



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN  
AHAD 19 APRIL 2020**

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UKKMOA

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

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/4/2020	THE STAR	ONLINE	

## Food reserve plans in the pipeline



PETALING JAYA: A Cabinet Committee on Food Security chaired by the Prime Minister will be set up soon to formulate the National Food Security Policy, says Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee (pic).

The move comes amid the Covid-19 pandemic and heightened public concern about present and future food resources.

Kiandee said the pandemic should serve as a wake-up call for Malaysia to improve its food security and safety.

"The agro-food sub sector will be the main focus in the agriculture sector in order to achieve the agenda of improving Malaysia's food security and generating higher income for agriculture frontliners," he told Sunday Star.

Other areas of focus include strengthening the food supply chain, improving support and delivery services, enhancing technological knowledge and promoting greater compliance to good agricultural standards and practices.

"Whether our life will regain its 'normalcy' post Covid-19 or we have to resign to a 'new norm', we can all agree that it is high time to re-evaluate our country's food security policy," he said.

According to Kiandee, a special task force to minimise the impact of Covid-19 on the food supply chain has also been established to coordinate inter-ministerial efforts of the International Trade and Industry, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, and the Agriculture and Food Industry Ministries.

In general, Kiandee said that Malaysia's food supply is at a sufficient level. However, whether everyone gets a sufficient amount of food remains a work in progress.

As such, more needs to be done to improve the food security and safety in Malaysia by ensuring its accessibility, affordability and availability for all, he said.

Malaysia is ranked the 28th out of 113 countries in the Global Food Security Index 2019, ahead of China (35th) and South Korea (29th) but behind Singapore which is ranked first in the world.

The ministry is working towards reducing Malaysia's rice import, currently at 30%, within the next few years.

At the moment, imports of rice by Padiberas Nasional Bhd from countries such as Thailand and Vietnam are continuing as usual despite the movement control order.

One of the main focuses of the Agriculture and Food Industries will be to reduce Malaysia's dependency on imported food products.

To cope with Covid-19, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin recently announced a RM1bil allocation for Malaysia's food security fund and other assistance for farmers, fishermen and those in the agro-food industry.

Kiandee said the ministry would continue searching for new market access and bringing in investors to help agriculture frontliners recover from the effects of Covid-19.

Among the challenges faced in the industry are the low levels of mechanisation and automation, dependency on foreign workers, lack of private investment and funding, difficulty in accessing market, unsustainable subsidy mechanism and a lack of quality seeds and breeds.

"I am certain that the involvement of the younger generation is the key towards bringing in Industrial Revolution 4.0 and modernising the agriculture sector as they are more adept in adopting and learning the latest technologies and techniques," Kiandee said, adding that the ministry provided a grant to encourage mechanisation and automation in agriculture.

At present, only 8.5% farmers are under the age of 40 but targeted programmes are being introduced to increase this number.

Kiandee hoped that the country would be able to produce more "agropreneurs" as Malaysia seeks to improve on food security and safety.

"This way, the next time the country is faced with a global pandemic, we will be ready as our food security level will be more than sufficient to sustain us over a long period of time," said Khandee, thanking agricultural frontliners, who are working around-the-clock during this crisis.

Food security specialist Prof Datuk Dr Nasir Shamsudin said Malaysia should increase investment in agricultural research, improve industry technology and encourage entrepreneurship in order to strengthen the country's food security.

"In terms of food policy, countries that have achieved stable food security generally have a strong record of support for the food production sector," said the professor in agricultural economics at Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Khazanah Research Institute Senior Research Associate Dr Sarena Che Omar called for improved preparedness and an action plan ready to quickly respond to future crises that can detrimentally impact food security.

This could include having a list of shelters and food distribution centres that can be mobilised at short notice and essential sectors pre-approved to move on as usual in the event of an emergency.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/4/2020	BERITA HARIAN	ONLINE	

## 140 premis niaga hasilkan jualan RM80 juta dalam tempoh PKP



KUALA SELANGOR: Sebanyak 140 premis niaga termasuk Pasar Segar Terkawal (PST) mencatatkan jumlah jualan RM80 juta sejak tempoh Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan yang dilaksanakan 18 Mac lalu.

Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee berkata, jualan di situ membabitkan barangan segar seperti sayur-sayuran, buah-buahan, ayam, ikan, daging, barangan runcit dan barangan asas tani.

"Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) dan beberapa agensi pemasaran di bawah kementerian sentiasa berusaha mengurangkan masalah lebih pengeluaran.

"Ia disebabkan permintaan yang berkurangan berikutan premis pemasaran yang dikurangkan kerana PKP," katanya.

Beliau bercakap pada sidang media sempena program turun padang di IADA Barat Laut Selangor, hari ini.

Bagaimanapun, kata Ronald, ada lokasi tertentu yang berhadapan dengan masalah lebih pengeluaran disebabkan premis niaga berkurangan.

"Seperti contoh, hotel dan restoran tidak beroperasi sepenuhnya menyebabkan permintaan 'business to business' berkurangan dan sekarang ini, permintaan 'business to consumer' sahaja," katanya.

Dalam pada itu beliau berkata, pendekatan baharu seperti perniagaan secara dalam talian rancak digunakan sepanjang tempoh PKP.

"Ketika ini, FAMA sedang berurusan dengan beberapa pemain industri yang menggunakan platform e-dagang untuk membantu pengeluar barang makanan melakukan perniagaan dalam talian.

"Dengan cara ini, ia diharap dapat mengurangkan isu masalah lebih pengeluaran," katanya.

Mengulas mengenai lawatannya ke kawasan IADA Barat Laut Selangor, Ronald memberi jaminan bekalan beras di negara ini mencukupi sepanjang PKP.

"Lawatan itu bagi melihat bekalan beras negara sentiasa terjamin dan berterusan untuk memastikan rakyat tidak terganggu dari segi bekalan beras.

"Malah, kedudukan kita sebagai pengeluar beras tempatan sebanyak 70 peratus dan kebergantungan terhadap beras import sebanyak 30 peratus menunjukkan Malaysia tidak akan berhadapan masalah besar dari segi bekalan beras negara walaupun dalam tempoh PKP," katanya.

Menurut Ronald, Syarikat Padiberas Nasional Bhd (BERNAS) turut memaklumkan beras import dari negara luar seperti Thailand dan Vietnam adalah berterusan dan tidak terganggu sepanjang tempoh PKP.

