



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
SELASA 27 JULAI 2021**

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2.	ACTIVISTS LAUNCH NEW EFFORTS TO COMBAT ONLINE SALES OF TURTLE EGGS, BORNEO POST (KK) -ONLINE	JABATAN PERIKANAN MALAYSIA (DOP)
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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
27/7/2021	BUSINESS TODAY	ONLINE	

Nurturing The Next Generation Of Young Agropreneurs



The agriculture sector has been an important part of Malaysia's economy for decades. In 2019, the sector contributed a total of 7.1 percent to the country's Growth Domestic Product (GDP) with major agricultural activities being crop farming, fisheries and livestock production.

However, the agriculture sector in Malaysia is an aging sector. Only 15 percent of the Malaysian youth population are involved in the sector. Currently the main workforce and key players in the agriculture sector are those of the older generation. This in part is due to the lack of interest and the overall misconception and poor perception among the youths towards the agriculture sector.

To address this issue, the Young Agropreneur Unit (UAM) was established in 2013 under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries (MAFI). Since then, UAM has been making strides in the last couple of years to increase youth participation in agriculture.



"It is critical for us to address the issue of the lack of engagement among youth in the agriculture sector. Therefore, our agenda is to continuously encourage the younger generation to participate in various entrepreneurial programmes under MAFI and UAM so that they can explore the potential in the agriculture sector and see it as a promising career option to be considered.

"It is possible to venture into this field beyond merely as a simple farmer. With a positive mindset, one could turn the agriculture into a profitable business as an entrepreneur," says MAFI Secretary-General Dato' Haslina Binti Abdul Hamid.

UAM has made it their mission to promote the interest in agriculture entrepreneurship among youths below the age of 40. Since its establishment, the "Young Agropreneur Program" has been introduced by UAM to facilitate and encourage the involvement of the younger generation in agriculture activities within the agrofood value chain.

These activities range from crop farming, fisheries, livestock production, food products, marketing, agrotechnology and agrotourism. In 2016, RM100 million was allocated to UAM under the 11th Malaysia Plan to provide financial and technical assistance via grant, financing and technical courses encompassing all the agriculture sub-sector.

Since then, the Ministry has facilitated 7,775 young entrepreneurs in various agriculture sub-sectors with a total expenditure of RM155 million. "95 percent of our participants are still active and have achieved a 50 percent increase of their existing income," she says.

PROVIDING THE RIGHT SUPPORT

2020 had been nothing short of challenging for micro and small businesses as the pandemic delivered a massive blow on the economy. The young entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector were not spared either as they struggled to keep their businesses afloat.

A survey of 1,146 participants that was conducted during the initial stage of the Movement Control Order (MCO) revealed their financial vulnerability as a result of the immense drop in sales and limited operation.

In 2020, the Young Agropreneur Grant was open year-round instead of selected months (January, May and February) as previously practiced. It resulted in an increased of 1,149 young agropreneurs receiving the grant of RM21.73 million compared to 750 receivers (RM12.49 million) in 2019 and 758 receivers (RM12.74 million) in 2018.

MAFI has also allocated a total of RM250,000 to the Young Agropreneur Food Aid Kit programme in which the kit was distributed to 2,500 recipients who were in need of assistance from the Department of Welfare Malaysia (JKM) throughout the country.

“With the introduction of agrotechnology as part of our program, we are charting new approaches towards agriculture with younger generation at the forefront applying modern agrotechnology such as precision farming and internet-of-things (IoT).

“We are now accepting the application for drone technology, plant factory, crop monitoring system and other modern agrotechnology through our grant and financing facility,” she tells BusinessToday.

Additionally, the Ministry has also launched Agro Youth Entrepreneur Scheme (Agro-YES) in March this year that offers financing facilities up to RM500,000 with a two percent interest rate. It was a rebranding of the Young Agropreneur Special Financing managed by Agrobank with an allocation of RM21 million.



Several improvements have been made and this include increasing the financing limit from RM200,000 to RM500,000 and reducing the processing time from 60 days to 14 days.

SUCCESS STORIES

All participants under the Young Agropreneur Programme are assigned a field officer from various departments or agencies under the ministry to guide and assist them. These officers will continuously monitor their progress and submit the report on farm output data and the income of the participants.

