



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
ISNIN 5 SEPTEMBER 2022**

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UKKMAFI

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

Simpan ikan segar hadapi tengkujuh

Bukit Gantang: Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM) sedang membaik pulih bilik sejuk beku bagi menyimpan ikan segar untuk kegunaan orang ramai ketika berdepan musim tengkujuh nanti.

Pengerusinya, Datuk Syed Abu Hussin Hafiz Syed Abdul Fasal, berkata biarpun LKIM belum membuat pembelian ikan dari pada nelayan, pihaknya sedang mempersiapkan dan membaik pulih bilik sejuk beku berkapasiti 1,500 metrik tan yang sebelum ini dikatakan tidak digunakan sebagai persediaan awal.

“Dalam tempoh terdekat ini, insya-Allah LKIM akan membuat pembelian ikan dan ditempatkan di dalam peti sejuk beku yang kini sedang dibaik pulih.

“Ikan sejuk beku yang dimaksudkan adalah ikan segar yang kita beli daripada nelayan dan disimpan di dalam peti sejuk beku, sebelum dijual dengan harga murah pada musim tengkujuh iaitu pada bulan November hingga Mac ini,” katanya pada sidang media selepas program Jasamu



Syed Abu Hussin (kanan) menyampaikan sumbangan pada program *Jasamu* Dikenang dan Pelancaran Buku di Bukit Gantang, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

Dikenang dan Pelancaran Buku, di sini semalam.

Pendukung Kartel Ikan

Ditanya mengenai aktiviti kartel ikan, beliau berkata, ia akan te-

rus wujud dan memonopoli hasil selagi LKIM tidak membuat pembelian ikan daripada nelayan tempatan.

“Kartel ikan ini masih berjalan selagi tiada usaha daripada pi-

hak LKIM untuk beli, beku dan simpan ikan daripada nelayan.

“Kita yakin masalah ini akan dapat diselesaikan sekiranya kita mula membuat pembelian ikan,” katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
5/9/2022	MALAYSIA MSN	ONLINE	

ANMS promosi, sedia makanan sihat mampu milik

SHAH ALAM - Kerajaan telah berada dalam landasan menjadikan makanan sihat sebagai makanan mampu milik untuk rakyat Malaysia melalui Agenda Nasional Malaysia Sihat (ANMS).



Tangkap layar ciapan Khairy Jamaluddin di Twitternya pada Ahad© Provided by Sinar Harian

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, kerajaan melalui pelaksanaan agenda tersebut telah menjalin kerjasama antara Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI), Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna (KPDNHEP) serta pengeluar makanan tempatan.

Ujar beliau, langkah agenda itu bertujuan mempromosi dan menyediakan makanan sihat mampu milik untuk rakyat Malaysia.

“Agenda besar di bawah ANMS bekerjasama dengan MAFI, KPDNHEP, pengeluar makanan tempatan untuk mempromosi dan menyediakan makanan sihat mampu milik kepada rakyat Malaysia

“Mesti menjadikan makanan sihat mampu milik,” katanya dalam ciapan di Twitternya pada Ahad.

Kenyataan tersebut dikeluarkan bagi membalas ciapan yang dikongsikan pakar kardiologi, Dr Beni Isman Rusani pada Ahad.

Beni Isman dalam ciapan pada Ahad mencadangkan supaya Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) bekerjasama dengan Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) bagi menjual makanan sihat dengan harga yang berpatutan kepada rakyat terutamanya golongan B40.

Peniaga naikkan harga ayam berdepan tindakan - Mustapa

TUMPAT - Peniaga yang menaikkan harga ayam akan berdepan tindakan undang-undang kerana kerajaan masih lagi mengekalkan subsidi terhadap bahan basah itu.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Ekonomi), Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed berkata, Pasukan Khas Jihad Tangani Inflasi sentiasa memantau harga ayam dan tiada sebarang kenaikan.

Katanya, pasukan itu bersama Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) bekerjasama menerima input dan laporan daripada pengguna mengenai harga bahan basah tersebut.