"Rakyat diminta tidak melakukan pembelian panik kerana pihak kementerian dan agensi bertanggungjawab terhadap bekalan makanan negara akan memastikan perolehan bekalan makanan sentiasa terjamin dan konsisten," katanya.

Headline	140 premis raih jualan RM80j sepanjang PKP		
MediaTitle	Berita Harian Ahad		
Date	19 Apr 2020	Color	Full Color
Section	Nasional	Circulation	56,027
Page No	16	Readership	168,081
Language	Malay	ArticleSize	501 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 16,589
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 49,767



Penularan COVID-19

# 140 premis raih jualan RM80j sepanjang PKP

FAMA, agensi pemasaran kurangkan masalah lebihan pengeluaran

**Kuala Selangor:** Sebanyak 140 premis, termasuk Pasar Segar Terkawal (PST) mencatatkan jualan RM 80 juta sejak tempoh Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) dilaksanakan 18 Mac lalu.

Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Khandee, berkata jualan membabitkan barangan segar seperti sayur, buah-buahan, ayam, ikan, daging, barangan runcit dan barangan asas tani.

"Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) dan beberapa agensi pemasaran di bawah kementerian ini sentiasa berusaha mengurangkan masalah lebihan pengeluaran.

"Ia disebabkan permintaan berkurangan berikutan premis pemasaran dikurangkan kerana PKP," katanya pada sidang media sempena program turun padang di kawasan Pembangunan Pertanian Bersepadu (IADA) Barat Laut Selangor, semalam.

Bagaimanapun, kata Ronald, ada lokasi tertentu yang menghadapi lebihan pengeluaran disebabkan premis berkurangan.

"Contohnya, hotel dan restoran tidak beroperasi sepenuhnya menyebabkan permintaan *business to business* berkurangan dan sekarang, permintaan *business to consumer* sahaja," katanya.

Dalam pada itu beliau berkata, pendekatan baharu seperti perniagaan dalam talian rancak di-



Khandee (tengah) menaiki jentera menuai padi pada program turun padang di kawasan IADA Barat Laut Selangor di Kampung Sawah Sempadan, Tanjung Karang, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

gunakan sepanjang PKP.

"Ketika ini, FAMA berurusan dengan beberapa pemain industri yang menggunakan platform e-dagang untuk membantu pengeluar barang makanan melakukan perniagaan dalam talian.

"Dengan cara ini, diharap dapat mengurangkan isu masalah lebihan pengeluaran," katanya.

Sementara itu, mengulas lawatannya ke kawasan IADA Barat Laut Selangor, Ronald memberi jaminan bekalan beras di negara ini mencukupi sepanjang PKP.

"Lawatan ini bagi melihat bekalan beras negara sentiasa terjamin dan berterusan.

"Malah, kedudukan kita seba-

**Ketika ini, FAMA berurusan dengan beberapa pemain industri yang menggunakan platform e-dagang membantu pengeluar barang makanan melakukan perniagaan dalam talian.**

**Ronald Khandee, Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan**

gai pengeluar beras tempatan sebanyak 70 peratus dan kebergantungan terhadap beras import sebanyak 30 peratus menunjukkan Malaysia tidak akan berhadapan masalah besar dari segi bekalan beras negara walaupun dalam tempoh PKP," katanya.

Menurut Ronald, Syarikat Padiberas Nasional Bhd (BERNAS) turut memaklumkan beras import seperti dari Thailand dan Vietnam berterusan dan tidak terganggu sepanjang PKP.

"Rakyat diminta tidak melakukan pembelian panik kerana pihak kementerian dan agensi bertanggungjawab memastikan perolehan bekalan makanan sentiasa terjamin dan berterusan," katanya.

Headline	140 outlet, PST FAMA beroperasi		
Media Title	Sinar Harian		
Date	19 Apr 2020	Color	Full Color
Section	Selangor & KL	Circulation	140,000
Page No	33	Readership	420,000
Language	Malay	Article Size	375 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	Mohd Izzatul Izzuan Tahir	Ad Value	RM 7,950
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 23,850



# 140 outlet, PST FAMA beroperasi

Catat jualan sehingga RM80 juta sepanjang PKP

Oleh MOHD IZZATUL IZZUAN TAHIR

KUALA SELANGOR

**S**ebanyak 140 outlet termasuk pusat Pasar Segar Terkawal (PST) di seluruh negara mencatatkan jumlah jualan sehingga RM80 juta sejak penguatkuasaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) 18 Mac lalu.

Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiang berkata, konsep jualan dan pengedaran di outlet peruncitan terpilih itu membabitkan jualan barangan segar seperti sayur-sayuran, buah-buahan, ayam, ikan, daging, barangan runcit dan barangan asas tani.



FOTO: ROSLI TALIB

Ronald (tengah) bersama Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Datuk Seri Ahmad Hamzah (kiri) melihat sawah padi di Kampung Sawah Sempadan di Tanjung Karang semasa program turun padang ke kawasan IADA Barat Laut Selangor semalam.

Menurutnya, PST di outlet peruncitan terpilih di Malaysia secara berperingkat itu melibatkan agensi iaitu Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA), Lembaga Pertubuhan Peladang (LPP), Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM) dan Persatuan Nelayan Kebangsaan (NEKMAT).

"Fama dan tiga agensi pemasaran lain turut mewujudkan

kan pelbagai outlet termasuk kewujudan 70 PST beroperasi di seluruh negara," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas Majlis Turun Padang ke Kawasan di Kawasan Pembangunan Bersepadu (IADA) Barat Laut Selangor semalam.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, FAMA dan beberapa agensi pemasaran di bawah kementerian itu sentiasa berusaha me-

ngurangkan masalah lebih pengeluaran disebabkan permintaan berkurangan semasa tempoh PKP.

Ronald berkata, lambakan barangan segar berpunca daripada penurunan permintaan oleh restoran dan hotel yang tidak beroperasi sepanjang PKP.

Justeru, katanya, pemain industri sudah mengambil ini-

siatif menangani masalah lambakan barangan segar itu menerusi kaedah permagaan atas talian.

"FAMA berusaha membantu pengeluar makanan melalui atas talian dan dapat mengurangkan beban ditanggung pengusaha makanan sepanjang PKP ini," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, katanya, bekalan beras negara dijamin mencukupi meskipun sepanjang tempoh PKP.

"Kedudukan sebagai pengeluar beras 70 peratus tempatan dan 30 peratus kebergantungan beras import menunjukkan Malaysia tidak berdepan masalah sepanjang PKP," katanya.

Katanya, stok semasa beras tempatan di peringkat kilang, pemborong dan peruncit berjumlah kira-kira 500,000 tan metrik dalam satu masa.

