LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
SELASA 28 DISEMBER 2021

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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
28/12/2021	HARAKAH DAILY	ONLINE	

Petani, penternak lega dibantu MAFI

JELEBU: Petani dan penternak meluahkan rasa lega selepas Timbalan Menteri Pertanian, Dr Nik Zawawi Salleh membantu mereka dalam usaha membangunkan semula industri pertanian selepas dilanda banjir.

Menurut Nik Zawawi, Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) akan mengembleng seluruh tenaga melalui agensinya dalam mengembalikan kawasan pertanian yang musnah akibat banjir.

"Bantuan daripada kerajaan akan sampai, bagi menjana semula pertanian serta memberi semula insentif kepada petani yang dilanda bencana alam.

"Saya akan pastikan petani dapat meneruskan semula apa yang diusahakan mereka sebagai sumber mata pencarian rezeki keluarga.

"Perkara ini telahpun diputuskan melalui mesyuarat MAFI dan ianya akan disalurkan scepat mungkin bagi meringankan beban petani yang terkesan banjir," katanya dalam sesi lawatan ke Kampung Chengah, Jelebu, pada Sabtu.

Menurutnya, MAFI akan membuat kadar anggaran kos kerugian akibat bencana alam dan menghulurkan bantuan pertanian secepat mungkin.

Dr Nik Zawawi dalam Majlis Penyampaian Sumbangan Bakul Makanan MAFI Prihatin menyumbangkan bakul makanan asas yang mempunyai beras, tepung, minyak masak kepada 20 buah keluarga yang terjejas.

Jelebu merupakan daerah yang paling teruk terjejas dalam Negeri Sembilan sejak kejadian banjir yang berlaku pada 18 Disember lalu sehingga ke hari ini.

Turut hadir bagi program tersebut adalah wakil Pengarah Lembaga Perindustrian Nanas Malaysia (LPNM) Negeri Sembilan/Melaka, Mohammad Ismazainureen Abu Hassan.

Sementara itu, seorang penternak lembu, Roziah Kamarudin 43, berkata, dia berterima kepada Dr Nik Zawawi, kerana turun padang, serta bertindak cepat bagi membantu mereka yang terlibat banjir.

"Selepas banjir tempoh hari, saya seakan hilang punca memikirkan nasib lembu-lembu kerana makanannya yang ada disimpan semuanya hilang dihanyut air.

"Saya kerugian lebih kurang RM 60,000 akibat banjir yang dihadapi ini, namun hidup perlu diteruskan, sedih memang sedih, jadi saya amat mengharapkan bantuan daripada pihak kerajaan.

"Saya berharap bantuan nanti mampu memulihkan semula semua usaha kami anak tani di sini," katanya. – **HARAKAHDAILY 27/12/2021**

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
28/12/2021	NST	NATION/NEWS	11

BOOSTING CROP YIELDS

Tech-savvy padi farmers reap gains of innovation

NURADZIMMAH DAIM
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WORKING in air-conditioned machines in padi fields was at one time unheard of.

However, second generation padi farmer Khairul Affendi Jarnuri from Sekinchan said the community is becoming more tech-savvy and willing to adopt new technologies, including using the latest transplanters and crop-spraying drones for fertilisation.

He said a lot of investments were made to acquire more efficient machinery that could help boost padi yields and were a lot easier to handle.

"For instance, we used to harvest padi using modified wheat-harvesting machines that were humongous and slow.

"Padi-harvesting machines these days work faster and are equipped with air-conditioned cabins to protect the driver (from the scorching sun and elements)," said Khairul who was among the three brothers, who had followed the footsteps of their father Jarnuri Tahrir, into the padi-farming venture.

Jarnuri, the managing director of Berkat Padi Sdn Bhd, was one of the Large-Scale Smart Padi Field (SMART SBB) participants under the Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry (Mafi).

Jarnuri said such initiatives would ensure that farmers, who owned pockets of land, would not be left behind as the country embraced modern farming.

SMART SBB is a government initiative which allows partnerships between private companies and padi farmers.

"Truth be told, some farmers were sceptical at first and thought their land ownership could be threatened if they participated in SMART SBB.