"Kita sedia maklum beberapa rungutan bahawa bekalan ayam semakin mencabar dan harga anak ayam meningkat," katanya selepas melawat Laman Warisan di Kampung Laut di sini pada Ahad.

Mustapa yang juga ahli Pasukan Khas Jihad Tangani Inflasi berkata, mereka akan sentiasa memastikan harga ayam dapat distabilkan pada harga sekitar RM9.40.

"Kita masih memberi subsidi



Mustapa (dua dari kanan) beramah mesra bersama pelancong tempatan dari Pahang yang melawat Laman Warisan di Tumpat pada Ahad.

kepada pengguna dan tidak mahu ada khabar angin mengenai kenaikan harga ayam," katanya.

Ketika lawatan itu, Mustapa turut mengulas mengenai projek Laman Warisan bernilai RM40 juta melibatkan Laman Seni, Masjid Kampung Laut dan Laman Warisan Serunding.

Katanya, lokasi yang siap sepenuhnya pada Jun itu merupa-

kan pusat pelancongan baharu di Kelantan dan mula menjadi tumpuan pelancong.

"Peniaga kini mula mendapat manfaat daripada projek yang diselenggara oleh Majlis Daerah Tumpat dengan kerjasama Majlis Pembangunan Wilayah Ekonomi Pantai Timur selain peluang pekerjaan kepada penduduk setempat," ujar beliau.

Pembekal utamakan tempahan peruncit, peniaga pasar setiap hari

Bekalan telur ayam kurang sejak Jun

Oleh: NOOR HASLIZA NUSI

GEORGE TOWN - Pembekal telur ayam di negeri ini dikatakan ada yang terpaksa menghentikan tempahan daripada peniaga atau pembuat kek berikutan jumlah pengeluaran stok barang keperluan itu dikatakan berkurangan sehingga 50 peratus di peringkat peladang sejak Jun lalu.

Situasi itu berlaku bagi memberi keutamaan kepada pengguna harian terutama isi rumah selain sentiasa mendapat permintaan tinggi daripada kumpulan tersebut.

Seorang pembekal yang mahu dikenali sebagai Ahmad, 42, berkata, kekurangan bekalan telur ayam di peringkat peladang yang dikesan berlaku sejak tiga bulan lalu menyebabkan jumlah pembelannya terpaksa dihadkan kepada maksimum 20 papan atau tray sahaja.

Katanya, ini berkemungkinan disebabkan beberapa faktor termasuk belum tiba musim pengedaran telur ataupun akibat cuaca



PEMBEKAL mendakwa berlaku kekurangan bekalan telur ayam di peringkat peladang yang dikesan sejak tiga bulan lalu. - GAMBAR HIASAN

peruncit dan peniaga pasar, namun saya masih mengehakkan pembelian maksimum 20 tray sehari. Contohnya, tempahan 40 tray sebelum ini kini dihadkan hanya 20 tray seorang," katanya kepada Kosmo/semalam.

Ujarnya, pengedaran secara harian bagi tempahan telur ayam campuran gred hanya dilakukan untuk peniaga di pasar, manakala peruncit pula setiap dua hari sekali dengan majoritinya menampah gred B.

"Ketika ini pun saya cuma menerima bekalan telur ayam dari pada peringkat peladang iaitu antara 250 hingga 300 tray jika hendak dibandingkan tempahan dahulu sebanyak 500 tray," katanya.

Harga semasa telur ayam di peringkat pembekal termasuk caj penghantaran adalah RM13.50 sepapan bagi gred A, RM12.90 (gred B) dan RM12.60 (gred C).

Ketika ini, harga sifing runcit telur ayam gred A ditetapkan 45 sen sebiji, manakala gred B (43 sen/biji) dan gred C (41 sen/biji).

yang dahulu merupakan pelanggan tetap kini telah mengalih tumpuan pembelian barangan keperluan itu di pasar raya besar.

"Meskipun mengutamakan

cit dan peniaga di pasar. Memang jumlah telur tidak akan mencukupi jika saya terus menjual kepada pembuat kek.