Tambah Ronald, kementerian akan terus memantau bagi memastikan bekalan beras sentiasa mencukupi untuk menampung keperluan negara.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/4/2020	UTUSAN BORNEO	ONLINE	

## FAMA Miri bantu jual lambakan hasil tani



**DAPAT SAMBUTAN:** Jackson (berdiri, tiga kiri) semasa aktiviti Jualan Terus Dari Ladang anjuran FAMA Daerah Miri dan PPK Subis di Miri, semalam. **MIRI:** Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) Daerah Miri menyediakan program 'Jualan Terus Dari Ladang' bagi membantu petani tempatan menjual lambakan produk mereka terus kepada pengguna.

Pegawai Pertanian dari Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak Jackson Nanta Bernabas Baie berkata, aktiviti itu bertujuan mengurangkan kerugian petani sepanjang Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP).

"Walaupun harga lebih murah, namun lebih baik daripada produk itu rosak dan buruk di ladang.

"Sekurang-kurangnya petani dapat balik modal dan mendapat sedikit pulangan daripada langsung tiada," katanya ketika ditemui di program itu yang diadakan di FAMA Miri, berhampiran Kompleks Islam Sarawak, Miri semalam.

Jackson menambah, program jualan setiap hari itu dianjurkan bersama Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK) Subis dan FAMA Miri.

Katanya, minggu lepas mereka berjaya menjual kira-kira 13 tan produk tani seperti tembikai, tembikai madu, pelbagai jenis pisang dan sayur-sayuran.

Katanya, kebanyakan petani yang menghantar produk ke situ dari kawasan Miri selain Niah, Bakong dan Bekenu.

"Sesiapa sahaja boleh menghantar produk pertanian yang tidak dapat dijual ke sini.

"Selain dijual untuk orang awam, terdapat pemborong yang membeli untuk dibawa ke Bintulu," katanya sambil menambah dalam sehari mereka menerima kira-kira ialah lima tan pelbagai produk tanaman.

Sejak dilaksanakan minggu lepas, program jualan lambakan itu mendapat sambutan dengan jualan mencecah kira-kira RM22,000.

Selain itu, produk yang tidak habis dijual turut disumbangkan kepada Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat, barisan hadapan dan wakil rakyat untuk diagihkan kepada orang yang memerlukan.

Sementara itu, pasar yang dibuka mulai jam 9.30 pagi hingga 2 petang itu mendapat sambutan menggalakkan daripada orang awam yang mahu membeli dengan harga murah.

Tinjauan mendapati produk seperti tembikai madu dan tembikai dijual dengan harga RM3 sekilogram, pisang kepok dan pisang hotel RM1.50 sekilogram manakala sayur-sayuran seperti peria, timun dan petola RM1.50 sekilogram.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/4/2020	TV SARAWAK	ONLINE	

## Petani Sarawak Usah Risau, FAMA Dan PPNS Bantu Pasarkan Hasil Sepanjang PKP



KUCHING : Para petani di Sarawak boleh menarik nafas lega apabila pihak Pertubuhan Peladang Negeri Sarawak (PPNS) dan Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) bersetuju membantu mengumpul hasil petani dan membawanya ke pasar-pasar.

Usaha ini juga sekaligus boleh menjana pendapatan petani sepanjang tempoh Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) ini.

Menurut Timbalan Ketua Menteri Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas setakat ini (antara 6 April) sehingga semalam, sejumlah 13,462 kilogram (kg) sayur-sayuran dan 88,182 kg buah-buahan daripada petani di pelbagai daerah telah dibeli oleh PPNS.

Pembelian itu telah melibatkan kos keseluruhan RM36,984.63 untuk sayur dan RM157,321.59 untuk buah

"Begitu juga FAMA yang telah membeli 1,425 kg sayur-sayuran dengan harga RM3,342.30 dan RM40,884 untuk 19,979.5 kg buah-buahan pada tempoh yang sama," katanya dalam kenyataan hari ini.

Uggah yang juga Menteri Pemodenan Pertanian, Tanah Adat dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak, usaha itu sekaligus memberi manfaat kepada pengguna di seluruh negeri selain melancarkan bekalan rantaian makanan semasa PKP dan juga dapat mencegah lebih hasil pertanian yang tidak dijual.

Dalam pada itu beliau meminta semua petani agar mendapatkan bantuan daripada pejabat pertanian dan FAMA terdekat sekiranya menghadapi masalah dalam menjual hasil pertanian mereka.

Baru-baru ini Uggah pernah mengumumkan peruntukan RM1.5 juta kepada PPNS dan tambahan peruntukan RM200,000 kepada FAMA untuk membeli hasil petani dan menganjurkan Pasar Tani.

Sejumlah RM600,000 diperuntukkan kepada Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM) turut diumumkan bagi membeli hasil tangkapan nelayan di negeri ini.

"Inisiatif ini jelas menunjukkan kerajaan negeri Sarawak amat prihatin terhadap kebajikan petani dan nelayan kerana mereka memainkan peranan penting terhadap rantaian makanan kita," katanya.



18 APR, 2020

## Kolaboratif bantu petani, nelayan jual hasil dalam talian

Sinar Harian, Malaysia

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### Kolaboratif bantu petani, nelayan jual hasil dalam talian

**KUALA LUMPUR** - Golongan petani dan nelayan bakal mendapat galakan daripada penjualan dalam talian melalui kerjasama Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA), Persatuan Nelayan Kebangsaan (NEKMAT) dan Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM) bersama Shopee.

Dalam satu kenyataan bersama yang dikeluarkan, FAMA, LKIM, NEKMAT dan Shopee bekerjasama secara eksklusif untuk melancarkan kedai rasmi Agrobazaar\_FAMA dan NEKMAT di platform e-dagang itu untuk membolehkan hasil segar serta makanan laut dihantar terus kepada rakyat.

“Di kedai FAMA, pengguna dapat membeli pelbagai hasil pertanian manakala kedai NEKMAT pula menawarkan makanan laut segar beku dan produk yang diproses termasuk makanan ringan,” menurut kenyataan itu di sini semalam.

Dalam pada itu, kenyataan tersebut turut memaklumkan satu kempen Hasil Segar Shopee akan diadakan pada 20 hingga 21 April 2020 dari kedai rasmi FAMA di [https://shopee.com.my/agrobazaar\\_fama](https://shopee.com.my/agrobazaar_fama) dan NEKMAT di <https://shopee.com.my/nekmat.os>.