"However, we learnt that the programme merely allows us to collaborate as a group with companies like FGV (Holdings Bhd) in a lot of things involving rice production, all the while being able to keep our lands.

"With higher padi yields and income generated through the partnership, more padi farmers have expressed interest to join.

"There are currently 93 farmers, covering an area of 172ha here," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Roslan Aini from Bahtera Mega Sdn Bhd in Sungai Burong said he had seen an increase of padi yields in his area from four tonnes per hectare in 2019 to about 6.4 tonnes per hectare after joining SMART SBB.

"This will be the second harvest for us since joining the programme.

"We have about 70ha of padi fields in our area."

In Malaysia, March and September are the rice transplanting period, while harvest season arrives in June and December.

Berkat Padi Sdn Bhd managing director Khairul Affendi Jarnuri showing rice harvested using modern padi-harvesting machines in Sungai Besar, Selangor, on Dec 21. PIC BY FARIZ ISWADI ISMAIL

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
28/12/2021	NST	NEWS	10

RICE PRODUCTION THREAT

SYNDICATES 'EXPLOITING' PADI LAND

Repercussions on food security if land used instead for planting greens, says ministry official

NURADZIMMAH DAIM
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SYNDICATES could be behind the incidences of foreigners found to be renting out padi fields to plant vegetables, says the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries (Mafi).

The ministry believes that the problem, if left unchecked, could lead to serious long-term repercussions on the size of Malaysia's padi-farming areas as well as threaten the country's self-sufficiency level (SSL) or food security in terms of rice output.

The ministry's Padi and Rice Regulatory Division director-general Azman Mahmood said this would also hinder the government's efforts to increase padi production, including the ongoing Large-Scale Smart Padi Field (SMART SBB) initiative, which is a three-way collaboration between the government, private companies and padi farmers.

Azman Mahmood

"As it is, padi production in the country has seen a drop in the past few years. We must not allow the situation to worsen."

According to the Statistics Department, Malaysia's padi production has declined by 11 per cent to 2,348.9 thousand tonnes in 2019 compared with 2,639.2 thousand tonnes in 2018.

"We are still waiting for feedback from the Selangor government and have also informed other states to find out if such activities are also taking place there," Azman told the *New Straits Times* following checks at a vegetable farm on a padi field in Sekinchan recently.

He said following investigations, it was learnt that some foreigners were found to have paid several months' worth of rental payment in advance to the land owners.

Azman said some land owners simply could not pass up on the opportunity to gain "*untung atas angin*" (profit without having to work).

"When we arrived at the site, a foreigner manning the vegetable farm at the padi field fled. If he had nothing to hide, then why did he run away?

"He could have explained to us that the land status was already converted for vegetable farming instead."

He said these vegetables were usually transported to various areas in the Klang Valley, including the Selayang wholesale market where they were sold at high prices, with claims that they were sourced from Cameron Highlands.

"This could be the work of a syndicate. We don't want Sekinchan to be Cameron Highlands 2."

Azman said his office was verifying the status of the land gazzetted as padi fields but used for vegetable farming with the respective agencies including the Selangor government and Land and Mines Department.

He said land conversion of areas earmarked for padi farming would principally require the consent of the land owner, Mafi and the respective state government.

Meanwhile, Selangor Padi and Rice Regulatory director Mohammad Ashik Abdul Rahman said some of the land owners were found to have claimed benefits like subsidies for fertilisers or damages on the padi fields.

"Upon checks, we learned that they were no longer farming padi, but had instead allowed others to use the land to plant vegetables."

Khairul Affendi Jamuri, whose family owns padi fields in the area, said such practices were uncommon.

He said planting other crops could disrupt the padi cycle and might affect the soil due to pesticides used for vegetables.

***Page 1 pic:** An aerial view of padi fields that are turned into vegetable farms in Sekinchan, Selangor*

Consolidating padi fields may be the norm to boost productivity

SABAK BERNAM: Consolidation of padi fields owned by individuals as "plantations" could be the norm for Malaysia in the future.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries (Mafi) Padi and Rice Regulatory Division director-general Azman Mahmood said this was made possible through the Large-Scale Smart Padi Field (SMART SBB), a collaboration between the government, private sector and padi farmers.