One of UAM's approaches in engaging the young entrepreneurs is through the Jelajah Agropreneur Muda (JAM) programme. This programme provides the opportunity for the participants to showcase their businesses and connect with the upper echelons of the Ministry.

Over the years, UAM has produced young entrepreneurs who are now major players in their respective sub-sectors.

“For example, Ramanaidu Kalaichevan (30) from Kedah was a pilot but left his career to become a grain corn farmer. He received the Young Agropreneur Grant in 2016 for RM15,000. Now, he is earning RM5 million per year and becoming a mentor to other young farmers. He is a leader in the grain corn industry and became the first company to introduce modern machineries in grain corn production.

“We also have Norhashim bin Kamisan (36) from Selangor who used to work as a despatch before venturing into chili planting. He received his Young Agropreneur Grant in 2016 and is currently earning RM4 million per year. He is the pioneer in using IoT (digital agriculture and precision farming) to increase crop yield and profitability,” she adds

27 JUL, 2021

Activists launch new effort to combat online sales of turtle eggs

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia

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Activists launch new effort to combat online sales of turtle eggs

KUALA TERENGGANU: The rising trend of selling turtle eggs online since May 2020 has prompted a group of activists to form a surveillance team on social media known as Turtle Watch Malaysia.

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) Oceanography and Environment Institute Research Laboratory head Dr Mohd Uzair Rusli who is one of the activists said the setting up of the team had enabled them to receive information from concerned members of the public on such activities.

He said to date, Turtle Watch Malaysia has gathered almost 1,000 'spies' who would supply information on the sale of turtle eggs online and the activities have been reported to the Fisheries Department for further investigation.

"We also encourage netizens to criticise the sellers and buyers. If they are brave enough to sell turtle eggs openly, we also must be brave to call them out in a prudent and civilised manner.

"Selling turtle eggs openly is seen as disrespecting the turtle conservation efforts made by various quarters at this time. We have to be more vocal in sharing the goals of these conservation efforts so that they will not go to waste," he said to Bernama when contacted.

Mohd Uzair said the sales activities have been on the increasing trend since the Movement Control Order (MCO) was implemented in March last year as many sellers had opted to sell turtle eggs on online platforms.

This is such a dangerous activity because the demand for turtle eggs has increased drastically. But, following urging from a coalition of non-governmental organisations last year, the Terengganu government has agreed to amend the existing enactment on turtles to ban the sale of all types of turtle eggs.

"However, the process

of formulating the new enactment has stalled and is moving very slowly due to the implementation of a series of nationwide MCOs. This has made turtle egg sellers feel 'safe' because there is no legal action that can be taken against them at this time," he explained.

The Terengganu Turtle Enactment 1951 (Amended 1987) only prohibits the sale of leatherback turtles' eggs but it is no longer relevant to the current situation as the species has not landed in Terengganu for a long time.

Commenting further, Mohd Uzair said Turtle Watch Malaysia has been receiving complaints on the sale of turtle eggs online almost every week.

"However, we will submit the report to the Fisheries Department if it is proven that the eggs were collected from restricted areas such as Marine Parks.

"The largest amount that we have detected is the offer to sell 600 turtle eggs from Redang Island which is estimated to be worth RM3,000. Apart from that, there are also sellers who offer delivery service to several districts in Terengganu," he said.

According to Mohd Uzair, although the activity has long existed in Terengganu and the culture of eating turtle eggs is deeply ingrained in the society, it has to be stopped immediately.

"Commercialising this activity causes the eggs to be collected in huge amounts and as a result, we will fail to produce new adult female turtles. We have to incubate as many eggs as possible because we are currently facing a high number of predators, whereby only one out of 1,000 baby turtles can grow up safely at sea," he said.

Mohd Uzair strongly urged all quarters involved to stop selling turtle eggs because such activity will only harm the state's economy and tourism sector. — Bernama



27 JUL, 2021

Activists launch new effort to combat online sales of turtle eggs

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia

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SUMMARIES

KUALA TEEENGGANU: The rising trend of selling turtle eggs online since May 2020 has prompted a group of activists to form a surveillance team on social media known as Turtle Watch Malaysia.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
27/7/2021	THE SUN	NEWS	3
WITHOUT BORDERS			

Activists make new effort to fight online sale of turtle eggs

KUALA TERENGGANU: The rising trend of selling turtle eggs online since May last year has prompted a group of activists to form a surveillance team on social media known as Turtle Watch Malaysia.