18 APR, 2020

## Kolaboratif bantu petani, nelayan jual hasil dalam talian

Sinar Harian, Malaysia

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### SUMMARIES

KUALA LUMPUR - Golongan petani dan nelayan bakal mendapat galakan daripada penjualan dalam talian melalui kerjasama Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA), Persatuan Nelayan Kebangsaan (NEKMAT) dan Lembaga Kemajuan Iktik Malaysia (LKIM) bersama Shopee. Dalam satu kenyataan bersama yang dikeluarkan, FAMA, LKIM, NEKMAT dan Shopee bekerjasama secara eksklusif untuk melancarkan kedai rasmi Agrobazaar\_FAMA dan NEKMAT di platform e-dagang itu untuk membolehkan hasil segar serta makanan laut dihantar terus kepada rakyat.

18 APR, 2020

## FAMA bantu petani jual hasil pertanian

Utusan Sarawak, Malaysia

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# FAMA bantu petani jual hasil pertanian

ALEXANDRA LORNA

**KUCHING:** Pertubuhan Peladang Negeri dan Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) telah banyak membantu petani di seluruh negeri dalam menjual hasil mereka semasa penguatkuasaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) semasa wabak Covid-19.

Timbalan Ketua Menteri Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah berkata, kedua-dua organisasi melalui unit masing-masing di peringkat daerah telah membantu mengumpulkan hasil petani. "Mereka kemudian membawanya ke pasar sehingga menghasilkan pendapatan bagi petani," kata Uggah, semalam.

Beliau berkata, bahawa usaha seperti itu juga menguntungkan pengguna dan

memastikan bekalan rantai makanan tidak terjejas semasa krisis ini.

"Misalnya, Pertubuhan Peladang, bermula 6 April hingga 16 April 2020, telah membeli sejumlah 13,462 kilogram sayur-sayuran dan 88,182 kilogram buah dari petani.

"Ini dilakukan oleh 17 unit wilayahnya di pelbagai daerah. Mereka telah membayar RM36,984.63 untuk sayur-sayuran dan RM157,321.59 untuk buah-buahan," jelas Uggah.

Uggah menambah begitu juga, FAMA juga telah menjalankan tugasnya.

"Dalam tempoh yang sama, FAMA telah membeli 1,425 kilogram sayur dengan harga RM3,342.30.

"Mereka juga membeli 19,979.5 kilogram buah dengan harga RM40,884," katanya. Uggah mengatakan

kedua-dua organisasi akan terus membantu petani di negeri ini.

Beliau turut sekali lagi meminta para petani untuk pergi ke pejabat pertanian dan FAMA terdekat mereka jika mereka mengalami masalah dalam penjualan.

Uggah dalam satu kenyataan baru-baru ini menyatakan bahawa Kerajaan Sarawak melalui Jabatan Pertanian Negeri telah memperuntukkan sejumlah RM1.5 juta kepada Pertubuhan Peladang Sarawak untuk membeli hasil dari petani melalui kawasan Pertubuhan Peladang di seluruh negeri. "Selain itu sejumlah RM200,000 telah diperuntukkan kepada pejabat FAMA di seluruh negeri untuk membeli hasil petani dan untuk mengatur Pasar Tani," kata beliau.

Uggah yang juga Men-



**PERTUBUHAN** Peladang Julau membeli sayur cangkuk manis seberat 168kg daripada petani sayur di Julau.

teri Pemodenan Pertanian, Tanah Asli dan Pembangunan Wilayah menambah untuk nelayan, kerajaan telah memperuntukkan sejumlah RM600,000 kepada Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia untuk membeli hasil tangkapan mereka.

"Inisiatif di atas jelas menunjukkan bahawa Kerajaan Sarawak sangat pri-

hatin terhadap kebajikan petani dan nelayan.

"Mereka adalah pihak yang sangat penting dalam rantai makanan kita dan oleh itu, kita akan mencari penyelesaian ini untuk mereka," Uggah berkata.

Dalam komennya, Setiausaha Tetap Kementerian Pemodenan Pertanian, Tanah Asli dan Pamban-

gunan Wilayah Edwin Abit menyifatkan kedua-dua organisasi itu sebagai barisan hadapan penting dalam membantu masyarakat dalam krisis.

"Jaringan perkhidmatan ini di seluruh rantai bekalan yang merangkumi FAMA adalah sesuatu yang harus kita banggakan," katanya.



18 APR, 2020

## FAMA bantu petani jual hasil pertanian

Utusan Sarawak, Malaysia

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### SUMMARIES

KUCHING: Pertubuhan Peladang Negeri dan Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) telah banyak membantu petani di seluruh negeri dalam menjual hasil mereka semasa penguatkuasaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) semasa wabak Covid-19. Timbalan Ketua Menteri Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah berkata, kedua-dua organisasi melalui unit masing-masing di peringkat daerah telah membantu mengumpulkan hasil petani. "Mereka kemudian membawanya ke pasar sehingga menghasilkan pendapatan bagi petani," kata Uggah, semalam.



18 APR, 2020

## Sumbangan hargai barisan hadapan

Utusan Sarawak, Malaysia

# Sumbangan hargai barisan hadapan

### JIKU JUGUONG

**MARUDI:** Jabatan Pertanian Daerah Marudi dengan kerjasama Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan

Baram (PPKB) dan Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian (FAMA) menyumbang 275.5 kilogram pisang kapok dan 11.5 kilogram pisang keling masing-masing kepada Balai Polis

Marudi dan Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Marudi. Sumbangan tersebut diserahkan oleh Penolong Pegawai Pertanian selaku Pegawai Menguasa Jabatan Pertanian, Sima Lait

kepada wakil Ketua Polis Daerah Marudi, Inspektor Conny Siong dan Ketua Balai Bomba dan Penyelamat Marudi, PFGB Maureen Sim Ah Lian.

Sima berkata, sumbangan ini adalah untuk menghargai barisan hadapan yang telah banyak berjasa dan berkerja bertungkus-lumus sepanjang tempoh Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) susulan penularan wabak Covid-19.

Sementara itu, Inspektor Conny Siong menghargai sumbangan daripada Jabatan Pertanian, PPKB dan FAMA dan akan dibahagikan kepada barisan hadapan yang lain dan semua staf di balai polis yang bertugas.

