LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
AHAD 9 OGOS 2020

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UKKMAFI

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

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
9/8/2020	KOSMO	NEGARA	5

AHMAD Hamzah (dua dari kiri) merasmikan Program Melabuh Unjam, Pakej Rangsangan Ekonomi di Jeti Nelayan Umbai, Serkam semalam.

MAHA 2020 dalam norma baharu

MELAKA – Penganjuran Pameran Pertanian, Hortikultur dan Pelancongan Agro Malaysia (MAHA 2020) yang dijadual diadakan November depan akan dilaksanakan sepenuhnya dalam suasana norma baharu.

Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan I, Datuk Seri Ahmad Hamzah berkata, rancangan itu termasuk aktiviti jualan dan pameran yang akan dilaksanakan secara fizikal dan maya (virtual).

Menurutnya, perancangan itu diputuskan dalam Mesyuarat Khas Menteri-Menteri Mengenai Pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP), baru-baru ini.

"Bagaimanapun, kita masih lagi menunggu keputusan kerajaan, khususnya Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) sama ada membenarkan penganjuran MAHA 2020 atau sebaliknya.

"Saya jangka penganjuran acara dwi-tahunan itu dapat pertimbangan baik daripada MKN kerana mampu membantu golongan peladang, penternak dan nelayan menjual hasil mereka," katanya selepas merasmikan Program Melabuh Unjam, Pakej Rangsangan Ekonomi (PRE) di Jeti Nelayan Umbai, Serkam di sini semalam.

Baru-baru ini, media melaporkan Menteri Kanan Keselamatan, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, berkata, penularan Covid-19 di negara ini turut mengubah cara penganjuran MAHA 2020 apabila dijangka diadakan secara hybrid antara 26 hingga 29 November ini.

Kerajaan juga bersetuju secara dasar dengan cadangan penganjuran MAHA 2020 yang akan diadakan secara fizikal dan maya (virtual).

Susulan itu, pihak pengurusan Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia (MAEPS), Serdang, Selangor akan menyediakan garis panduan yang perlu dipatuhi untuk penganjuran pameran pertanian terbesar negara itu.

Ia termasuk hanya peserta yang diberi kad jemputan sahaja dibenarkan masuk ke tapak pameran, manakala kehadiran mereka perlu direkodkan.

Peserta-peserta antarabangsa pula hanya dibenarkan terbabit secara dalam talian.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
9/8/2020	HARIAN METRO	LOKAL	12

Maha 2020 secara fizikal, maya

AHMAD Hamzah (dua dari kiri) menyampaikan bendera myKomuniti (myKP) selepas merasmikan program Melabuh Unjam di Jeti Nelayan Umbai, semalam.

Jasin: Penganjuran Pameran Pertanian, Hortikultur dan Pelancongan Agro Malaysia (Maha 2020) yang dijadual pada November depan dilaksanakan sepenuhnya dalam suasana norma baharu.

Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan 1, Datuk Seri Ahmad Hamzah, berkata, ia termasuk melaksanakan aktiviti jualan dan pameran secara fizikal dan maya *(virtual)*.

Beliau berkata, perancangan itu diputuskan dalam Mesyuarat Khas Menteri-Menteri Mengenai Pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP), baru-baru ini.

"Kami masih menunggu keputusan kerajaan, khususnya Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) sama ada membenarkan penganjuran Maha 2020 atau sebaliknya.

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Kerajaan bersetuju secara dasar dengan cadangan penganjuran Maha 2020 yang diadakan secara fizikal dan maya.

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Peserta antarabangsa pula hanya dibenarkan terbabit secara dalam talian.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
9/8/2020	MALAYSIA AKTIF	ONLINE	

Program MyKP: Kerajaan Peruntuk RM1.17 Juta Bantu Nelayan

PUTRAJAYA, 9 Ogos (Malaysiaaktif) - Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan memperuntukkan kira-kira RM1.17 juta bagi melaksanakan Pakej Rangsangan Ekonomi di bawah program my Komuniti Perikanan (myKP) untuk membantu nelayan di 13 kawasan di seluruh negara.

Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan I Datuk Seri Ahmad Hamzah berkata ia meliputi bantuan perkakas dan peralatan peranti pengumpulan ikan iaitu unjam atau tukun serta kabin di Pusat Transformasi Perikanan (FTC) myKP.

