



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
JUMAAT 11 MAC 2022**

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UKKMAFI

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

Permintaan komersial naik mendadak punca bekalan ayam, telur berkurangan

Kuala Lumpur: Peningkatan mendadak ke atas daging ayam dan telur, terutama dalam sektor komersial selepas penamatan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) menyebabkan bekalan daging ayam dan telur berkurangan di pasaran.

Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) dalam kenyataannya berkata, pengeluaran daging ayam dan telur yang sangat rendah berikutan usaha pihak ladang mengurangkan populasi ternakan bagi menstabilkan pengeluaran sepanjang tempoh PKP.

Menyedari hal itu, kerajaan memperkenalkan Skim Harga Maksimum Keluarga Malaysia bagi membolehkan rakyat Malaysia mendapatkan sumber protein murah di pasaran.

“Perkara ini tidak menjadi punca kepada pihak ladang untuk mengurangkan pengeluaran ayam dan telur,” katanya.

MAFI berkata, melalui Dasar Agromakanan Negara 2021-2030 (DAN 2.0), kerajaan menyasarkan meningkatkan prestasi 50 peratus pengeluaran daging lembu dan kerbau; 30 peratus kambing

dan 100 peratus produk tenusu menjelang 2025.

Menurut data 2019, katanya, pengeluaran daging lembu dan kerbau negara berada pada 25 peratus tahap sara diri, manakala pengeluaran daging kambing (11 peratus) dan susu segar, empat peratus.

“Peningkatan ini berlaku berikutan pembabitan aktif swasta dalam membangunkan industri penternakan berskala besar melalui kemudahan dan intervensi kerajaan.

“Selain itu, pembabitan agensi kerajaan (GLC) yang mengusahakan tanah ladang turut memberi kesan positif kepada peningkatan kenaikan pengeluaran negara,” katanya.

Melalui Pelan Strategik Agromakanan Negara, katanya, pertanian pintar menjadi antara kaedah yang perlu dikembangkan dalam penternakan.

Selain menambah produktiviti peningkatan dan kecekapan pengeluaran, ia juga menjimatkan kos input ladang ayam, daging dan penelur yang melaksanakan *closed house system*.

Kerajaan giat pastikan rantaian bekalan ayam terkawal

KUALA LUMPUR - Kementerian Pertanian, dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) pada Khamis menyangkal laporan sebuah portal berita yang mendakwa rantaian bekalan ayam tempatan berada dalam keadaan tidak terkawal.

MAFI dalam kenyataan memaklumkan laporan itu tidak disokong fakta tepat dan boleh menimbulkan persepsi negatif terhadap usaha kerajaan dalam mengatasi isu kekurangan bekalan ayam di pasaran tempatan dan mengawal kenaikan harga jualan runcit ayam pada masa kini.

MAFI menegaskan, kerajaan kini giat melaksanakan pelbagai usaha dan inisiatif bagi memastikan industri ternakan ayam kekal berdaya saing dan menjamin sekuriti bekalan makanan negara demi kebajikan rakyat.

Menurut kenyataan itu, antara usaha kerajaan ialah Inisiatif Skim Harga Maksimum

Keluarga Malaysia bagi daging ayam dan telur, dan ia tidak menjadi punca kepada pihak ladang untuk mengurangkan pengeluaran ayam serta telur.

Menurut MAFI, berikutan peningkatan mendadak penggunaan daging ayam dan telur terutama dalam sektor komersial selepas penamatan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP), kerajaan juga memberi kebenaran untuk mengimport ayam bulat dengan mem beri kelulusan kepada 36 syarikat termasuk pasar raya.

"Keputusan ini bagi memastikan keperluan negara mencukupi dan mencapai kestabilan. Ia hanya boleh dilaksanakan sehingga Mei ini," menurut kenyataan itu lagi.

MAFI menjelaskan, permohonan untuk mendapatkan permit import (AP) boleh dibuat oleh mana-mana syarikat jika memenuhi syarat ditetapkan.

- *Bernama*



Kerajaan giat melaksanakan pelbagai usaha bagi memastikan industri ternakan ayam kekal berdaya saing dan menjamin sekuriti bekalan makanan negara.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
11/3/2022	ASTRO AWANI	ONLINE	

MAFI NAFI RANTAIAN BEKALAN AYAM TEMPATAN TIDAK TERKAWAL BERNAMA

Mac 10, 2022 18:57 MYT



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KUALA LUMPUR: Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) hari ini menafikan laporan sebuah portal berita yang mendakwa rantaian bekalan ayam tempatan berada dalam keadaan tidak terkawal.