Wakil Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Marudi, Maureen Sim berter-



**TERIMA KASIH...** Sima Lait menyerahkan sumbangan kepada Ketua Balai Bomba Marudi, Maureen Sim Ah Lian.

ima kasih kepada Jabatan Pertanian serta PPKB dan FAMA yang telah mengambil peluang ini untuk membuat khidmat kemasyarakatan kepada semua petugas terutama barisan hadapan pada musim PKP ini. Maureen sangat ber-

terima kasih atas sumbangan tersebut dan dibahagikan kepada semua penghuni seramai 28 keluarga di flat bomba.

Turut hadir, Pengurus Besar Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan Baram, Lydia Sinan Ajon.



**PENGHARGAAN...** Wakil ketua Polis Daerah Marudi, Inspektor Conny Siong menerima sumbangan daripada Sima Lait dari Jabatan Pertanian Marudi.



18 APR, 2020

## Sumbangan hargai barisan hadapan

Utusan Sarawak, Malaysia

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**MARUDI:** Jabatan Pertanian Daerah Marudi dengan kerjasama Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan

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18 APR, 2020

## Seramai 27,871 petani terima manfaat

Sinar Harian, Malaysia

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### Seramai 27,871 petani terima manfaat

**SEHINGGA** 15 April lalu, seramai 27,871 petani di Perak mendapat manfaat hasil pelaksanaan Skim AgroPrihatin.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif PPPNP, Yahanis Yahya berkata, daripada RM1 juta yang diperuntukkan, RM350,000 digunakan untuk membeli hasil tanaman petani yang tidak terjual.

Menurutnya, pelaksanaan skim itu turut mendapat sokongan kuat Jabatan Pertanian Perak dan FAMA Perak. "Setakat ini RM350,000 iaitu kira-

kira 200 tan buah-buahan dan sayur-sayuran dibeli oleh PPPNP. Kita beli hasil yang tidak terjual kerana pemborong masih membeli namun bukan dalam kuantiti sebelum ini," katanya.

Yahanis berkata, kesemua hasil yang dibeli bukan sahaja dijual semula kepada peraih atau pemborong tetapi turut dihantar ke dapur berpusat Ipoh untuk menyediakan makanan kepada petugas barisan hadapan, selain dibagikan secara percuma kepada rakyat memerlukan.

Sementara itu, Pengerusi Pertubuh-

an Peladang Kawasan (PPK) Hutan Melintang, Datuk Khairuddin Tarmizi berkata, pelaksanaan Skim AgroPrihatin itu ternyata melegakan ahli-ahli PPK.

Katanya, di Hutan Melintang dan Bagan Datuk berlaku lambakan kelapa sepanjang PKP menyebabkan pekebun kecil hilang sumber pendapatan.

"Dengan adanya skim ini, pekebun kecil di sekitar daerah Bagan Datuk masih boleh menjual kelapa mereka kepada FAMA.

"Terima kasih kepada Menteri Besar Perak atas usaha melaksanakan skim ini," katanya.

Pengarah Pertanian Perak, Norsiyenti Othman berkata, semua pengusaha pertanian di Perak perlu memanfaatkan Skim AgroPrihatin kerana petani di negeri lain cemburu dengan usaha dilakukan oleh kerajaan Perak.

Beliau berkata, petani yang ada lebih tanaman tidak terjual boleh berhubung dengan PPPNP, Jabatan Pertanian Perak dan FAMA Perak.

18 APR, 2020

## Seramai 27,871 petani terima manfaat

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Sinar Harian, Malaysia

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### SUMMARIES

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200 tan buah-buahan dan sayursayuran dibeli oleh PPPNP.



TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/4/2020	SINAR HARIAN	ONLINE	

## Petani di Perak lega



Yahanis (kanan), Norsiyenti dan Timbalan Pengarah FAMA Perak, Idris Tahir melihat buah betik yang dibeli daripada petani di pusat pengumpulan FAMA di Pusat Transformasi Luar Bandar (RTC) Perak, Gopeng.

IPOH - Tempoh pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) merupakan tempoh yang begitu mencabar.

Justeru, kerajaan Perak menjadi negeri terawal tampil dengan pelbagai inisiatif untuk memastikan kebajikan rakyat dijaga dengan baik.

Antara inisiatif yang diumumkan ialah pemberian Bantuan Kotak Makanan, Skim Agro Prihatin Negeri Perak (AgroPrihatin), Bantuan Penjaja dan Peniaga Kecil, pengecualian bayaran balik beberapa pembiayaan pinjaman usahawan serta pinjaman pendidikan.

Bagi golongan petani yang terjejas pendapatan, Skim AgroPrihatin sangat membantu ketika pembelian hasil tanaman mereka amat berkurangan sepanjang tempoh PKP.

Seorang petani, Mohd Erwan Khamis, 32, berkata, tanaman kakrol, timun tua dan parval yang diusahakannya sukar dijual kerana banyak premis perniagaan tutup malah peraih juga mengambil dalam kuantiti sedikit.

Katanya, dengan penghasilan kira-kira 800 kilogram (kg) bagi sekali tuai, tanamannya sukar untuk dipasarkan namun inisiatif kerajaan memperkenalkan Skim AgroPrihatin melalui Perbadanan Pembangunan Pertanian Negeri Perak (PPPNP) sangat membantu.

"Sumber pendapatan saya hanya hasil pertanian. Bila tak boleh nak jual memang risau sebab tak ada pendapatan. Mujurlah kerajaan negeri buat skim ini dan saya tak risau nak teruskan menanam," katanya kepada Sinar Harian di sini baru-baru ini. Seorang lagi petani, M Jegathesan, 30, pula berkata, Skim AgroPrihatin yang diperkenalkan oleh kerajaan negeri melegakan petani dan berbaloi.

Katanya, selama ini terdapat segelintir petani tidak yakin Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) tetapi agensi itu sepatutnya menjadi pilihan utama mereka untuk memasarkan hasil dan bukan dijual kepada orang tengah. "Saya bersyukur sangat dengan inisiatif kerajaan negeri ini kerana skim ini memang menyelamatkan kami daripada kerugian," katanya.

Menurutnya, Menteri Besar Perak, Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu dianggap sebagai hero kerana Skim AgroPrihatin yang dilancarkan 6 April lalu menyelamatkan petani daripada kehilangan sumber pendapatan ketika tempoh PKP. Sementara itu, usaha kerajaan negeri menerusi Jabatan Kesihatan Perak dalam mengekang penularan wabak Covid-19 turut membuahkan hasil apabila tiga daerah iaitu Kampar, Muallim dan Kuala Kangsar kini bebas jangkitan wabak itu sejak dua minggu lalu.



Selain Skim AgroPrihatin, Bantuan Kotak Makanan turut dilancarkan untuk rakyat yang memerlukan termasuk orang asli.