"Diharapkan ianya dapat meningkatkan kecekapan operasi penangkapan ikan dengan pengurusan yang terkawal dan tersusun serta mengurangkan kos operasi penangkapan ikan selain menjimatkan masa dan minyak para nelayan," katanya kepada pemberita selepas merasmikan program melabuh unjam myKP di Jeti Nelayan Umbai, di Jasin semalam.

Terdahulu, beliau merasmikan penubuhan myKP Umbai melibatkan 17 nelayan yang menjalankan aktiviti pemprosesan ikan pekasam laut, penjualan ikan segar, membawa penumpang dan pemancing rekreasi.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
9/8/2020	KOSMO	NEGARA	11

Masalah mendapan pasir pelabuhan LKIM selesai

KUALA TERENGGANU – Masalah mendapan pasir yang menyukarkan bot-bot nelayan laut untuk mudik ke jeti Pelabuhan Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM) Chendering di sini bagi mendaratkan hasil laut sejak hampir tujuh tahun lalu akan diselesaikan tidak lama lagi.

Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Datuk Che Abdullah Mat Nawi berkata, Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) telah diberikan peruntukan RM15 juta untuk kerja-kerja mengorek mendapan pasir di jeti pelabuhan itu.

"Pasir terbabit akan digunakan untuk menambak Pantai Rusila, Marang yang teruk terjejas akibat hakisan. Sehubungan itu, diharapkan projek ini dapat menyelesaikan masalah di Pelabuhan LKIM Chendering dan pantai itu sekali gus.

"Apabila projek siap, pelabuhan ini dapat beroperasi semula secara optimum seperti sebelum ini. Dasar kementerian kini ialah untuk mengutamakan pemulihan insfastruktur sedia ada yang bermasalah," katanya ketika meninjau Pelabuhan LKIM Chendering di sini semalam.

Turut hadir Pengarah LKIM Terengganu, Tengku Mohd. Anuar Tengku Mahmood dan Pengarah JPS negeri, Mohd. Sor Othman.

Dalam pada itu, Che Abdullah berkata, isu mendapan pasir merupakan antara punca utama kemerosotan hasil Pelabuhan LKIM Chendering sehingga menjejaskan pendaratan ikan iaitu hanya 1,334.47 metrik tan pada tahun lalu.

Sebagai perbandingan, katanya, pelabuhan berkenaan pernah merekodkan pendaratan ikan sebanyak 17,109.09 metrik tan pada tahun 2012.

"Masalah kekurangan pendaratan ikan disebabkan masalah mendapan pasir ini bukan sahaja merugikan hasil negara malah turut menjejaskan operasi aktiviti-aktiviti hiliran lain seperti pembekalan ais dan pemprosesan isi ikan," jelasnya.

CHE Abdullah (kanan) mendengar penerangan Tengku Mohd. Anuar (kiri) berhubung masalah mendapan pasir di Pelabuhan LKIM Chederlng, Kuala Terengganu semalam.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
9/8/2020	SINAR AHAD	NEGERI TERENGGANU/ KELANTAN	38

Atasi muara cetek di pelabuhan

Pendaratan ikan di Pelabuhan Chendering menurun tahun lalu kepada 1,334 tan metrik

Oleh NORHASPIDA YATIM

KUALA TERENGGANU

Kerajaan mengambil langkah mengatasi masalah muara cetek di Pelabuhan Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM) Chendering yang berlaku akibat mendapan pasir sehingga mengakibatkan jumlah pendaratan ikan di situ semakin merosot.

Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan II, Datuk Che Abdullah Mat Nawi berkata, masalah itu dijangka selesai sekiranya kerja-kerja tambakan bagi projek hakisan di Pantai Rusila, Marang dimulakan segera.

Beliau berkata, kajian akan dibuat memandangkan projek tambakan Pantai Rusila seluas 50 meter (m) lebar dan tiga kilometer (km) panjang itu memerlukan antara 800 hingga satu juta kubik meter pasir.

"Kita jangka sumber utama pasir yang akan dapat mengoptimumkan tambakan di Pantai Rusila boleh dilaksanakan menerusi kaedah mengorek pasir dari pelabuhan LKIM Chendering sekali gus dapat mendalamkan lagi kawasan itu.