He said through the initiative, padi farmers with vast skills and experience in the trade would also also be exposed to new technologies and knowledge.

At the same time, monitoring activities by the authorities are made easier through consolidation of padi fields owned by separate individuals by adopting the plantation concept, he said.

"It is a matter of having a better management. A proper system in place not only helps boost the padi yield, but also protects the padi from diseases as a collective, hence minimising losses.

"At the same time, it would enhance the country's padi production and self-sufficiency level (SSL) for rice output (the government has set a 75 per cent target by 2025 from 63 per cent this year)," he said in an interview.

Azman said SMART SBB enabled farmers to enjoy a higher profit instead of merely working on their padi fields individually.

Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry Padi and Rice Regulatory Division director-general Azman Mahmood (left) listening to Berkat Padi Sdn Bhd managing director Jamuri Tahrir's explanation of the technology that is used in harvesting padi, in Sungai Besar, Selangor. PIC BY FARIZ ISWADI ISMAIL

He said a farmer earns upwards of RM1,540 per tonne of padi, plus a RM360 subsidy from the government.

"We will also be able to eliminate the involvement of middlemen in the supply chain. Farmers are able to sell their crops to be processed at rice factories without having to worry about having their income affected (to pay for middlemen)."

He said many farmers previously earned a pittance from padi production, making it an unattractive venture.

"In the past, farmers sold their crops to agents who acted as middlemen for rice factories. These agents only appear on days of collection. The farmers often fell victim to these agents who would intentionally reduce or delay payments."

Some, he said, they were forced to take up loans from the middlemen to sustain their operations, falling deeper into financial trouble.

Malaysia produces about 140,000 tonnes of rice per month and 1.7 million tonnes annually, while the monthly rice import stands at about 700,000 tonnes.

The public-private strategic partnership, which started in Feb this year, targets a total 300,000ha of padi farming area.

Almost 4,000 farmers have so far benefited from the programme. There are about 200,000 padi farmers in Malaysia, mostly involved in small-scale farming.

» See also **Page 11**

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
28/12/2021	KOSMO	NEGARA	12

Maqis Selangor patahkan taktik terbaharu sindiket di lapan pintu masuk negara

Selit barang seludup elak dikesan

Oleh MOHD. YUNUS YAKKUB

SHAH ALAM – Campur barangan seludup dengan produk dagangan komoditi pertanian dan agromakanan yang diikrar merupakan modus operandi (MO) yang digunakan sindiket bagi mengaburi mata pihak berkuasa.

Taktik berkenaan dikesan penguat kuasa Jabatan Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia (Maqis) Negeri Selangor dilakukan sindiket di lapan pintu masuk negara bagi mengelakkan barangan mereka dirampas.

Pengarah Maqis negeri, Mohd. Sobri Md. Hashim berkata, sindiket akan meletakkan barangan seludup di bahagian belakang kontena, manakala bahagian depan dipenuhi dengan barangan yang telah diikrar.

Katanya, taktik berkenaan berjaya dibongkar selepas pemeriksaan dilakukan pada keseluruhan isi kontena yang dibawa ke negara ini.

"Ada kes yang kita kesan, mereka ikrar makanan ini segera tetapi di belakang kontena diletakkan daging yang tidak diikrar.

"Tindakan mencampurkan barangan tersebut boleh menyebabkan kemudaratan terhadap industri makanan.

"Selain itu, kita juga mengesan cubaan membawa masuk daging ayam yang diambil daripada pusat penyembelihan tidak diiktiraf Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (DVS) dan Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim)," katanya kepada *Kosmo!* baru-baru ini.

Untuk rekod, sebanyak 355 kes direkodkan bermula Januari hingga Oktober lalu membabitkan pematuhan 3P iaitu pelabelan, pembungkusan dan penggredan dengan 123 kes diikuti tanpa permit import (89), tidak mematuhi syarat import dan eksport (70) selain dokumen yang palsu, tidak tepat atau mengelirukan (28).

Selain itu, turut dilaporkan kesalahan barangan berpenyakit, berperosak atau bahan cemar (7) dan tanpa permit eksport (3).

