAYSIA (MAQIS)
2.	KADA WUJUD LADANG BENIH PADI WANGI MRQ76, MALAYSIA KINI -ONLINE	LEMBAGA KEMAJUAN PERTANIAN KEMUBU (KADA)
3.	TAP AGRI SECTOR'S POTENTIAL TO CURB DEPENDENCE ON FOOD IMPORTS, LETTERS, NST -13	LAIN-LAIN
4.	PRODUCING MORE AGRIPRENEURS, HIGHER ED/PROGRAMMES, NST -30	
5.	LOJI KUMBAHAN PUNCA AIR HITAM - JAS, HM -ONLINE	

UKKMOA

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

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
15/1/2020	SINAR HARIAN	SINAR NEGERI KELANTAN	36

Gantung langsir dalam kereta untuk seludup kambing

RANTAU PANJANG

- Taktik sekumpulan lelaki memasang langsir dalam kenderaan mereka bagi mengelakkan penyeludupan kambing dikesan gagal kerana Pasukan Gerakan Am (PGA) Batalion 7 Kuantan berjaya menghidu kegiatan itu.

Penyeludup terbabit yang membawa masuk kambing dari negara jiran menggunakan Toyota Unser itu ditahan di pangkalan haram Lubok Gong kira-kira jam 2.30 petang kelmarin.

Pegawai Pemerintah PGA Batalion 7, Superintendan Azhari Nusi berkata, ketika pasukannya dan Unit Tiger Platoon Batalion 8 membuat rondaan, mereka ternampak sekumpulan lelaki sedang menarik 12 ekor kambing jantan jenis Boer daripada perahu di Sungai Golok.

“Kambing tersebut dibawa masuk ke dalam kenderaan yang ditutup dengan langsir manakala semua kerusi di



Taktik memasang langsir pada kenderaan untuk menyeludup kambing dari negara jiran berjaya dihidu PGA Battalion 7 Kuantan.

bahagian belakang dibuang,” katanya pada sidang akhbar di Markas Taktikal PGA Lubok Stol di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, kambing yang bernilai RM10,000 itu dipercayai dibawa masuk dari negara jiran untuk pasaran tempatan.

“Lelaki terbabit bagaimanapun melarikan diri ke negara jiran dengan menaiki perahu.

“Kesemua rampasan diserahkan kepada Jabatan Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia (Maqis),” katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
15/1/2020	MALAYSIA KINI	ONLINE	

Kada wujud ladang benih padi wangi MRQ76



Lembaga Kamajuan Pertanian Kemubu (Kada) menjadikan Ladang Merdeka Senor, Kampung Meranti di Pasir Mas sebagai ladang pengeluaran benih padi wangi jenis MRQ76 bagi meningkatkan pengeluaran beras jenis itu di Kelantan.

Pengerusinya, Husam Musa, berkata tanaman padi itu dibuat bagi membantu Kada menyediakan bekalan benih kepada para petani yang mengusahakan tanaman padi wangi.

"Kada mendapati harga pasaran beras wangi jenis ini tinggi berbanding harga beras biasa, dan kami melihat ia satu peluang untuk membantu petani meningkatkan pendapatan mereka.

"Di sini (Ladang Merdeka Senor) kami menggunakan benih padi wangi jenis MRQ76 di tanah seluas 10 hektar dengan melibatkan 200 orang petani atau pemilik tanah," katanya kepada pemberita selepas merasmikan projek perintis penanaman benih padi wangi di Ladang Merdeka Senor, Meranti, hari ini.

Husam berkata Ladang Merdeka seluas 10 hektar adalah yang pertama dijadikan ladang benih beras wangi di negeri ini.

"Petani terbabit mampu menghasilkan 50 tan benih padi bagi menampung benih untuk 380 hektar sawah.

"Ia adalah langkah awal Kada membantu petani menanam padi wangi jenis ini secara berterusan sekali gus mengurangkan kebergantungan negara kepada beras wangi yang diimport," katanya.

Husam juga berkata, padi wangi yang diusahakan sejak dua tahun lalu menyumbang kepada peningkatan pendapatan petani.