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu Oceanography and Environment Institute Research Laboratory head Dr Mohd Uzair Rusli, who is one of the activists, said the setting up of the team had enabled them to receive information from the public on such activities.

He said to date, Turtle Watch Malaysia has roped in almost 1,000 "spies" who would supply information on the sale of turtle eggs online and such activities have been reported to the Fisheries Department for further investigation.

"We also encourage netizens to criticise the sellers and buyers. If they are brave enough to sell turtle eggs openly, we also must be brave to call them out in a prudent and civilised manner.

"Selling turtle eggs openly is seen as disrespecting the turtle conservation efforts made by various quarters. We have to be more vocal in sharing the goals of these conservation efforts so that they will not go to waste," he said when contacted by Bernama.

Mohd Uzair said online sale of turtle eggs has been on the increasing trend since the movement control order was implemented in March last year.

The Terengganu Turtle Enactment 1951 (Amended 1987) prohibits the sale of only leatherback turtles' eggs but it is no longer relevant to the current situation as the species has not landed in Terengganu for a long time.

Mohd Uzair said Turtle Watch Malaysia has been receiving complaints on the sale of turtle eggs online almost every week.

"We will refer such reports to the Fisheries Department if it is proven that the eggs were collected from restricted areas such as marine parks," he said.

According to Mohd Uzair, although the sale of turtle eggs has long existed in Terengganu and the culture of eating turtle eggs is deeply ingrained in the society, it has to be stopped immediately. - Bernama

SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEILLANCE TEAM

'SPIES' KEEP TABS ON SALE OF TURTLE EGGS

Turtle Watch Malaysia has 1,000 of them who will inform it about this activity

KUALA TERENGGANU

THE rising trend of turtle eggs being sold online has prompted a group of activists to form a social media surveillance team known as Turtle Watch Malaysia.

Activist Dr Mohd Uzair Rusli, who is Universiti Malaysia Terengganu's Oceanography and Environment Institute Research Laboratory head, said the team's establishment had enabled activists to receive information from the public.

He said Turtle Watch Malaysia had gathered almost 1,000 "spies" who would inform the team of the online sale of turtle eggs, and these listings had been reported to the Fisheries Department for investigation.

"We also encourage Netizens to criticise the sellers and buyers.

"If they are brave enough to sell turtle eggs openly, we must also be brave in calling them out in a prudent and civilised manner."

"Selling turtle eggs openly is seen as disrespecting turtle conservation efforts. We have to be more vocal about conservation efforts so that they will not go to waste."

Uzair said the selling of turtle eggs online had increased since the Movement Control Order (MCO) was implemented last year.

"This is a dangerous activity because the demand for turtle eggs has increased drastically.

Following calls by a coalition of non-governmental organisations last year, the Terengganu government has agreed to amend an enactment on turtles to ban the sale of all types of turtle eggs.

"However, the process of formulating the new enactment has

stalled and is moving very slowly due to the implementation of nationwide MCOs.

"This has led to turtle egg sellers feeling safe as no legal action can be taken against them at this time."

The Terengganu Turtle Enactment 1951 (Amended 1987) only prohibits the sale of leather-back turtles' eggs, but it is no longer relevant to the current situation as the species has not landed in Terengganu for a long time.

Uzair said Turtle Watch Malaysia had received complaints about the online sale of turtle eggs almost every week.

"We submit the report to the Fisheries Department if it is proven that the eggs were collected in restricted areas, such as marine parks.

"The largest amount that we have detected is the offer to sell 600 turtle eggs from Pulau Redang, which is estimated to be worth RM3,000.



Dr Mohd Uzair Rusli



The selling of turtle eggs online has increased since the Movement Control Order was implemented last year. PIC TAKEN FROM DR MOHD UZAIR RUSLI'S FACEBOOK PAGE

"There are also sellers who offer delivery services to districts here."

He said although the culture of eating turtle eggs was ingrained in the state, it had to be stopped.