Lapan pintu masuk dikawal Maqis Selangor adalah Pelabuhan Klang merangkumi Barat, Utara dan Selatan selain Lapangan Terbang Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah, Subang.

Selain itu, Stesen Kuarantin Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA), Sepang; dan Pusat Penyiasatan Lanjutan (FIC) Pelabuhan Klang. Di samping itu adalah KLIA Kargo, Terminal Utama KLIA 1 dan 2.

Mohd. Sobri menambah, setiap produk keluaran pertanian yang diimport dan dieksport perlu mematuhi standard gred pembungkusan dan pelabelan antaranya butiran pelabelan hendaklah mudah dibaca dan tahan lama serta dilekatkan dengan kemas dan mudah dilihat.

"Antara rampasan paling banyak dilakukan adalah makanan haiwan dengan 67 kes bagi tempoh 2020 hingga Oktober tahun ini selain bawang (66), haiwan hidup (47), kentang (42) dan produk tenusu (32).

"Pada Oktober lalu, kita telah menahan satu 'konsainan' kambing dengan Maqis menyita 150 bebiri di sebuah premis kuarantin swasta (kandang) apabila didapati melanggar syarat-syarat import.

"Ini ekoran terdapat 27 ekor kambing didapati telah keluar sebelum tempoh kuarantin tamat selama 14 hari," ujarnya.

Jelas beliau, setiap haiwan kesayangan ataupun ruminan khususnya, perlu dikuarantin bagi pengesanan penyakit dengan menyertakan sijil kesihatan dan buku rekod vaksinasi atau *pet passport* bagi kucing dan anjing.

"Di samping itu, kita turut merampas barangan dagangan dianggarkan bernilai RM43.9 juta, manakala kompaun yang dikutip melebihi RM1.036 juta sepanjang tempoh tahun lalu hingga Oktober tahun ini," katanya.

SETIAP kontena yang dibawa masuk diperiksa bagi mengelakkan barangan tidak diiktiraf diseludup ke dalam negara. – GAMBAR HIASAN

MOHD. SOBRI

DUA penguat kuasa memeriksa ikan sejuk beku yang dibawa masuk melalui FIC Pelabuhan Klang, baru-baru ini.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
28/12/2021	THE STAR	NATION	6

49 farmers affected by floods

KUALA LUMPUR: The Selangor Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama) says floods in the state has affected 49 contract farming participants.

Its director, Aiada Abdul Rashid, expressed concern that the situation would affect the supply chain of agricultural produce in the state.

"The impact of the floods on the supply chain of agricultural produce is being studied by the government agencies involved," Bernama quoted her as saying.

Selangor Fama, in a statement, said that it had opened its Crisis Management Centre Operations Room to ensure smooth delivery of assistance to agro-entrepreneurs affected by the floods.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
28/12/2021	SINAR HARIAN	ONLINE	

Hampir 100 peratus nelayan Kedah mencarum Perkeso

Azman memakaikan topi kaledar kepada penerima yang hadir di Program Janji Selamat Kekal Selamat di Sektor Perikanan bersama nelayan Kuala Kedah di Kompleks LKIM, Kubang Rotan di sini pada Isnin.

ALOR SETAR - Hampir 100 peratus nelayan di Kedah mencarum dengan Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (Perkeso) di bawah perlindungan Skim Keselamatan Sosial Pekerjaan Sendiri.

Exco Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi, Azman Nasrudin berkata, seramai 2,521 mencarum secara automatik melalui potongan elaun sara hidup yang diterima daripada kerajaan.

Katanya, kurang dari 10 peratus lagi adalah nelayan yang mempunyai lesen tetapi tidak menerima elaun sara hidup.

"Jadi yang dapat elaun itu automatik mencarum, cuma yang tengah fokus sekarang tidak dapat elaun supaya mereka mendaftar dengan Perkeso," katanya ketika ditemui selepas Program Janji Selamat Kekal Selamat di Sektor Perikanan bersama nelayan Kuala Kedah di Kompleks LKIM, Kubang Rotan di sini, pada Isnin.

Menurutnya, caruman secara automatik kepada nelayan itu hanya berjumlah RM232 untuk tempoh setahun.