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Beliau berkata, petani yang ada lebih tanaman tidak terjual boleh berhubung dengan PPPNP, Jabatan Pertanian Perak dan FAMA Perak.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/4/2020	BERNAMA	ONLINE	

## FAMA outlets record RM80 million in sales during MCO



produce due to the MCO.

KUALA SELANGOR, April 18 -- A total of 140 Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA) outlets nationwide have recorded RM80 million in sales since the beginning of the Movement Control Order (MCO) on March 18.

Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee said they include the sale of fruits, vegetables and fresh fish, all of had high demand from local customers.

"The total also includes sales at controlled fresh markets that commenced operations since April 1, which is FAMA's attempt to overcome oversupply of

"FAMA is now also collaborating with more e-trade platforms so that we can market the agricultural products faster," he told reporters after a visit to Selangor northwest Integrated Agricultural Development Area (IADA) here today.

Also present was Deputy Minister 1 Datuk Seri Ahmad Hamzah.

Ronald said during the MCO, the ministry will focus more on online dan direct marketing to customers, as there are still many hotels and restaurants that are not fully operating, resulting in excessive supply.

"Customer demand is consistent like before the MCO, what has been causing oversupply is excess production and less order from food-based factories, hotels and restaurants, and the ministry will always try to overcome this problem," he said.

-- BERNAMA

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/4/2020	BORNEO TODAY	ONLINE	

## FAMA TO ASSIST SARAWAK FARMERS MARKET PRODUCTS DURING MCO



KUCHING: Under the Movement Control Order (MCO), the Sarawak Farmers' Organisation (SFO) and the Federal Agriculture Marketing Board (FAMA) have been helping to collect farmers produce and bring them to the markets, in the process generating income for the farmers.

State Deputy Chief Minister I, Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas said from April 6-16, the SFO had bought a total of 13,462 kilogrammes (kg) of vegetables and 88,182 kg of fruits from farmers in various districts with a total cost of RM36,984.63 for the vegetables and RM157,321.59 for the fruits.

"Similarly, FAMA too had done its part where during the same period, it had bought 1,425 kg of vegetables for RM3,342.30 and 19,979.5 kg of fruits for RM40,884" he said in a statement today.

According to Uggah, such efforts had not only benefited consumers statewide in terms of having a seamless food supply chain during the MCO but also prevented a surplus of unsold agriculture produces statewide.

He called upon all farmers to approach their nearest agriculture and FAMA offices if they had problems in selling as these two organisations would continue to help them.

Uggah, who is also the state's Agriculture Modernisation, Native Land and Regional Development Minister had recently announced an allocation of RM1.5 million to SFO and an additional RM200,000 allocated to FAMA to buy farmers' produce and to hold farmers' markets (Pasar Tani).

He also announced a RM600,000 allocation for the Malaysian Fishery Development Board (LKIM) to buy out marine catch.

"The above initiatives clearly indicate the Sarawak Government is concerned over the welfare of the farmers and fishermen as they are significant players in our food chain and so we are coming up with these solutions for them," he added.

18 APR, 2020

## SFO, Fama spend RM250,000 to buy produce from farmers

Borneo Post (Kuching), Malaysia

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THE BORNEO POST

# SFO, Fama spend RM250,000 to buy produce from farmers

Samuel Aubrey

**KUCHING:** The Sarawak Farmers Organisation (SFO) and the Federal Agriculture Marketing Board (Fama) have spent close to RM250,000 to buy produce from farmers throughout Sarawak over the past 10 days.

In this regard, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah commends both organisations for their tremendous contribution in helping farmers across the state cope with the prolonged Movement Control Order (MCO), due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to him, the fund derives from the RM2.3 million set aside by the Sarawak government as special assistance for farmers and fishermen in the state, of which RM1.5 million is slated for SFO, RM200,000 for Fama, and RM600,000 for the Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia (LKIM).

The SFO had, from April 6 to 16, bought a total of 13,462kg of vegetables and 88,182kg of fruits from the farmers – done through its 17 area units across various districts.

“They had paid RM36,984.63 for the vegetables, and RM157,321.59 for the fruits.

“Fama, too, had done its part. During the same period, it had bought 1,425kg of vegetables for RM3,342.30, and also 19,979.5kg of fruits for RM40,884,” said Uggah, who is also Minister of Agriculture Native Land and Regional Development, in a statement yesterday.

He then called upon the farmers to approach their nearest Agriculture Department



Farmers bring their pineapples and citrus fruits for sale to Fama representatives at Sungai Ijas, Meradong in Sarikel.

Fama, too, had done its part. During the same period, it had bought 1,425kg of vegetables for RM3,342.30, and also 19,979.5kg of fruits for RM40,884.

Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah

and Fama offices should they encounter problems in selling their produce.

He also said the joint efforts by SFO and Fama had benefited the consumers, and ensured that the food chain supply would remain intact during this crisis.

It was previously reported that RM1.5 million was allocated to the SFO, through

the Agriculture Department, meant to buy produce from smallholding farmers.

A sum of RM200,000 had been allocated to the Fama offices across Sarawak to buy the farmers' produces and also to manage the 'Pasar Tani' (farmers markets).

LKIM, on the other hand, received RM600,000 for it to buy

all the fishermen's catch.

In announcing the allocations, Uggah was quoted as saying that the initiatives clearly indicated the Sarawak government's deep concern over the welfare of the farmers and fishermen, whom he hailed as 'very significant players in the state's food chain'.

Meanwhile, permanent secretary to Ministry of Agriculture Native Land and Regional Development (Manred) Edwin Abit described SFO and Fama as 'essential frontliners in helping the farming community during a crisis'.

“This network of services across the supply chain, which includes Fama, is something that we should be proud of,” he said.

18 APR, 2020

## SFO, Fama spend RM250,000 to buy produce from farmers

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Borneo Post (Kuching), Malaysia

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### SUMMARIES

Samuel Aubrey KUCHING: The Sarawak Farmers Organisation (SFO) and the Federal Agriculture Marketing Board (Fama) have spent close to RM250,000 to buy produce from farmers throughout Sarawak over the past 10 days.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/4/2020	HARIAN METRO	ONLINE	

## 1,500 kelah terbiar, tiada pembeli



MAT Nawi menunjukkan ikan kelah yang ditenaknya yang tidak dapat dipasarkan kerana PKP.

PENGUSAHA penternakan ikan di Kampung Lapan Jaya, Gua Musang buntu apabila ribuan ikan kelah yang ditenaknya gagal dijual akibat Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP).