"Commercialising this activity causes the eggs to be collected in huge amounts and, as a result, we will fail to produce new adult

female turtles.

"We have to incubate as many eggs as possible because we are facing a high number of predators, whereby only one out of 1,000 baby turtles can grow up safely at sea."

Uzair urged people to stop selling turtle eggs as it would harm the state's economy and tourism sector. **Bernama**

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
27/7/2021	SINAR HARIAN	NEGERI P. PINANG	26

67 set bubu naga dirampas

GEORGETOWN - Agensi Penguatkuasaan Maritim Malaysia (Maritim Malaysia) Pulau Pinang merampas 67 set bubu naga di lima lokasi dalam perairan negeri ini pada Ahad.

Pengarah Maritim Pulau Pinang, Kepten Maritim Abd Razak Mohamed berkata, rampasan dibuat pihaknya menerusi Op Benteng Laut dan Op Pertiwi di sekitar 1.0 batu nautika Timur Laut Pulau Gedung antara jam 5.10 hingga 6.30 petang Ahad.

Menurutnya, kesemua bubu naga terbabit dikesan selepas anggotanya mendapati terdapat objek pelampung yang mencurigakan di permukaan air.

“Penggunaan bubu naga diharamkan kerana sifatnya yang boleh merosakkan ekosistem perairan serta menjejaskan sumber pendapatan nelayan lain.

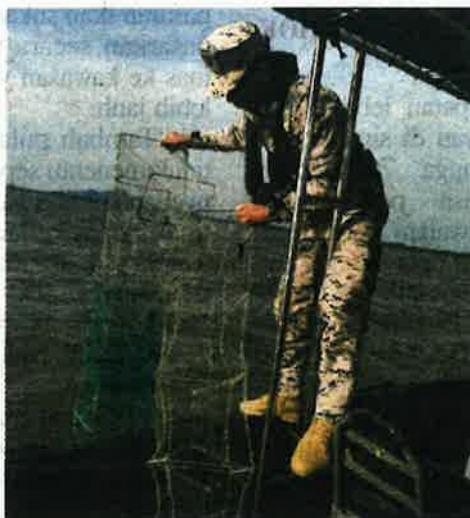
“Pemiliknya boleh didakwa mengikut Seksyen 11(3)(c) Akta Perikanan 1985 kerana menangkap ikan menggunakan kaedah yang tidak dibenarkan.

“Mereka yang bertanggungjawab terhadap bubu naga itu boleh didenda tidak melebihi RM20,000 atau penjara tidak melebihi dua tahun atau kedua-duanya boleh dikenakan jika disabit kesalahan,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini pada Isnin.

Abd Razak berkata, kesemua set bubu naga yang dianggarkan bernilai RM8,000 itu dirampas sebelum dibawa ke Jeti Polis Marin Batu Uban bagi tindakan lanjut.

Beliau mengingatkan nelayan supaya mematuhi undang-undang dan tidak melanggar syarat lesen perikanan yang diperuntukkan.

“Pihak Maritim akan terus memantau aktiviti haram ini dari masa ke semasa dan meminta kerjasama daripada orang ramai supaya melaporkan sebarang kes yang berlaku di perairan negeri ini,” katanya.



Anggota Maritim Malaysia mengangkat bubu naga yang ditemui dipasang berhampiran Pulau Gedung pada Ahad.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
27/7/2021	SINAR HARIAN	NEGERI TERENGGANU/ KELANTAN	25

Pendapatan lebih 1,000 nelayan terjejas



"Bot para nelayan yang diletakkan di Jeti Kompleks Pendaratan Ikan Pengkalan Petah, Bachok selepas pulang dari menangkap ikan di laut.

Sukar pasarkan hasil tangkapan selain gagal turut ke laut akibat cuaca tidak menentu

Oleh ADILA SHARINNI WAHID

BACHOK

Pendapatan lebih 1,000 nelayan di sini terjejas sehingga 70 peratus semasa pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan 3.0 (PKP 3.0) bagi mengengkang penularan pandemik Covid-19.

Pengerusi Persatuan Nelayan Kawasan Bachok, Mohd Saripudin Isahak berkata, ahli yang bernaung di bawah persatuan mengharapkan kerajaan mengambil perhatian terhadap nasib yang menimpa mereka dan membantu bagi meringankan bebanan ditanggung.