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Menurut kenyataan itu, antara usaha kerajaan ialah Inisiatif Skim Harga Maksimum Keluarga Malaysia bagi daging ayam dan telur dan ia tidak menjadi punca kepada pihak ladang untuk mengurangkan pengeluaran ayam dan telur.

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"Keputusan ini bagi memastikan keperluan negara mencukupi dan mencapai kestabilan dan ia hanya boleh dilaksanakan sehingga Mei 2022," menurut kenyataan itu di sini.

Menurut kementerian itu, permohonan untuk mendapatkan permit import (AP) boleh dibuat oleh mana-mana syarikat dan akan diberi kelulusan jika memenuhi syarat-syarat ditetapkan, tanpa sebarang bayaran.

Selain itu, MAFI berkata kerajaan turut menawarkan skim pembiayaan mudah dengan kadar faedah yang rendah kepada penggiat industri ternakan ayam dan pemberian subsidi kepada penternak ayam bagi mengurangkan impak kenaikan kos input pengeluaran seperti makanan ternakan.

"Kerajaan sentiasa cakna terhadap permasalahan yang dihadapi oleh pemain industri pertanian khususnya sektor ternakan bagi menjamin sekuriti makanan negara," menurut kenyataan itu

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
11/3/2022	SINAR HARIAN	ONLINE	

MAFI SALUR PERUNTUKAN RM150,000 KEPADA PPK SRI MEDAN

MUHAMMAD YUSAINY MOHAMAD YUNUS | | 10 Mac 2022



Ronald berucap pada Program MAFI dan Majlis Pemulihan Negara bersama Komuniti Agromakanan pada Rabu.

BATU PAHAT - Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) menyalurkan peruntukan RM150,000 di bawah inisiatif Peningkatan Produktiviti Ternakan Bebiri kepada Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK) Sri Medan pada Rabu.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee berkata, PPK Sri Medan menunjukkan peningkatan yang baik dengan mencatat keuntungan sebanyak RM548,361 untuk tahun kewangan berakhir 31 Disember 2020 walaupun telah merekodkan kerugian pada tahun 2019.

“Sekali lagi pencapaian keuntungan PPK ini telah terus meningkat untuk tahun kewangan berakhir 31 Disember 2021 iaitu meningkat kepada RM811,540,” katanya semasa berucap pada Program MAFI dan Majlis Pemulihan Negara (MPN) bersama Komuniti Agromakanan di sini pada Rabu.

Program tersebut dihadiri Pengerusi Lembaga Pertubuhan Peladang, Datuk Che Abdullah Mat Nawi; Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha (Pembangunan) MAFI, Datuk Badrul Hisham Mohd; Ketua Pengarah Lembaga Pertubuhan Peladang, Datuk Azulita Salim dan Pengarah Lembaga Pertubuhan Peladang Negeri Johor, Datuk Sawalludin Ahmad.

Dalam pada itu, Ronald juga telah mengumumkan pembahagian dividen kepada ahli PPK Sri Medan dengan nilai 10 peratus bagi tahun 2020 sepertimana yang dipohon telah diluluskan oleh Pendaftar Pertubuhan Peladang.

“Berdasarkan rekod, PPK Sri Medan yang mempunyai ahli seramai 4,846 orang dengan jumlah saham berbayar berakhir 31 Disember 2020 ialah RM1,777,404 iaitu purata pemilikan saham RM366.78 seorang.

“PPK Sri Medan juga telah menerima Anugerah Penghantaran BTS tertinggi di Negeri Johor dari Pertubuhan Peladang Negeri Johor dengan nilai anugerah sejumlah RM65,000. Ianya satu kejayaan kepada PPK Sri Medan,” ujarnya.

Pada masa sama, beliau berkata, MAFI dan MPN serta Komuniti Agromakanan Lembaga Pertubuhan Peladang telah mengadakan suatu program untuk peladang, penternak dan nelayan serta ahli-ahli peladang di Negeri Johor untuk berinteraksi dengan Pengerusi MPN, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Ujarnya, majlis itu juga memberikan peluang kepada para tetamu kehormat untuk turun padang bagi mendapat gambaran mengenai potensi pengeluaran agromakanan di daerah Batu Pahat, Johor.