"Bagaimanapun, kajian akan dibuat mengenai jumlah pasir yang kita perlu keluarkan untuk projek pemulihan di pelabuhan ini," katanya ketika ditemui media di pelabuhan itu sempena lawatan kerja ke Terengganu semalam.

Che Abdullah berkata, pelabuhan berkeluasan 41 hektar termasuk 33 hektar harbour masin (kawasan bot berlabuh) yang mula beroperasi pada 1983 itu merupakan satu-satunya fasiliti pendaratan yang dibina untuk mengendalikan bot C2.

Che Abdullah (tiga dari kanan) meninjau masalah mendapan pasir di Pelabuhan Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia Chendering yang menyebabkan jumlah pendaratan ikan di situ semakin merosot.

Katanya, jumlah pendaratan ikan di situ bertambah merosot sejak 2013 ekoran kebocoran benteng pemecah ombak dan mendapan yang menyebabkan lebih banyak pasir masuk ke pelabuhan.

Beliau berkata, situasi itu menyebabkan lebih ramai pengusaha bot mengalihkan operasi ke Tok Bali, Kelantan dan Kuantan, Pahang sekali gus menjejaskan aktiviti perniagaan lain.

"Sebelum ini pelabuhan ini pernah merekodkan sebanyak 13,682 tan metrik pendaratan ikan pada 2013 dan jumlah itu menurun kepada hanya 1,334 tan metrik tahun lalu.

"Saya harap inisiatif diambil bagi mengatasi masalah hakisan di Pantai Rusila dan mendalamkan kawasan pelabuhan ini dapat menyelesaikan masalah ini," katanya.

Terdahulu, Kementerian Alam Sekitar dan Air menerusi Menterinya, Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man mengumumkan kerajaan meluluskan peruntukan RM15 juta bagi menyelesaikan masalah hakisan pantai yang berlaku di Pantai Rusila, sejak beberapa tahun lalu.

Headline	Entrepreneur with passion for aquafarming produces, exports milkfish		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (KK)		
Date	09 Aug 2020	Color	Full Color
Section	Home	Circulation	18,290
Page No	5	Readership	54,870
Language	English	ArticleSize	364 cm²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 2,030
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 6,089

Entrepreneur with passion for aquafarming produces, exports milkfish

Liew (seventh from right) and the SCCC delegates were given a tour of the milkfish farm by Jonathan (eighth right) and Susan (ninth right).

KOTA KINABALU: Fuelled by his passion for aquafarming, Jonathan Wong ventured into milkfish farming five years ago.

His hardwork and dedication finally paid off. Today, Champ Quality Seafood produces up to five tonnes of highly nutritious and affordable milkfish weekly.

Jonathan, the director of the company, vowed to work harder to expand the fish farm and downstream processing of milkfish.

Aside from exporting the product, he is supplying milkfish to the local market as the species was a healthy source of nutrition.

The 30-year-old entrepreneur shared his success story in an interview during a visit to the fish farm by 30 members of the Sabah Chamber of Commerce led by its president Datuk Frankie Liew here yesterday.

Also present was Jonathan's mother, Datuk Susan Wong Siew Guen, who is a successful developer and philanthropist herself.

He said the fish farm located in Tuaran was previously a shrimp farm operated by his parents, Datuk Wong Ten An and Susan.

However, the shrimp farm had stopped operating for about a year after it was hit by a disease.

Jonathan felt that the idle shrimp farm was a waste and upon his friend's recommendation, he began rearing milkfish at the site in 2016.

He said the demand for milkfish was relatively low in Sabah, adding that majority of the consumers were bumiputeras, Filipinos or Indonesians.

"When I first started farming milkfish, many were curious as to why I chose to rear milkfish because this species of fish is mostly consumed by the low-income group."

Jonathan said milkfish was highly nutritious, with six times more omega-3 content than other species and a good source of protein.

"The oils from milkfish contain Omega-3, EPA and DHA that help lower cholesterol, protect the heart and boost brain development.

"In addition, 100 grams of milkfish contains 21 grams of protein, which is one-third of the optimal daily protein intake for a 60-kilogramme adult."

He said milkfish was also rich in minerals such as calcium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, magnesium and zinc, as well as Vitamin A, B, C and E.

He said milkfish was popular in Taiwan and other countries where it was processed to produce fish fillets, fish balls, fish cakes and even as flavour enhancer.