Beliau berkata, nelayan mengalami kesukaran memasarkan

hasil tangkapan ke lokasi lebih jauh selain cuaca yang tidak menentu turut membataskan pergerakan mereka di laut.

"Pergerakan di darat juga terbatas ketika PKP menyebabkan pasaran ikan sukar dipasarkan secara meluas ke kawasan yang lebih jauh.

"Tambah pula cuaca yang tidak menentu seperti ribut menyebabkan ada yang seminggu tidak dapat ke laut untuk menangkap ikan," katanya kepada pemberita di Kompleks Pendaratan Ikan Pengkalan Petah, di sini, pada Isnin.

Menurutnya, lebih memburuk keadaan apabila perairan negara didakwa dicerobohi nelayan asing warga Vietnam yang mencuri hasil laut.

"Perlu penguatkuasaan tegas seperti kawalan sempadan perairan dengan menggunakan bot induk bagi mengengkang pen-



MOHD SARIPUDIN

cerobohan yang boleh menjejaskan pendapatan nelayan tempatan.

"Elau sara hidup nelayan sebanyak RM300 tidak mencukupi kerana ada dalam kalangan mereka yang mempunyai anak ramai dan pelbagai lagi per-

belanjaan yang perlu ditanggung untuk meneruskan kehidupan," katanya.

Seorang nelayan, Husin Jaafar 57 berkata, dia memerlukan entjin bot yang lebih berkuasa tinggi tetapi tidak berkemampuan untuk membelinya kerana pendapatan yang terjejas ketika ini.

"Sebelum ini ada nelayan yang menjalankan kerja sampingan seperti mengambil upah sebagai buruh kasar.

"Sekarang PKP, rumah sendiri pun ada yang tidak sempat siap dan terbelangal," katanya.

Turtle Watch Malaysia pantau jualan telur penyus dalam talian

KUALA TERENGGANU - Trend jualan telur penyus secara dalam talian yang dikesan semakin meningkat sejak Mei 2020 mendorong sekumpulan aktivis menubuhkan *cyber trooper* di media sosial dikenali sebagai Turtle Watch Malaysia.



MOHD UZAIR

Ketua Makmal Penyelidikan Luar Institut Oseanografi dan Sekitaran Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Dr Mohd Uzair Rusli yang merupakan seorang daripada aktivis itu berkata, penubuhan kumpulan pemantau tersebut membolehkan perkongsian maklumat orang awam yang prihatin mengenai aktiviti penjualan telur penyus dalam talian.

Beliau berkata, ketika ini Turtle Watch Malaysia sudah berjaya mengumpul hampir 1,000 orang yang menjadi mata

mata kepada aktiviti jualan telur penyus dalam talian dan semua aktiviti itu telah dilaporkan kepada Jabatan Perikanan untuk siasatan lanjut.

"Penjualan telur penyus secara terbuka dilihat tidak menghormati usaha konservasi penyus

yang dilakukan pelbagai pihak ketika ini," katanya ketika dihubungi pada Isnin.

Mohd Uzair berkata, trend menjual telur penyus secara dalam talian semakin meningkat sejak Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) dilaksanakan Mac tahun lepas.

"Paling banyak pernah dikesan ialah jualan 600 biji telur penyus dari Pulau Redang yang dianggarkan bernilai RM3,000.

"Selain itu ada aktiviti jualan yang menawarkan khidmat penghantaran ke beberapa daerah di Terengganu," katanya. - *Bernama*

Pesawah rayu JPS segerakan pembinaan rumah pam baharu

'Kami tanggung rugi, sawah kering'

Oleh OTTHIMAN YAHAYA

KULIM - Lebih 100 pesawah di Sidam Kanan dekat sini mengeluh apabila tanaman padi seluas kira-kira 50 hektar terjejas akibat kekurangan bekalan air berikutan sistem pengaliran di kawasan itu tidak berfungsi dengan baik.

Seorang pesawah, Abd. Rahim Jaafar, 63, berkata, mereka kini hanya bergantung kepada hujan untuk memenuhi air di kawasan sawah memandangkan pokok padi yang ditanam mula mengeluarkan buah.