Selain itu, ia juga menjadi medan untuk tetamu kehormat menyampaikan hasrat dan berkongsi misi serta alternatif terbaik yang dirangka bagi merencanakan lagi pengeluaran sektor agromakanan di Johor.

“Majlis ini melibatkan terus pemain industri dan pengusaha sektor agromakanan meliputi subsektor tanaman, ternakan, perikanan dan keseluruhan rangkaian agromakanan termasuk kementerian, jabatan dan agensi lain yang berkepentingan dalam sektor agromakanan.

“Pelaksanaan Pelan Pemulihan Negara dan Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan menunjukkan impak positif apabila ekonomi Malaysia kini beransur pulih dengan pembukaan semula aktiviti ekonomi dan sosial yang lebih luas,” jelasnya.

Sementara itu, Ronald berkata, kerajaan Perikatan Nasional di bawah pimpinan bekas Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin juga telah berusaha sedaya-upaya bagi memastikan wujud keseimbangan antara kehidupan dan keperluan melindungi nyawa, di samping menjamin kesejahteraan rakyat sepanjang tempoh pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) bagi membendung penularan pandemik Covid-19.

“Sejak Covid-19 melanda negara, kerajaan PN telah melaksanakan pelbagai pakej bantuan dan rangsangan ekonomi bagi memastikan kehidupan dan kebajikan rakyat sentiasa terbela.

“Warga sektor agromakanan turut tidak diabaikan dan dana-dana yang diberikan melalui pakej-pakej seperti Prihatin, Penjana dan Dana Jaminan Makanan telah dimanfaatkan oleh keseluruhan golongan sasaran agromakanan.

“Dana Khas Projek Agromakanan Pertubuhan Peladang di bawah Prihatin sebanyak RM200,000 juga diberikan kepada setiap Pertubuhan Peladang seluruh negara bagi membantu warganya yang terkesan akibat pandemik Covid-19,” jelasnya.

Pada masa sama, Ronald berkata, program tersebut turut disampaikan sumbangan Bakul Makanan MAFI Prihatin oleh Muhyiddin kepada 50 orang ahli-ahli peladang yang terdiri daripada tujuh buah PPK.

Menurut beliau, ia termasuk PPK Sri Medan, PPK Batu Pahat Tengah, PPK Parit Raja, PPK Rengit, PPK Parit Sulong, PPK Simpang Lima dan PPK Senggarang.

“Penyaluran sumbangan bakul makanan MAFI Prihatin itu diberikan kepada ahli-ahli peladang yang terkesan dengan penularan pandemik Covid-19 dan bencana banjir.

“Pemberian sumbangan MAFI Prihatin itu bertujuan meringankan beban ahli-ahli peladang yang terkesan. Sumbangan yang disampaikan merangkumi barangan keperluan harian merangkumi minyak masak, beras, tepung, gula, susu dan lain-lain keperluan,” katanya.

Artikel Penuh : <https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/192055/BERITA/Nasional/MAFI-salur-peruntukan-RM150000-kepada-PPK-Sri-Medan>

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The fruit of her labour

This engineering graduate took a risk, chased a dream and is now championing sustainability by turning pineapple leaves into paper.



Photo: ASNA NABIHAH AZIZ

By SHEELA CHANDRAN
lifestyle@thestar.com.my

SIX years ago, Asna Nabihah Aziz decided to venture into a home-based business, focusing on turning pineapple leaves into paper and thread.

Some naysayers felt she was overly ambitious and that she was chasing a pipe dream. But the determined woman from Johor Baru refused to be dissuaded by anyone.

"When I first launched my business, I received many negative remarks from people living around my community. They were surprised that I was willing to take a leap of faith in starting this business despite having an engineering degree.

"Many villagers didn't have faith in my business model nor could they understand the monetary gains from pineapple waste," recalled Asna, who holds a degree in engineering technology (business management) from Universiti Kuala Lumpur (Italy Design Institute).

Today, she has built a reputation for herself as the only entrepreneur from Johor specialising in this niche business. She's clinched many awards including the Agriculture Food Industries' 2019 gold award for agriculture (state level) from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries (MAFI).

Under the brand name Pal.my, she has launched 10 eco-friendly products made from pineapple leaves.

These include photo frames, notebooks, bookmarks, key chains, handbags as well as pineapple fibre thread.

On average, she creates over 5,000 products each month, which she sells to the Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board (MPIB) and government-linked companies under MAFI.

Asna's business is now profitable, and she's carved a name as the go-to person in this specialised art among crafters.

Her community members call her "gadis nenas" (pineapple girl) for her innovative ways of transforming pineapple waste into products.