"The price of milkfish was around RM6 per kilogramme when I first started the fish farm five years ago.

"Nowadays, milkfish costs about RM12 per kg."

The company has six fish ponds at the farm, each can raise up to 80,000 milkfish. The farm produces up to five tonnes of milkfish a week, which is supplied to Beaufort, Tawau, Kota Kinabalu, Penampang, Kota Marudu and other districts.

Jonathan said the now caretaker chief minister Datuk Seri Panglima Shafie Apdal and incumbent minister of agriculture and food industry Datuk Junz Wong had visited the farm on July 26, where they tasted the fish and gave him words of support and encouragement.

He vowed to work harder to expand the fish farm and downstream processing of milkfish in order to cater for the export and domestic markets.

He plans to set up three more fish ponds with an ultimate goal to have 10 to 12 fish ponds to increase the farm's capacity.

He said the milkfish was harvested after six months when they have reached 500 grams in weight.

As for downstream processing, he said the farm deboned the fish to turn it into fish fillets.

"One of our customers in Tuaran purchase the fish fillets to make fish burgers."

Jonathan hoped that the food industry would study ways to cook milkfish and introduce their dishes to local customers because the fish was a good dietary source and affordable in price.

He said the fish farm also collaborated with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to provide research opportunities for its students.

He added that the company also provided delivery service during the Movement Control Period (MCO) that was implemented on March 18 as many retailers were unable to purchase their supply directly at the farm.

"As a result, villagers in rural areas were not able to buy milkfish.

"By providing delivery service, our company has sold close to 2 tonnes of milkfish during the MCO period."

At the same time, he said the State Government was planning to commence research on cultivating milkfish fry as the fry were currently sourced from Indonesia.

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Headline	Aquafarming passion fuels Jonathan into milkfish farming		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (Kuching)		
Date	09 Aug 2020	Color	Full Color
Section	Home	Circulation	60,767
Page No	19	Readership	182,301
Language	English	ArticleSize	517 cm²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 7,050
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 21,150

Liew (seventh right) and the SCCC delegates were given a tour of the milkfish farm by Jonathan (eighth right) and Susan (ninth right).

Aquafarming passion fuels Jonathan into milkfish farming

> When I first started farming milkfish, many were curious as to why I chose to rear milkfish because this species of fish is mostly consumed by the low-income group.
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Jonathan continued to say that the now caretaker chief minister Datuk Seri Panglima Shafie Apdal and incumbent minister of agriculture and food industry Datuk Junz Wong had visited the farm on July 26, where they tasted the fish and gave him words of support and encouragement.

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RM108.29 juta untuk Agropreneur Muda

Bantuan diberikan kepada 6,063 usahawan muda seluruh negara

Oleh NORMAWATI ADNAN

TANJUNG MALIM

Kerajaan melalui Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan telah meluluskan peruntukan lebih RM100 juta bagi program Agropreneur Muda sejak ia diperkenalkan pada tahun 2016.

Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Datuk Seri Ahmad Hamzah berkata, bantuan itu membabitkan 6,063 usahawan muda seluruh negara dengan jumlah keseluruhan RM108.29 juta dalam bentuk geran dan pembiayaan merangkumi sektor makanan RM42.07 juta, perikanan (RM10.62 juta), ternakan (RM26.13 juta) dan industri makanan (RM29.47 juta).

"Tahun ini kementerian telah diperuntukkan sebanyak RM20 juta dengan sasaran membangunkan seramai 1,200 agropreneur muda.

"Bagi fasa 1, seramai 238 pemohon telah diluluskan Geran Agropreneur Muda dengan nilai keseluruhan RM4.01 juta dan daripada jumlah itu, seramai 17 peserta merupakan dari Perak dengan kelulusan geran berjumlah RM333,000," katanya sempena lawatan kerja Agropreneur Muda di daerah Muallim di sini kelmarin.

Ahmad (dua dari kanan) meninjau operasi projek ternakan ayam kampung yang diusahakan Pengarah AHB Farm Enterprise, Anuar Husain, 40, di Kampung Klan Halt 3, Slim River kelmarin.