Menurutnya, ketika ini kawasan sawah tersebut perlu dipenuhi air bagi mengelak padi rosak dan mati sehingga mengakibatkan pesawah terpaksa menanggung kerugian.

"Sekarang merupakan masa penting untuk proses padi membesar dan berbuah tetapi disebabkan ketiadaan air, banyak pesawah mengeluh kerana padi tidak beristi dan rosak," katanya.

Pesawah, Harun Mat Jab, 72, pula berkata, sejak menjadi pe-



MOHD. SHUKRI (kiri) dan Abd Rahim Jaafar menunjukkan keadaan sawah padi mereka yang kering di Kampung Guar Lobak, Sidam Kanan, Padang Serai semalam.

sawah lebih 50 tahun lalu, musim padi kali ini tidak menguntungkan kerana sistem pengaliran yang dikawal sela oleh Jabatan

Pengaliran dan Saliran (JPS) tidak berfungsi.

"Pesawah di kawasan Tanjung Belit, Guar Lobak dan Pulau

Kemian yang terletak di bawah Unit Sentosa, Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK) Sidam

Kanan di sini tidak menerima

air secukupnya daripada sistem pengaliran tersebut sejak awal musim.

"Hanya tinggal lebih kurang sebulan untuk proses memuai padi, namun hasil pengeluaran padi terjejas," ujarnya.

Seorang lagi pesawah, Mohd. Shukri Rejab, 39, berkata, kebiasaannya pengeluaran padi di kawasan itu boleh mencecah sebanyak 2.5 tan bagi setiap keluasan 0.28 hektar.

"Rasanya pada musim ini, pengeluaran padi merosot teruk kerana masalah kekurangan air dan kami menanggung kerugian.

"Pesawah telah cuba pelbagai cara untuk mendapatkan sumber air seperti membina parit baharu dan menggunakan pam air tetapi tetap tidak mampu menampung keperluan air di kawasan sawah itu," jelasnya.

Sehubungan itu, jelasnya, pesawah meminta JPS menyegerakan pembinaan rumah pam baharu bagi menyedut air daripada Sungai Sidam untuk disalurkan ke kawasan sawah tersebut.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
27/7/2021	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DALAM NEGERI	10



MOHD. Shukri Rejab (kiri) dan Abd. Rahim Jaafar menunjukkan sawah mereka yang kering di Kampung Guar Lobak, Sidam Kanan, Padang Serai, Kedah. - UTUSAN/OTHMAN YAHAYA

Padi rosak akibat bekalan air kurang

Oleh OTHMAN YAHAYA
utusannews@mediamulla.com.my

PADANGSERAI: Lebih 100 pesawah di Sidam Kanan dekat sini, mengeluh kerana tanaman padi yang diusahakan di sawah seluas kira-kira 50 hektar terjejas disebabkan kekurangan bekalan air berikutan sistem pengairan di kawasan itu tidak berfungsi dengan baik.

Seorang pesawah, Abd. Rahim Jaafar, 63, berkata, mereka kini hanya bergantung kepada air hujan untuk memenuhi petak sawah memandangkan pokok padi yang ditanam mula mengeluarkan buah.

Katanya, ketika ini kawasan sawah tersebut perlu dipenuhi

air bagi mengelak pokok padi tersebut rosak dan mati sehingga mengakibatkan pesawah terpaksa menanggung kerugian.

“Sekarang adalah masa penting untuk proses padi membesar dan berbuah tetapi disebabkan ketiadaan air, banyak pesawah mengeluh kerana padi tidak berisi dan rosak,” katanya di sini.

Harun Mat Jab, 72, pula berkata, sejak menjadi pesawah lebih 50 tahun lalu, musim padi kali ini tidak menguntungkan kerana sistem pengairan yang dikawal selia oleh Jabatan Parit dan Saliran (JPS) tidak berfungsi.

“Pesawah di kawasan Tanjung Belit, Guar Lobak dan Pulau Kemian yang terletak di bawah

Unit Sentosa Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK) Sidam Kanan di sini, tidak menerima air secukupnya daripada sistem pengairan tersebut sejak awal musim,” katanya.