"Sekarang ini padi jenis ini ditanam di kawasan seluas 300 hektar di Selising, Pasir Puteh dan ia mendapat sambutan yang memberangsangkan daripada petani untuk mengusahakannya secara berterusan setiap tahun.

"Harga bagi beras wangi dipasaran ketika ini RM1,500 satu tan dan harga beras biasa RM1,200 satu tan ini menunjukkan petani boleh meningkatkan pendapatan mereka," katanya.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Tap agri sector's potential to curb dependence on food imports

MALAYSIA is blessed with seven million hectares of arable land but unable to feed its population of 33 million.

About 77 per cent of the land are planted with cash crops, oil palm and rubber.

Seventy-four per cent of agricultural land are planted with oil palm (5.85 million hectares are oil palm land) while 13 per cent are planted with rubber (out of one million hectares of rubber land).

The cash crops are those planted for export and the proceeds are used to import food. The food import bill from 120 countries stands at a hefty RM52 billion.

Chillies are imported from India and Vietnam. Bananas come from Thailand and the Philippines. Onions are sourced from India and Pakistan.

Things that can be produced to feed the people are not being produced.

The recent suspension of onion exports by India has taught us a lesson. Malaysia must not be dependent on food imports and must produce its own food. There

are many negative consequences of over-dependence on importation of food.

FIRST, it may lead to inflation. Venezuela is a good example for being too dependent on oil. It neglected its agriculture and its inflation rate was one million per cent in 2018.

The other consequence of over-dependence on food imports is the impact of depreciation in currency value.

Venezuela experienced this in 2018 when its currency dropped in value by 96 per cent because of this over-dependence on food imports.

Similarly, the import bill of Malaysia will increase and debts will rise.

Finally, we will give away employment opportunities to other nations that export agricultural goods.

Agriculture provides job opportunities to Malaysians such as agricultural marketers, engineers, planners, production analysts, financial analysts, teachers, farmers, agricultural man-

agers, agriculture extension service agents and cooperative officers.

By importing food, it means we are giving these agricultural jobs to other nations.

There are several ways to develop our food and agriculture system. The first is to develop the interest of young people in agriculture.

The United States promotes 4H Clubs (for youth aged 10 to 21) to nurture children and encourage them to grow crops.

The US Department of Agriculture designates millions of annual Cooperative Extension Programme dollars for the regional "youth development" initiatives.

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture provided US\$68 million to fund 4H Clubs to develop youth farmers in 2015.

Cash prizes for competitions were awarded to the winners of youth farmers who cultivated crops and raised animals.

University researchers partnered with county school superintendents throughout the Mid-

west and South and initiated corn, tomato and other crop clubs for children.

Agriculture subjects must be taught from primary school and right up to secondary school and tertiary levels.

Set up agriculture departments at every university in every state to train young people to love agriculture.

Give technical advice to farmers and research the cost of production for crops, marketing and financing. Train more people to serve in the agriculture sector.

SECOND, develop extension services.

In Malaysia, the extension services in the university and the Department of Agriculture are weak.

Extension service experts are important and are required to transfer the technology created by agriculture technology institutions (in the universities and in the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute) to the farmers.

The Department of Agriculture

should have more experts in extension services to bring technology from MARDI to farmers.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) should train experts in extension service to work in universities and the Department of Agriculture.

UPM can design short courses (of four weeks' duration) for farmers, and develop diploma, bachelor and post-graduate programmes in agriculture.

THIRD, develop unused land. Unutilised state land can be rented at a nominal fee to small-scale farmers to produce food for the nation.

Small-scale farmers should also be subsidised by the government and crop insurance should be provided to them to encourage them to stay in the farms in rural areas to produce food.

In the United Kingdom, every farmer is subsidised with £1,750 per month to keep working in farms in rural areas.

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Producing more agripreneurs

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YOUNG graduates who are interested in entrepreneurship should consider starting an agricultural business.

Even though they may face hurdles, such as a lack of business acumen, technical skills or access to working capital, this can be addressed by Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) Agripreneur Incubation Programme.