Menurutnya, kerajaan telah meluluskan bantuan geran sama berjumlah RM21.27 juta kepada 1,127 peserta Agropreneur Muda di Perak sejak tahun 2016 dan antara projek tanaman terlibat termasuklah fertigasi cili, cendawan dan jagung, bantuan pembinaan kolam ternakan ikan, anak benih ikan serta bantuan kepada nelayan muda seperti pukat, sampan dan enjin.

"Bagi yang memerlukan bantuan bina kandang, usah khuatir kerana bantuan ini juga merangkumi penambahbaikan infrastruktur ternakan, tidak cukup dengan itu, bantuan input ternakan seperti anak lembu, kambing, itik dan arnab juga disediakan.

"Apabila kita bercakap berkenaan roti, kek dan lain-lain pemprosesan makanan, bantuan dari segi pembekalan peralatan dan mesin serta input pemasaran dan pembungkusan juga termasuk dalam skop bantuan ini," katanya.

Beliau berkata, sepanjang Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) dilaksanakan, ramai dalam kalangan agropreneur muda secara kreatif menggunakan saluran dalam talian dan media sosial seperti Facebook, Instagram dan Twitter serta platform e-dagang Agrobazaar untuk meneruskan operasi.

"Mereka ini pada awalnya terkesan dan menghadapi masalah.

"Tetapi selepas beberapa ketika, mereka berjaya mencari jalan penyelesaian bagi meneruskan operasi walaupun dalam batasan PKP," katanya.

Permit eksport makanan diproses, florikultur akan dihapuskan

KUALA LUMPUR - Kerajaan bersetuju untuk menghapuskan permit eksport yang dikeluarkan Jabatan Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia (Maqis) bagi pengeksportan barangan terutama dalam industri makanan diproses dan florikultur, kata Ketua Pengarah Perbadanan Produktiviti Malaysia (MPC), Datuk Abdul Latif Abu Seman.

Keputusan memansuhkan prosedur yang tidak perlu bagi eksport 524 barang (524 Kod HS) yang pada masa ini tidak konsisten dengan Perintah Kastam (Larangan Mengenai Eksport) 2017 telah dibuat semasa mesyuarat Majlis Tindakan Ekonomi yang dipengerusikan Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"Prosedur ini tidak diperlukan oleh negara pengimport dan perniagaan tidak perlu menanggung RM2.4 juta dan 60,000 jam setahun dalam menjalankan perniagaan mereka," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, memansuhkan peraturan yang tidak perlu yang membebankan perniagaan adalah sebahagian daripada inisiatif di bawah program MalaysiaMudah atau #MyMudah.

Menurutnya, sejak inisiatif #MyMudah dilancarkan pada 20 Julai lepas, MPC menerima beberapa maklum balas daripada perniagaan dan antaranya adalah berhubung syarat tidak diperlukan untuk permit eksport.

"MPC secara proaktif telah memudahkan dan memulakan perbincangan awal antara perniagaan yang terkesan dan pihak pengawal selia berkaitan untuk menyelesaikan masalah itu," kata beliau. - *Bernama*

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
9/8/2020	BERITA HARIAN	NASIONAL	21

MAQIS rampas kayu pain lebih RM300,000

Butterworth: Jabatan Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia (MAQIS) Pulau Pinang menggagalkan cubaan membawa masuk tujuh kontena berisi kayu pain bernilai RM338,503.82, ketika pemeriksaan di Terminal Kontena Butterworth Utara (NBCT), di sini, Khamis lalu.

Pengarah MAQIS negeri, Zariña Ramli, berkata pihaknya membuat pemeriksaan rutin pada jam 4.30 petang sebelum mengesan kayu berkenaan yang dipercayai dibawa masuk tanpa permit import.

"Siasatan mendapati tujuh kontena dengan muatan kayu pain itu diimport tanpa permit sah yang dikeluarkan MAQIS.

"Oleh itu, semua kayu sebanyak 353.732 meter kubik (MTQ) dari Lithuania bernilai RM338,503.82 dirampas untuk siasatan lanjut," katanya dalam kenyataan, di sini, semalam.

Zarina Ramli

Katanya, pengimportan kayu tanpa permit import yang sah adalah menjadi kesalahan mengikut Seksyen 11(1), Akta Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia 2011 (Akta 728).