Mat Nawi Husin, 61, menternak 6,800 ikan kelah sejak setahun lalu dan daripada itu 1,500 ikan yang matang untuk dijual, didakwa masih terbiar.

Katanya, ikan itu sudah sesuai untuk dijual sejak sebulan lalu tetapi kini dia terpaksa menanggung kos tambahan disebabkan tiada pembeli.

"Ikan kelah dijual pada harga RM200 sekilogram dan biasa saya jual kepada peniaga restoran di luar Kelantan yang mengambil dengan kuantiti banyak.

"Malangnya, sejak PKP bermula 18 Mac lalu, ada peniaga yang sudah membuat tempahan, masih gagal mengambil ikan hingga kini," katanya ketika ditemui di kolam ikannya, hari ini.

Mat Nawi berkata, dia membina lapan kolam di tapak berkeluasan dua hektar dan menggunakan alat penetasan kelah sendiri.

Katanya, hanya satu kolam yang paling besar dikhususkan untuk penternakan ikan kelah, manakala tujuh kolam lagi untuk ternakan ikan patin, tilapia dan tongsan.

"Ikan yang lain tiada masalah untuk dipasarkan kerana saya mula menjual dalam talian sejak awal bulan lalu dan permintaannya tinggi dalam kalangan penduduk tempatan.

"Cuma ikan kelah sukar untuk dijual dalam talian apatah lagi ia bukan ikan kategori mampu beli oleh pembeli biasa," katanya.

Headline	4 Fisheries Dept officers injured in boat explosion		
MediaTitle	New Sunday Times		
Date	19 Apr 2020	Color	Full Color
Section	Local News	Circulation	38,902
Page No	13	Readership	116,706
Language	English	ArticleSize	65 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 2,241
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 6,722



## 4 Fisheries Dept officers injured in boat explosion

**SITIAWAN:** Four Fisheries Department enforcement officers were hurt when their patrol boat exploded near the Kampung Acheh Fisheries Complex here yesterday. Sitiawan Fire and Rescue Department chief Mohd Zaki Zainol said it received a call on the incident at 9.22am. He said the patrol boat, which had six personnel, was in flames following the explosion, which damaged 50 per cent of the vessel. "Four officers were injured, while two others were unharmed. A fisherman helped to put out the fire on the boat before it was towed to the pier. The flames were extinguished by firemen." The injured were sent to a hospital. Zaki said an investigation into the incident was underway.



## Beefing up food security

**The Covid-19 pandemic has put the spotlight on Malaysia's immediate and long term plan for food security. EMPTY shelves. Long queues. People squabbling over bread.**

Pictures of people hoarding massive amounts of food which circulated widely on the Internet in the early days of the movement control order (MCO) sent a ripple of fear among many about Malaysia's food supply. After all, who would have thought before the Covid-19 pandemic that bread would become such a hot commodity and be snapped up as soon as shelves were restocked. Then came the photos of farmers disposing of tons of fresh produce as they encountered problems moving food from farms to the table.

While panic buying has significantly subsided, and logistics issues for fresh produce are quickly being resolved, these images have sparked some concern about how self-sufficient the country is in food to endure future emergencies and possible trade disruptions.

It cannot be denied that the coronavirus has underscored the importance of food security – the guaranteed access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, safe and nutritious food.

According to agricultural and resource economics specialist Prof Datuk Dr Nasir Shamsudin, despite the pandemic, Malaysia's food supply has mostly been stable.

As of now, the full impact of the pandemic on food security is not yet known, says Prof Nasir who is a professor in Agricultural Economics at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

"Disruptions in the food chain are minimal as the food supply has been adequate and markets have been stable so far except for isolated cases in the Cameron Highlands.

"In general food availability is not a problem. The problem will be – and there already has been some minimal impact from this – with the movement of the food from the farm to consumers," he says.

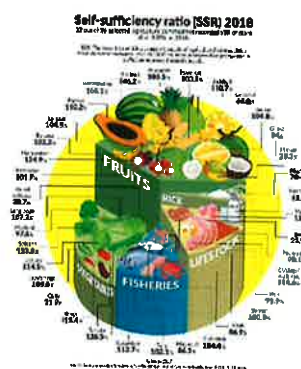
To counter the repercussions of the MCO, on March 31, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced an allocation of RM1bil towards food security to ensure sufficient food supply over the critical period. The MCO started on March 18 and is expected to be lifted after April 28.

Yesterday, Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee told Sunday Star that a Cabinet Committee on Food Security chaired by the Prime Minister will be established soon to formulate the National Food Security Policy.

"What is important now is that the authorities should continue to closely monitor food prices," Prof Nasir says.

The government should also ensure the effective delivery of agricultural inputs including feed, and ensure the smooth logistical operations of regional food supply chains. Malaysia must also have adequate stockholding in the form of strategic food security reserves as a first line of defence in emergencies. In light of the current situation, it is important that trade continues to flow and for Malaysia to make full use of the international market as a tool to secure food supply and demand, says Prof Nasir.

### Malaysia still import-dependent



With the exception of poultry, eggs, pork, and fisheries, Malaysia depends on imports of most of its food items, says Prof Nasir.

"In 2019, the country had yet to reach self-sufficiency in the main foods, with self-sufficiency in rice at 70%, vegetables at 46.6%, beef at 23.9%, mutton at 11.2%, fresh milk at 61.3%, dairy products at 5%, and fruits at 79%. This has also caused a trade deficit that has been increasing from year to year," he explains.

The above are aggregate numbers calculated by UPM based on data from the Statistics Department.

"In 1990, the food trade deficit was RM1.1bil. In 2006, it increased to RM8.5bil due to higher import growth, and in 2016, the trade deficit was RM18.6 bil," says Prof Nasir.

In 2018, Malaysia's food import hit RM50bil. Nevertheless, Prof Nasir notes that several food security programmes that address availability, accessibility, utilisation, and stabilisation of food supplies as mentioned in the National Agrifood Policy have been implemented successfully.

Moving forward, Prof Nasir says the country should concentrate on resolving factors that have caused lagging in the food sector. This means finding solutions for under-

investment in agricultural research, small-scale farms with low levels of technology, improving entrepreneurship, and addressing climate change and depleting resources.

Among the many measures to improve Malaysia's future food security suggested by Prof Nasir are empowering the role of cooperatives in the food supply chain and improving farmers' income.

"In order to increase the productivity of food production, the sector also needs entrepreneurs who can commercialise high-tech food production," he adds.