"Difahamkan, peniaga kel

Greater safety

■ BY **SURAYA ALI**
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PETALING JAYA: Reports of food poisoning cases in the country have drastically reduced, thanks to greater vigilance and inspections by the Health Ministry Food Safety and Quality Division (FSQD).

It said 516 food poisoning cases were reported in 2019. However, only 288 cases were reported in 2020 and 197 last year.

FSQD director Norrani Eksan said ensuring food safety and quality control is very challenging today due to the complexity of food production.

"Various sources of contamination must be controlled along the food supply chain, starting from raw materials, processing, transport, food preparation and up to the level of consumption, to guarantee that the food produced is safe and of high quality."

Norrani said the ministry's mandate is to

protect the public against health hazards and fraud in the storage, preparation, processing, packaging, transport, sale and consumption of food, and to facilitate its trade.

"All food categories listed under the Food Regulations 1985 should comply with specified regulations, including labelling provisions."

Norrani said inspections are carried out for various purposes, including monitoring, surveillance, enforcement, complaints, food safety crises, licensing and certification.

"The ministry continuously conducts routine monitoring and periodic operations on food premises throughout Malaysia," she said.

To improve the level of hygiene of food premises, the ministry has enforced legislation

Steep drop in incidence of food poisoning over last three years due to better control against contamination

against food premises owners found to neglect food hygiene and safety.

This includes the closure of offending premises for a period not exceeding 14 days under Section 11 of the Food Act 1983. Those who disregard instructions to close can be charged in court and, if convicted, be imprisoned for a period not exceeding five years or face a fine, or both, under the Food Hygiene Regulations 2009.

"Under the regulations, there are 33 offences that can be compounded, which cover aspects of general hygiene and specific hygiene of food premises, hygiene of food handlers and food handling," she said.

Inspections are also carried out along the

food supply chain, including packing houses, warehouses, distribution centres, retail outlets, food service outlets, as well as entry points throughout the country.

Apart from food, FSQD also carries out inspections on food contact materials such as milk bottles, ceramic pots used in cooking and labelling of food products and advertisements.

The division is also responsible for all food products sold in the open market, including vegetables, fish and chicken.

To strengthen control, the division also works closely with the Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry to ensure products sold along the supply chain are safe for consumption.

In May this year, Johor health authorities ordered a restaurant in the city to shut down following a post on social media linking the premises to a recent food poisoning incident.

Kelantan has not been spared either as it logged 64 food poisoning cases in the first two months of this year.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
5/9/2022	THE STAR	MUKA DEPAN	1

Be ready to weather the storm

Rains from a prolonged La Nina are wreaking havoc on crops and timber, and pushing up the prices of our daily greens. Consumers and farmers must brace themselves for more as MetMalaysia predicts wet weather ahead.
> See reports on pages 4 and 5

Filepic: KAMARUL ARIFFIN/The Star

When the weather is a farmer's enemy

By **DIYANA PFIORITEN**
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PETALING JAYA: At Syazwani Liyana Abd Ghani's farm in Banting, Selangor, the corn harvest has fallen behind schedule because of the weather.

"The delay will affect goods sold to wholesalers. We already have pending orders and customers are waiting," Syazwani fretted.

The agropreneur's farm where she grows, among others, corn and fruits, has been hit by erratic weather. Other farms across the country are experiencing the same.

"If the weather continues to be hot, the growth of the lohan guavas and corns would be disrupted and the harvesting time would take longer. If there is continuous rain,



From left: Syazwani, Ahmad Riezal and Che Mazura

the bananas will die as the trees cannot be submerged in water," she lamented.

Her banana trees were destroyed in previous floods but efforts to mitigate flooding on her farm have hit a dead end.

"We can't do anything with the condition of the soil and there are

the crops were destroyed by the resulting floods," he said.

Ahmad Riezal's efforts to grow watermelon since May have not been fruitful either due to the hot weather.

"The last time I was able to harvest watermelons was in May and that was the only time I was able to cover the cost of operating the farm."

"We usually monitor the changing conditions of the monsoon. After the last harvest, we tried to continue planting for the next season, but it did not work out."