"Jika sabit kesalahan boleh dihukum mengikut Seksyen 11(3) akta sama, iaitu denda tidak lebih RM100,000 atau penjara tidak lebih enam tahun atau kedua-duanya sekali," katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
9/8/2020	METRO AHAD	LOKAL	16

Mansuh prosedur tidak diperlukan

Kuala Lumpur: Kerajaan bersetuju menghapuskan permit eksport yang dikeluarkan Jabatan Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia (Maqis) bagi pengeksportan barangan terutama dalam industri makanan diproses dan florikultur, kata Ketua Pengarah Perbadanan Produktiviti Malaysia (MPC), Datuk Abdul Latif Abu Seman.

Keputusan memansuhkan prosedur yang tidak perlu bagi eksport 524 barang (524 Kod HS) yang pada masa ini tidak konsisten dengan Perintah Kastam (Larangan Mengenai Eksport) 2017 dibuat ketika Mesyuarat Majlis Tindakan Ekonomi yang dipengerusikan Perdana Menteri Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"Prosedur ini tidak diperlukan oleh negara pengimport dan perniagaan tidak perlu menanggung RM2.4 juta dan 60,000 jam setahun dalam menjalankan perniagaan mereka," katanya dalam kenyataan, kelmarin. - Bernama

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
9/8/2020	KOSMO	NEGARA	16

Cadangan pusat pengeluaran benih padi pertama Pahang

HASREANA (kanan) bertanyakan sesuatu kepada dua petani muda yang mengusahakan penanaman padi di Paya Sepayang, Rompin semalam.

ROMPIN – Paya Sepayang dicadangkan untuk menjadi pusat pengeluaran benih padi pertama di negeri ini dalam usaha mengatasi isu kelewatan petani mendapatkan benih padi. Ini sekali gus dapat membantu membangunkan jelapang padi Pahang secara berterusan.

Pegawai Pertanian Kawasan Pembangunan Pertanian Bersepadu (IADA) Rompin, Hasreana Ramli berkata, kawasan seluas 280 hektar di kawasan itu dilihat bersesuaian untuk tujuan tersebut.

Ini kerana katanya, ia terletak di lokasi yang agak terpencil dan ini memudahkan pembangunan zon penampan.

"Kita mencadangkan kawasan ini untuk pengeluaran benih sebab boleh dikatakan sejak kebelakangan ini, kita selalu menghadapi masalah tempahan benih kerana mereka (pembekal benih) memberi keutamaan kepada kawasan setempat mereka terlebih dulu.

"Kalau jadi (pusat pengeluaran benih padi) ia akan menjadi yang pertama di Pahang.

"Sekarang, kita dapatkan benih dari Terengganu, Selangor dan kilang benih Jelapang Selatan, Johor," katanya di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, perincian mengenai cadangan berkenaan masih belum dimuktamadkan lagi.

Cuma jelasnya, kawasan berkenaan dicadangkan berdasarkan kepada kesesuaian yang ada di lokasi berkenaan untuk membina zon penampan.

Katanya, jumlah pesawah yang akan terlibat dalam cadangan itu, sama ada kesemua atau sebahagian, selain prosedur baharu yang perlu diikuti juga belum diperoleh perinciannnya lagi.

Dalam pada itu, Hasreana berkata, kewujudan sebuah pusat pengeluaran benih di negeri ini penting bagi memastikan pesawah dapat melakukan aktiviti pertanian mengikut jadual tanaman ditetapkan.

Ujarnya, kelewatan jadual tanaman asal akan menyebabkan pelbagai risiko memandangkan penanaman padi sentiasa berkait rapat dengan faktor cuaca yang boleh memberi kesan kepada hasil tanaman.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
9/8/2020	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DALAM NEGERI	37

Tidak perlu malu bergelar pesawah

PASIR PUTEH: Bagi kebanyakan belia, bertemu orang ramai dalam keadaan badan bersalut lumpur sawah dan lencun dibasahi keringat mungkin satu situasi yang memalukan serta perlu dielak.

Muhammad Fadhlan Suhaimi, 30, bagaimanapun beranggapan sebaliknya kerana dia berbangga dapat mengusahakan sawah peninggalan arwah datuknya, Deris Seman di Kampung Merkang, di sini.

"Tidak perlu malu bermain lumpur kerana ini hasil rezeki halal. Saya percaya berbudi pada tanah juga satu perniagaan dan sumber rezeki yang berkat," katanya ketika ditemui *Mingguan Malaysia*, di sini semalam.