Participant Nasuha Safirah Elias, 24, said the five-month course is filled with theories and practical know-how, and with an allowance provided, she did not face financial difficulties in starting her business.

"It also required us to run a business project and generate sales, which provided us with hands-on experience."

Since its inception in 2012, the programme has enabled graduates to gain extensive theoretical and practical entrepreneurship skills with a monthly allowance of RM1,000 and future funding opportunities.

Run by the university's Agriculture Faculty, it aims to produce excellent agripreneurs in line with national aspiration to increase the number of young entrepreneurs.

The programme is supported by the Education Ministry, AgroBank, the National Entrepreneur Group Economic Fund (Tekun Nasional) and the Young Agripreneur Unit of the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry.

UPM Agriculture Faculty dean Professor Dr Abdul Shukor Juraimi highlighted that it is the only university-run agripreneur development programme in the country.

"The Education Ministry has also recognised it as a high impact programme which has continued to achieve its targets."

"From 2012 to 2018, we recorded a total of 305 participants, of which 168 or 55 per cent have successfully become entrepreneurs. They have executed various agriculture production projects in their respective localities."

"In 2019, 29 graduates were selected to join this programme. The five-month programme ensured that the participants underwent comprehensive training and gained the right resources to become an entrepreneur."

"Participants were also trained to formulate a viable business plan, develop independence and learn technical knowledge according to their respective modules. Upon completion, they would be able to receive a special funding to pursue their projects," said Shukor.

To date, 14 companies have been set up by the programme participants.

"UPM is committed to continue this programme and we are looking into collaborating with the Youth and Sports Ministry to offer the same model to train young entrepreneurs," said Shukor.

Held for five to six months, the programme is open to all applicants aged 30 and below with a diploma as a minimum qualification.

Last year, the programme offered five modules of specialisation, namely crop planting (rockmelon fertigation); aquaculture (tilapia farming); hybrid free-range chicken farming, food management and service; and ruminant husbandry (cattle and sheep).

Nasuha, a food science and technology graduate, was determined to join the programme to grow her family business.

"My father owns a farm in Kedah, which is yet to be commercialised. I decided to take up ruminant husbandry to learn how to manage the farm and livestock, as well as its business."



(Second row) Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Board of Directors chairman Tan Sri Dr Ghaouth Jasmon (eighth from right), UPM Agriculture Faculty dean Professor Dr Abdul Shukor Juraimi (seventh from right) and Programme coordinator and UPM Agriculture Faculty fellow Sahbani Saimin (fifth from right) at the 2019 UPM Agripreneur Incubation Programme closing ceremony.



From 2012 to 2018, we recorded a total of 305 participants, of which 168 or 55 per cent have successfully become entrepreneurs.

PROFESSOR DR ABDUL SHUKOR JURAIMI
UPM Agriculture Faculty dean



Universiti Putra Malaysia Agripreneur Incubation Programme alumna and MZ Fertigas Enterprise founder Mohd Zuhri Jusoh at his farm in Jerantut, Pahang.

"We learnt everything from grant application to marketing and business. On the practical side, we trained at a farm and learnt about animal anatomy, animal feed, waste management and handling of by-products."

For Muhammad Syahiran Hashim, 23, the programme has prepared him to start his own poultry business in Kelantan.

"Having graduated with a degree in agricultural business from UPM, I found this programme to have more in-depth focus in poultry breeding."

"It exposed me to the value chain from rearing, input supply until the product delivery," he said.

Muhammad Ashraf Ibrahim, 21, already has an agricultural project prior to enrolling in the rock melon fertigation module.

"I was involved in cucumber fertigation but I lacked the business management and marketing know-how. So, I took this opportunity to upskill. The experience enabled me to adopt a wider outlook in my agricultural business. I also learnt to market my produce in a commercial way."

"On the technical side, I learnt more about fertigation technology, which allows us to produce higher quality crops due to the accurate nutrient intake. It is automated, enabling us to save on labour. The water and fertiliser will be supplied to the plants by a set timer," said Ashraf.