"I hope the third attempt will be more successful as it has started to rain and the temperature has improved," he said, adding that watermelon plants cannot be submerged in water even for a short

time, or the fruit might get bruised. However, Ahmad Riezal is not giving up yet in trying to outwit the unpredictable weather.

"What I did was replace the damaged watermelon with papaya plants. Papaya trees can be submerged in water for one to two days without any problem, and the river usually recedes quickly," he said.

Che Mazura Mohd, who grows bananas, chillies and brinjals in Temerloh, Pahang, is planning to stop production in October due to the risk of floods during the raining season, expected from the onset of the north-east monsoon.

"We lost the entire brinjal harvest when the farm was affected by floods late last year," she said.

> SEE NEXT PAGE

With the heavy rain comes issues

Unpredictable weather causing drop in crop yields as prices go up

By **VENESA DEVI and IVAN LOH**
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JOHOR BARU: Continuous and heavy rains coupled with the steep increase in production costs have significantly impacted the yields of fruits and vegetables around the country, say farmers.

They are forecasting that Cameron Highlands, which is one of the top areas for vegetable production, will see a drop of 20% to 30% in yield.

In Johor, Malaysia Federation of Vegetable Farmers Association president Lim Ser Kwee said the country could risk facing a food security problem should heavy rainfall continue.

"Hot weather does not really impact our production as we can still water the plants in the absence of rain.

"The biggest problem is the rainy season that is occurring more often these days. We have been getting more rain over the past two years

come up with long-term solutions," he said.

The increase in production costs, including fertilisers and labour, had also compounded problems for the farmers, added Lim.

Johor Fruit Farmer Association chairman Francis Hong Sun Ho said about 30% of fruit planters nationwide had decided to leave the business after suffering major losses in the past two years.

"The increase in rainfall started about two years ago when we were also being burdened by the Covid-19 pandemic."

"As a result, many farmers were unable to cope as they had to bear higher costs for lower yields. Some decided to do away with the fruit business for other options, such as producing palm oil. This has further affected fruit production in the country."

"At the same time, we are unable to increase prices too much to cover the extra costs as middlemen are not

keen," he said, adding that local fruit farmers were also facing competition from foreign producers.

"For example, the heavy rain has reduced our local production of bananas, causing a shortage. So, we are now importing more bananas from countries such as Vietnam that are able to produce the fruit at a lower cost," said Hong.

With imported bananas being sold at cheaper prices, consumers were not keen to buy more expensive local bananas, he said, urging the government to look into controlling imports.

Another way the government could help farmers, he added, was to provide greenhouses to grow crops in a controlled environment.

"However, this method will only work for smaller fruit trees such as rock melon and not durian or jackfruit," he said.

Johor Nursery Association vice-president Darren Tan said the floral industry was worried about floods,

adding that the previous inundation that hit Muar two years affected its production.

In IPOH, Cameron Highlands Vegetable Farmers Organisation president Datuk Chai Kok Lim said production would drop between 20% and 30% due to the erratic weather.

The highlands, he said, had been seeing frequent rain that affected the growth of vegetables.

"If it rains once or twice a week, it's still okay. But it has been raining almost daily in the afternoon and sometimes in the morning."

"Among those that will be impacted are feeberry lettuce, Chinese cabbage and most leafy vegetables," he said, adding that erratic temperatures would also cause the vegetables to be spoiled.

"We are constantly monitoring the situation and hope that the rain will only last for another two weeks," he said, adding that he expected prices to go up in tandem.

Curse of a wet La Nina

Replanting of millions of jungle trees slow going

By ARNOLD LOH
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ALOR SETAR: Millions of jungle tree seedlings to replace those felled by loggers cannot be planted – no thanks to incessant rain from a wet La Nina year that has made the hilly logging trails too slick with mud to be used safely.

"The impact from the delay would be felt a few decades later as precious jungle trees like meranti need tens of years to mature," said Kedah Timber Association president Amin Mokhtar.

"We haven't seen a single dry spell, not even during this year's Chinese New Year season when it would usually be hot and dry. In the hilly jungles, it has been raining almost every day since January in Kedah," he said.