Seorang lagi pesawah, Mohd. Shukri Rejab, 39, pula berkata, pengeluaran padi musim ini dijangka merosot teruk kerana masalah kekurangan air dan pesawah terpaksa menanggung kerugian.

“Pesawah mencuba pelbagai cara untuk mendapatkan sumber air seperti membina parit baharu dan menggunakan pam air tetapi tetap tidak mampu menampung keperluan air di kawasan sawah itu,” katanya.

Jurutera bantu pengeluaran makanan

PONTIAN: Bekerjaya dan mempunyai gaji lumayan tidak menghalang seorang jurutera untuk sama-sama menyumbang menambah pengeluaran makanan negara selain menjadi tambahan pendapatan.

Daud Yahmin, 50, yang lahir dan membesar di Kampung Jawa Ulu, Ayer Baloi, di sini terlibat dengan bidang pertanian secara separuh masa selepas waktu kerja.

Katanya, pada peringkat awal sebelum menceburi tanaman timun, peria besar dan peria bangla atau peria katak dengan kaedah fertigasi gantung, dia mengikuti kursus di Pusat Pertanian Air Hitam, Batu Pahat.

Menurutnya, selain kursus tiga hari, dia mempelajari kaedah tanaman tersebut melalui rakan-rakannya yang dianggap sebagai 'praktikal' di ladang.



DAUD Yahmin menunjukkan tanaman buah peria bangla atau dikenali peria katak di Pontian, Johor. - UTUSAN/MUHAMMAD ZIKRI

“Saya memilih tanaman kae- dah gantung dengan kos permulaan sebanyak RM80,000 di atas tanah sendiri lebih 0.8 hektar di Kampung Parit Mok- yat sebagai projek pertama pada 2018.

“Bagi projek pertama ini, saya menanam 6,000 polibeg timun gantung, 1,600 peria besar gantung dan 2,000 polibeg peria besar atau peria katak,” katanya ketika ditemui *Utusan Malaysia* di sini, semalam.

Tambah Daud, walaupun terpaksa berhadapan dengan kejatuhan harga pada percubaan pertama itu, dia masih mendapat pulangan dan mampu membayar gaji pekerja serta kos-kos lain.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
27/7/2021	HARIAN METRO	BISNES	26

Bernas agih 3,000 kotak makanan

Kuala Lumpur: Gelombang ketiga pandemik Covid-19 yang melanda negara ketika ini terus memberikan impak ke atas pendapatan dan ekonomi penduduk.

Masyarakat khususnya golongan rentan semakin terkesan akibat pelbagai kekangan pada masa ini.

Atas dasar keprihatinan terhadap kesukaran masyarakat, Padiberas Nasional Berhad (Bernas) melalui program Tanggungjawab Sosial Korporatnya (CSR), menggerakkan misi bantuan menerusi inisiatif IKHLAS untuk Malaysia.

Bernas dalam satu kenyataan berkata, bagi melancarkan misi itu, pihaknya memperuntukkan hampir 3,000 kotak makanan yang mengandungi pelbagai barangan keperluan asas seperti beras, tepung, gula dan minyak.

Selain itu, anggota kerja Bernas di seluruh negeri di Semenanjung, Sabah dan Sarawak mula mengedarkan bantuan makanan kepada masyarakat setempat secara



HAMPIR 3,000 kotak makanan IKHLAS untuk Malaysia diserahkan kepada penerima di seluruh negara.

berperingkat melalui 33 lokasi pusat operasi Bernas.

"IKHLAS untuk Malaysia adalah sebahagian daripada pendekatan syarikat dalam memastikan kesejahteraan masyarakat di negara ini terus dipelihara.

"Inisiatif ini diharap dapat meringankan beban

kumpulan masyarakat yang rata-ratanya terjejas punca pendapatan dan memerlukan sokongan bagi meneruskan kelangsungan hidup sepanjang tempoh pelaksanaan *lockdown* di seluruh negara," kata kenyataan itu.

Selaku organisasi korporat yang bertanggungjawab

bagi menjamin kestabilan bekalan beras dan sekuriti makanan negara, Bernas turut melihat inisiatif ini sebagai peluang untuk syarikat menyumbang semula kepada masyarakat seiring matlamat berkongsi kemakmuran bersama penduduk secara lebih inklusif.