UPM also collaborates with the programme's alumni to expand the present participants' practical experience.

A 2014 alumna and MZ Fertigas Enterprise founder Mohd Zuhri Jusoh said confidence is a key take-away from the Agripreneur Incubation Programme.

"Confidence is an important characteristic."

When I first started out, I did not get a favourable response from the bank. But after joining this programme, I started believing in my abilities and show more commitment to the business."

For Zuhri, the programme is an excellent platform to gain a better understanding of entrepreneurship.

"It prepared us mentally and physically for the ups and downs of business. Many people have the interest, but they are not skilled enough. So you need to learn and gain more knowledge."

Post-programme, Zuhri secured a RM10,000 loan from Tekun Nasional.

"With what I have learnt, I knew how to prioritise and use the capital to grow my business. Two years ago, I bought a bigger farmland and my enterprise has expanded tremendously."

In his speech at the closing ceremony, UPM board of directors chairman Tan Sri Dr Ghaouth Jasmon said: "The future of this country depends on agriculture. This is a very important programme for young entrepreneurs to create wealth and contribute to the development of the nation."

Programme coordinator and UPM Agriculture Faculty fellow Sahbani Saimin said more young graduates should enrol in this comprehensive programme.

"Looking at the market demands, we developed the syllabus in-house by drawing the expertise from the UPM Agriculture Faculty, Forestry Faculty and Food Science and Technology Faculty."

Aiming to increase the rate of successful entrepreneurs for this year's upcoming batch, Sahbani said the applications will be open beginning from Feb 3.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
15/1/2020	HARIAN METRO	ONLINE	

Loji kumbahan punca air hitam – JAS



AIR hitam yang mencemari Kuala Sungai Serkam Pantai di sini, sejak sebulan lalu dikatakan berpunca daripada satu loji kumbahan milik Indah Water Konsortium (IWK) terletak berhampiran.

Hasil pemantauan Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) negeri yang menggunakan dron baru-baru ini mendapati, air hitam itu didapati mengalir daripada loji kumbahan di Taman Pulau Indah yang terletak kira-kira 1.5 kilometer dari kuala berkenaan.

Pengarah JAS negeri Rosli Osman berkata, bagaimanapun, pihaknya masih belum dapat mengesahkan perkara itu berikutan contoh air yang diambil dari kuala Sungai Serkam Pantai sedang dianalisa oleh Jabatan Kimia negeri.

"Di sekitar kawasan ini ada tujuh loji kumbahan IWK dan kita dapati air hitam itu mengalir keluar daripada satu daripada loji berkenaan. Ia

kemudiannya mengalir ke sungai berhampiran seterusnya ke muara kuala Serkam Pantai ini.

"Kita sudah ambil contoh air untuk dianalisa oleh Jabatan Kimia dan keputusannya akan diperolehi dalam tempoh dua minggu," katanya selepas mengiringi EXCO Pertanian, Pembangunan Usahawan dan Industri Asas Tani negeri, Datuk Norhizam Hassan Baktee melawat kuala Serkam Pantai, hari ini.

Lawatan itu susulan laporan Harian Metro mengenai keluhan nelayan di kawasan berkenaan yang dilanda masalah selepas muara sungai dicemari air hitam.

Ia mengeluarkan bau busuk, terutama ketika air surut sekali gus memberi kesan kepada kedatangan pengunjung ke medan ikan bakar yang terletak bersebelahan kuala berkenaan.

Rosli berkata, loji kumbahan di Taman Pulau Indah itu mengalami kerosakan mesin menyebabkan air hitam itu mengalir keluar.

Bagaimanapun, kerja pembaikan sedang dilakukan dan dijangka siap dalam tempoh terdekat.

Sementara itu, Norhizam berkata, setiap masalah nelayan akan diambil tindakan segera jika dilaporkan kepadanya.

Katanya, beliau akan meneliti aduan berkenaan sebelum mengarahkan pihak bertanggungjawab mengambil tindakan.

"Jika ada masalah, terus lapor kepada saya. Saya akan bertindak berdasarkan kepada laporan yang diterima," katanya.