While licensed loggers had to forgo as much as 70% of their annual allowable cut because it was too wet to fell timber, Amin said more worrying was the backlog in replanting.

"As licensed loggers who practise sustainable logging, replanting is a big task. We have to show audited replanting work as one of our sustainability efforts so that our logs will be acceptable to developed countries such as the European Union, Japan and so on," he said.

Under the tree-tagging system, a hectare of logging compartment

must be replanted with about 30 saplings after each completed logging to fulfil licence requirements.

"The current annual allowable cut for Kedah is 4,200ha. That is 126,000 saplings to be replanted," he said.

However, there are another 3,500ha of illegally logged jungles in Kedah, which the Forestry Department has to replant with 660 jungle tree seedlings per hectare.

"That is another 2.31 million seedlings. But in the jungle, even a steady drizzle is enough to make logging trails impassable. It then takes days of dry weather for the trails to be usable again," said Amin.

Licensed loggers, he pointed out, have to observe many rules to ensure jungle resources remain viable in Malaysia.

Trees that produce food for wildlife must never be felled.

Allowed trees are tagged and verified by the authorities before felling, and more loggers are now using a special crane called a log-fisher to pull out felled trees without needless jungle clearing.

Malaysian timber exports rank third in 2020 despite the Covid-19 pandemic, raking in RM22.02bil, after palm oil and rubber.

The trade war between the United States and China, followed by the Ukraine-Russia war, offer big opportunities for Malaysian timber but Amin said the La Nina was spoiling their prospects.



Uphill task: Workers taking jungle tree seedlings for replanting.

Sand miners threaten turtle ecosystem

MANJUNG: Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) has alleged that sand mining activities at Pasir Panjang beach, Segari, here, are still rampant, affecting turtle landing despite the submission of several protest memoranda to the authorities.

SAM field researcher Meor Razak Meor Abdul Rahman said the area was listed as an environmentally sensitive area (RSAS Level 1), adding that sand mining activities could affect the state's main turtle landing ecosystem.

He said observations carried out by SAM together with the Friends of Nature Activists Society (Kuasa) and Pertubuhan Alam Sekitar Sejahtera Malaysia (GRASS) found that a new area had been opened to take the sand out by sea despite a stop-work order issued in January.

"This matter was widely covered in the media and even the Manjung Municipal Council ordered the dredging work to be stopped immediately, but it is still going on even without project approval signage on the site," he told a press conference yesterday, which was also attended by Kuasa secretary Ismady Radzuan and GRASS president Mohd Yusaimi Md Yusof.

In addition to the sand mining issue, Ismady expressed concern over proposals to build a new Baitul Hilal Complex (observatory) in the Pasir Panjang recreational park and a permanent military training site in the area. — Bernama

Authorities beefing up for disasters

By FATIMAH ZAINAL
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PETALING JAYA: With more rain expected towards end-2022 as the northeast monsoon returns in yet another La Nina year, government departments and agencies are gearing up for any eventuality, including floods and landslides.

They said preparations and coordination efforts are in place for the monsoon, which could bring continuous heavy rain that is forecast to start in November.

Fire and Rescue Department operations and rescue division director Datuk Nor Hisham Mohammad said it had been intensifying preparations for the monsoon, with drills to be carried out at the state and district levels starting October.

"The main focus of the training is to enable us to develop coordination communications between the agencies involved," he said.

National-level training would also be carried out on Oct 19 in Genting Highlands, Genting Sempah and Bentong to prepare to deal with disasters such as floods and landslides, he added.

Bomba, he said, was also beefing

up its logistics and manpower.

"We have just finished the course for 1,000 additional firemen and we also hired 150 auxiliary firemen for four states. This will strengthen our manpower.

"We have procured 60 additional rescue boats which we will receive in November and 100 units of lighting systems, to add to the strength of our existing logistics," he added.

The Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) said it was forecasting more rainfall than usual starting November, which would be compounded by the La Nina phenomenon.

On Sept 2, according to the current El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) status on the department's website, La Nina conditions are currently present and have a 60% probability to continue until December.