"Tahun depan kerajaan akan beri subsidi 80 peratus, jadi dari jumlah itu cuma RM40 yang pencarum perlu bayar untuk setahun.

"Jumlah ini sedikit sahaja berbanding manfaat yang akan diterima. Tidak ada sebab untuk nelayan atau golongan yang bekerja sendiri tidak mencarum dengan Perkeso," katanya.

Azman berkata, pihaknya juga akan mencari mekanisma agar semua pekerja sendiri dalam sektor pertanian dan perikanan dapat mencarum secara automatik.

"Untuk pesawah contohnya, boleh cadangkan agar dibuat pemotongan secara automatik melalui subsidi padi.

"Kami akan adakan perbincangan bersama pihak Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) dan Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Muda (MADA) untuk merealisasikan hasrat berkenaan," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pengarah Perkeso Kedah, Mohamad Haron Othman berkata, pihaknya menyasarkan 30 peratus jumlah pencarum dalam skim pekerjaan sendiri pada tahun 2022.

"Setakat ini hanya 6.67 peratus iaitu 14,734 orang yang bekerja sendiri dari semua sektor di Kedah mencarum dengan Perkeso. Untuk tahun hadapan, besar harapan saya agar jumlah ini meningkat ke 30 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan 220,800 orang bekerja sendiri di negeri Kedah.

"Memang ada yang tidak nampak manfaat mencarum dengan Perkeso ini, tetapi bila kita jatuh sakit secara tiba-tiba kita akan nampak kepentingan mencarum. Kepada berhasrat mencarum boleh datang ke pejabat Perkeso atau membuat pendaftaran secara dalam talian di matrix.perkeso.gov.my," katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
28/12/2021	SINAR HARIAN	BANJIR MELANDA	11

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
28/12/2021	KOSMO	NEGARA	5

SEORANG pekebun, Paimin Doi Kamil, 69, menunjukkan pokok pisang yang musnah akibat banjir di Kampung Labohan Dagang, Banting, Kuala Langat semalam. – FAISOL MUSTAFA

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
28/12/2021	HARIAN METRO	LOKAL	9

MUHAMMAD Afiq Aryan memanfaatkan cuti sekolah dengan bercucuk tanam di rumahnya di Taman Slim Permata, Slim River.

Manfaat cuti sekolah dengan berkebun

Slim River: Penangguhan pembukaan sekolah dimanfaatkan seorang murid prasekolah untuk berkebun di halaman dan belakang rumahnya di Taman Slim Permata, dekat sini.

Muhammad Afiq Aryan Rosman, 6, yang juga murid prasekolah Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Sri Keledang menjadikan hobinya itu sebagai memenuhi masa terluangnya pada waktu pagi dan petang.

Menurutnya, keadaan cuaca yang semakin baik memudahkannya menjaga dan menanam sayuran jika dibandingkan sebelum ini hujan turun tidak henti-henti menyebabkan sayuran ditanam rosak.

"Cuti ini memang ada kerja sekolah cikgu beri, tetapi saya akan buat selepas selesai berkebun.

"Saya pilih tanam kangkung kerana ia mudah ditanam dan dijaga. Hanya perlu siram mengikut masa," katanya memberitahu, cuti sekolah yang dilanjutkan memberikan lebih masa untuknya berkebun.

Katanya, kangkung di belakang rumah bakal dituai minggu hadapan dan dia meneruskan aktivitinya dengan bersedekah sayuran berkenaan kepada jiran.

"Kangkung yang baharu ditanam mengambil masa dua minggu kerana ia baru ditanam seminggu lalu. Setakat ini, bendi sudah mengeluarkan hasil dan saya gembira apabila dapat petik sendiri," katanya.

Baru-baru ini, Menteri Kanan Pendidikan, Datuk Dr Mohd Radzi Md Jidin mengumumkan sesi persekolahan penggal ketiga 2021/2022 yang sepatutnya bermula 2 dan 3 Januari 2022 ditangguhkan seminggu.

Ini bermakna sesi persekolahan akan bermula pada 9 dan 10 Januari 2022 bagi kumpulan A dan kumpulan B.