Selepas tamat pengajian di Kolej Komuniti Pahang, Muhammad Fadhlan pernah bekerja sebagai buruh kasar di syarikat bijih besi di Gebeng, Pahang sebelum kembali ke kampung pada 2016 dan bertekad mengusahakan sawah peninggalan datuknya seluas empat hektar.

MUHAMMAD Fadhlan Suhaimi bersama jentera bajak yang dibelinya hasil simpanan jualan padi di Kampung Merkang, Pasir Puteh, Kelantan.

Berbekalkan modal RM4,000 pada musim pertama, usahanya itu mendatangkan rezeki yang lumayan, sekali gus menjadi pendorong bagi membesarkan lagi kawasan penanaman.

Selepas empat tahun, tanah sawah diusahakan Muhammad Fadhlan kini meningkat kepada 16 hektar dengan hasil pengeluaran padi melebihi 100 tan metrik semusim (bagi tempoh tiga bulan setengah).

Ini bermakna hanya dalam tempoh setahun lebih, sebanyak 200 tan metrik berjaya diketam dari sawah diusahakan pemuda itu.

Lebih manis, tahun lalu, anak ketiga daripada lima beradik itu dinobatkan sebagai Juara Pesawah Muda Lelaki bagi Anugerah Tani Padiberas Nasional Berhad (Bernas) peringkat kebangsaan.

Menurut Muhammad Fadhlan, dia sentiasa mengaplikasikan segala tunjuk ajar kakitangan Bernas bagi mengekalkan mutu dan meningkatkan kualiti beras.

"Hasil padi saya dijual secara terus ke kilang padi Bernas di Padang Pak Amat. Saya juga menerima pelbagai insentif hasil padi, pembajakan dan bantuan bekalan baja daripada agensi pertanian," katanya.

Muhammad Fadhlan bukan sahaja mengambil rakan sekampung sebagai pekerja, malah tidak lokek berkongsi ilmu sehingga ada dalam kalangan mereka berjaya mengikuti jejak langkahnya sebagai seorang pesawah moden.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
9/8/2020	SUNDAY STAR	NATION	10

Green acres: Soon had some hard lessons at first but now produces goats, chicken, ducks, fruit and vegetables at his farm in Bakri, Muar.

This farmer used to be a bank manager

Soon gives up well-paying job for a healthier and simpler life

By YEE XIANG YUN
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MUAR: Despite a five-figure salary, he quit his job as a bank manager to pursue his dream of becoming a farmer even though his knowledge in agriculture is limited.

Kenny Soon We Hong, 38, had been working in the banking sector for eight years when he decided to take the plunge.

The father of three began his journey by purchasing 2.8ha of land and planted coconut trees from a grant of 400 saplings given by the Agriculture Department.

However, Soon's venture was not as successful as he had hoped. He was besieged with problems such as a lack of manpower and pest control issues.

"Because there was no fencing on my land, I also had to deal with wild boars eating up my plants.

"It was a disaster," he said.

He also spoke about the steep learning curve after he left the banking sector.

"I am thankful to the Agriculture and Veterinary departments as they have been very helpful in providing courses and tips for free to anyone who wants to delve into agriculture," he said.

Slowly, Soon's dream took shape in 2019 and his farm now has 150 goats, more than 200 chickens and ducks, as well as a variety of fruits and vegetables as part of its ecosystem.

On top of that, Soon also employs an environmentally-friendly approach on his farm where he makes compost and reuses animal waste as fertiliser.

"I also work with a canteen nearby to collect excess food, especially rice as animal feed, so it is a win-win situation where we get to reduce waste and ensure a healthier growth in my animals," he said.

Soon said during the movement control order period, he started selling organic chilli, kangkung, sweet potato leaves, bananas and coconuts on social media, which was well-received by health-conscious customers.

"I am also planning to work with a group of hydroponic farmers soon as an alternative to ensure continuous supply of produce because my crops were all destroyed in a flood a couple of months ago," he said.

Although the lifestyle he leads now is completely different compared to when he was working at a bank, Soon said he never once regretted his decision.

"I am glad I powered through with the support of my family and friends because I find so much joy and fulfilment in working with my bare hands, with the help of my father and two workers.

"It is also my way of educating my three kids about the simple joys in life and to provide a healthy environment for them to grow up in," said Soon.