On July 7, *The Star* reported weather experts predicting that the La Nina phenomenon might carry on until the end of the year.

The experts had also said that the current La Nina was unusual given that it began in the middle of 2021 and should have ended by now.

The focus during the northeast monsoon, said Nor Hisham, would be on the east coast states as well as

Johor, Sabah and Sarawak.

"As we are already aware, the northeast monsoon issue is dynamic and has a pattern based on the past years' experience as well as the impact we witnessed in 2012," he said, adding that the department was working closely with MetMalaysia.

Should there be any risk of major floods, Nor Hisham said teams would be put on full alert for deployment to any location.

He advised Malaysians to be sensitive to weather changes and avoid planning vacations in risky areas such as slopes or hilly spots during the monsoon, as well as going swimming due to strong waves.

"The public is also advised to take note of government advisory on measures and actions that need to be taken," he said.

National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) director-general Datuk Aminuddin Hassim said it was constantly monitoring the situation and coordinating follow-up action with district and state disaster secretariats.

MetMalaysia, the Irrigation and Drainage Department, the Minerals and Geosciences Department, the Public Works Department, the

Malaysian Space Agency, the Survey and Mapping Department as well as other related agencies are also sharing warnings and the latest information through the National Disaster Command Centre and the Disaster Operations Control Centre, as well as issuing public announcements through mass and social media.

"The disaster command centre will constantly monitor the situation of technical information parameters in cooperation with various technical agencies.

"Residents, especially in areas that are expected to flood, are asked to be alert and sensitive to the instructions of the authorities," he said.

Aminuddin also advised the public to refer to the MetMalaysia website at www.met.gov.my, its social media accounts and the myCuaca mobile app for updates.

Current information and warnings on floods can be accessed via the website publicinfo.banjir.water.gov.my, facebook [PublicInfoBanjir](https://www.facebook.com/PublicInfoBanjir) and twitter [@JPSInfoBanjir](https://twitter.com/JPSInfoBanjir).

"Be aware of disaster warnings to always be prepared. Make sure you refer to the latest information from an authentic source," he said.

Phase one of project 86% completed

KUCHING: Phase One of the Pan Borneo Highway project in Sarawak is now 86% completed, says Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

He said several more sections of the highway were expected to be opened this year while three other sections in Sarikei, Bukit Begunan and Lambir were expected to be completed by next year.

"The three sections are facing various challenges, including site that needs to be re-examined.

"There are even some that require a review of the design due to the unsuitable terrain conditions," he said here on Saturday night, Bernama reported.

The RM16.12bil Pan Borneo Highway Phase One involves building a 786km stretch from Telok Melano in Sematan to Miri.

The Finance Ministry is finalising the procurement aspect for the Sarawak-Sabah Link Road Phase 2 Project and the Trans Borneo Highway Project with an allocation of RM12bil for both projects.

Rice production drops due to heavy rain in northern states

> FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

"Even if we had not been affected by floods, I believe we could not have sold the harvest as it was difficult to get the produce out to markets as the roads were also inundated," she said.

Since then, facing huge losses from the floods, Che Mazura has yet

to revive her farm's brinjal production.

"We are currently looking for a location where there is no risk from floods," she said.

Perlis agriculture and agro-based industry executive councillor Nurulhisham Yaakob said harvesting rice had become a problem due to the rain.

"Now that it's constantly raining, the padi plants get damaged and the fields don't dry, which becomes a problem," he said.

A civil servant working in the padi industry said heavy rain in the northern states of Peninsular Malaysia had reduced the harvest.

"Most of the padi in Kuala Perlis has been harvested. A large num-

ber of farmers were only able to produce 60% of the harvest compared with previously," he said.

Padi plants, said the civil servant who asked not to be named, were damaged by the daily rainfall that went on to flood the fields.

"It rained every day and a lot of the plants were destroyed. Some of the rice harvesters even got stuck in

the padi fields. When tractors or backhoes came to pull these out, the unharvested rice was destroyed," he said.

According to Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry data, between 2017 and 2021, the cost of damage to rice crops due to floods was RM128.8mil while the damage caused by drought was RM21.6mil.