Prof Nasir believes that the present food production sector must be developed and transformed into a modern, competitive and commercially vibrant sector.

"This can be achieved by emulating the industrial crop production model to the food sector where large, private sector-led plantations co-exist with the smallholder production units," he says.

According to Khazanah Research Institute's (KRI) July 2019 discussion paper "Achieving Food Security For All Malaysians", Malaysia is more food secure today by various internationally accepted criteria, compared with the past, as all major foods are available in sufficient quantities to meet market demand. It noted, however, that demand should not be equated with human needs.

The report found that food access is no longer a problem for most Malaysians but food affordability remains an issue.

Prof Nasir predicts that in the coming decades, the food sector in the country will face major challenges. These include providing sufficient food to meet a growing population and rising per capita income as well as dietary changes, eradicating hunger and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

As most of the productive land in Malaysia is now being utilised, future increases in food production will have to rely on increasing agricultural productivity, says Prof Nasir.

"To ensure the supply of quality and safe food at affordable prices, investment in food production should not only be evaluated in terms of private benefits but social returns also, such as the country's security and peacefulness. This requires a mix between food policy, technology and entrepreneurship.

#### **Improved food supply chain**

KRI senior research associate Dr Sarena Che Omar predicts that Malaysia may come out of the pandemic with improved effectiveness in its local food supply chain.

"The good news coming out of this crisis is that Malaysia was forced to focus on the effectiveness of our local food supply chain, and to learn to appreciate its importance.

"Prior to the MCO, we took the supply chain for granted, and whenever we think about the food industry, we only think about the farming segment," says Sarena.

In the beginning of the MCO period, many problems were reported within the food supply chain which affected production, logistics and distribution of produce. The government, NGOs and farmers' associations had to quickly step in to resolve the issues so that food could reach consumers in time.

The government has also implemented measures to ensure the food supply chain will not be disrupted.

"It is hoped that post MCO, we will enjoy more efficient food supply chains and that the public appreciates all the parties involved in bringing the food from the farm to the table," Sarena tells Sunday Star. According to the 2019 Global Food Security Index, Malaysia was ranked 28th out of 113 countries and is in the "good performance" category.

"We did far better than our neighbouring countries: Indonesia was at 63, Thailand at 52, the Philippines 64, Cambodia 90 and Vietnam 54. But we were not as high as our closest neighbour, Singapore, at 1.

"A key weakness is that Malaysia, relative to the other 112 countries, spends less public expenditure on R&D. But we fared well in terms of providing financing services to our farmers, with having a low proportion of the population below the global poverty line, and with having food safety programmes," she observes.

Malaysia produces about 70% of the rice it consumes. However, Sarena explains that we also currently have enough in the country to feed the population for at least half a year in the event of an emergency.

Another impact of the MCO is the loss of farm workers.

"During the MCO period, Malaysia may have lost a lot of our migrant workers who are not covered under the Prihatin economic stimulus programme," says Sarena, who foresees that employers across the food supply chain may be forced to innovate to reduce their dependence on having many workers.

Disruptions of the global supply chain may also cause issues with some imported items.

"Luckily in terms of food, the main food items such as rice, vegetables, chicken meat and eggs, are more than 60% produced locally. So even if we see international disruptions, it may only have an impact on luxury food items such as beef, imported fruits and premium seafood," she says.

The key thing is to acknowledge that there may be disruptions and life may not go back to pre-Covid norms for some time. However, it is likely to be more of an inconvenience rather than a dire situation for Malaysians, given our relatively stable state of food supply and food security, she says.

#### **Preparing for the future**

In the event that another crisis like this occurs in the future, Malaysia should already have a list of essential sectors pre-approved to move on as usual so as to minimise the period of uncertainty and adjustment, says Sarena.

"It needs to be made clear that people in this sector can continue working, and they should be given priority in terms of access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and health and safety guidelines," she says.

On a similar note, Malaysia should have pre-approved shelters and food distribution centres in the event of an emergency like this, says Sarena, who adds that bread should be included as an essential food item.

Prompt and continuous media engagement should also be provided by the relevant ministries and appointed task force to assure the public that there is sufficient food and prevent panic buying or hoarding.

Still, climate change will significantly impact Malaysia's food security.

Rising temperatures, changing weather patterns, and the increasing prevalence of floods and pest populations will all hamper food production yields over the coming years, says Research for Social Advancement think tank lead researcher Darshan Joshi.

"Our yields are already quite low – rice is a perfect example here – due to a general lack of R&D and innovation, low rates of capital formation and mechanisation, and unsustainable farming practices," he says.

"Climate change will worsen all of this in the absence of structural changes that address each of these areas where we are lacking and investment in more future-proof farming technologies like resilient crops and vertical farms."

Darshan argues that a greater understanding of the impacts of climate change on crop resiliency and yields is necessary. With that in mind, grants should be extended to universities and laboratories to develop high-yield, resilient crops which will survive as temperatures rise and weather patterns become more unpredictable, he says.

"Overall, we now import around a quarter of the food we consume. When we break things down further, we see that especially for cereals (including rice), fruits, and vegetables, we are deeply in the red in terms of imports over exports. This wasn't really the case in the 1990s, and it has been since the early 2000s that we have begun importing a lot more," he says.

Bank Negara Malaysia's quarterly bulletin for the third quarter of 2019, "Food Imports and the Exchange Rate: More Than Meets the Eye", showed that Malaysia is a net food importer, with imports forming about a quarter of total food supply. However, the report also noted that Malaysia is self-sufficient for a considerable number of food items although its total import content for food (24%) is not insignificant.

"For both fruits and vegetables, our self-sufficiency ratios were around 90% in 2000 compared with roughly 80% for fruits and under 60% for vegetables in 2015. This is despite land use for vegetable crops having doubled in that time, albeit from a very low benchmark," Darshan says.

More funding should be allocated towards R&D and innovation within the agricultural sector in order to raise yields and improve the livelihoods of farmers, says Darshan.

It is time to put more emphasis on vertical farming and indoor farms, a nascent industry in Malaysia, he adds.

"As food is increasingly grown closer to markets, we will be able to minimise the distribution issues we see under the MCO today. We would also be supporting an industry that, given the effects of climate change, will play a big part in the future of agriculture," says Darshan.

"Although vertical farming today is primarily limited to the growing of leafy vegetables, funding for research could enable breakthroughs in the development of techniques to grow fruit and grains indoors as well. All this bodes well for Malaysia's food security, during normal times and in times of crisis."