She organises workshops on making pineapple paper and Asna's inspiring story has been featured on local television programmes, in dailies and on YouTube too.

"Even though many people were against my vision, I still went ahead and pursued my passion and found my niche," said Asna who is from Kampung Sinaran Baru. The village is a 20-minute drive from the state capital.

> TURN TO PAGE 2



Pineapple leaves can be turned into thread. — Photos: ASNA NABIHAH AZIZ

► FROM PAGE 1

Sustainable business

Johor, where Asna was born and raised, is the biggest pineapple producer in Malaysia, followed by Sarawak, Kedah and Pahang.

According to the MPIB, in 2020, Johor churned out 59.51% of the country's pineapple harvest, focusing on pineapple varieties like Moris, Josephine, N36, and MD2. Pineapple, known by its scientific name *Ananas comosus*, is largely processed to produce jam, juice and tinned fruit.

In 2020, Malaysia ranked in RM941.6mil from exporting pineapples to 20 countries, from 17,228 hectares of farmland.

The figures are impressive, but the process of making pineapple products yields massive amounts of biomass waste such as leaves, peels and stems.

During harvest season, the leaves will be discarded and put

aside to decompose on their own. Many farmers burn pineapple waste to clear the land, an unsustainable agricultural practice that leads to environmental pollution.

Over the years, there have been many innovative methods to turn pineapple waste into useable products.

Asna was 18 when she found out about converting pineapple leaves into paper.

"After I finished my Form Five, my parents registered me for a course on making paper from pineapple leaves at the Johor Craft Complex in Larkin. I found the course intriguing, especially the idea of how pineapple leaves could be upcycled into something useful."

"As an undergraduate at Unikl, I studied sustainability management, which further fuelled my interest in working with pineapple waste. In my final year, I worked on a project titled *The Potential of Pineapple Leaf*



Waste in Malaysia because I was familiar with this subject matter.

"As part of the project paper, I created eco-friendly products like boxes and notepads made from pineapple leaves. I also presented my report to MPIB and other government agencies in Johor. They were impressed with my creations and offered to buy my handmade products. That was the catalyst to my launching my home business,"

said Asna, the youngest of four siblings.

Asna chose to chase her dream because she was confident that pineapple waste had great potential as a raw material source.

She's happy to turn trash into treasure while doing her part to protect Mother Earth.

The young businesswoman says pineapple leaves can replace non-renewable fibre. Pineapple

waste commercialisation, Asna said, is critical to reducing our reliance on trees for paper.

"There's so much potential in this industry."

"By unlocking the potential of agriculture waste in Malaysia, we can do wonders in reducing our carbon footprint and move towards a sustainable lifestyle," said Asna, who also holds a diploma in Industrial Logistics from Unikl.

On the durability of pineapple leaf paper, she explained: "It's uncoated and is 100% absorbent. Ink doesn't smear easily on this eco-friendly paper."

"Consumers love it because it doesn't discolour easily. Plus, it's locally made in my home state."

Leaf to paper

Every three weeks, Asna receives one tonne of pineapple leaves from farms around Ulu Tiram and Pontian. The leaves are boiled in a large wok on high heat for four hours.

Once cooled, they are stored in large containers overnight. The following day, the leaves are blended



The value in garbage

An American company is changing everything we know about recycling.

TOM Szaky, the founder and CEO of a Trenton-based recycling company, could be both the Elon Musk and Louis Vuitton of waste.

Elon Musk because he took an unorthodox idea — converting waste into fertilizer using worms — and evolved it into a global recycling disruptor that operates in 20 countries and generates US\$70mil (RM292mil) in annual revenue.

Louis Vuitton because the company, TerraCycle, provides luxury recycling services to an exclusive who's who of corporate America, including Walmart, Target, PepsiCo, Procter & Gamble, Colgate, Nestle and McDonalds.

Corporations pay for TerraCycle's in-ail programmes — consumers send in their used products or packaging to the company for recycling — to show their concern for the environment.

TerraCycle processes a wide range of items municipal recyclers send to the landfill, like cigarette butts, coffee capsules, razor blades and syringes as well as cellphone accessories and child car seats.

"Our mission is to eliminate the idea of waste," said Szaky, 40, whose Canadian accent betrays his television anchorman delivery.

"But a big part of that is innovation. We have to innovate into

those solutions. We need to show that garbage isn't just down, drab, gross, nasty, but can be as exciting a topic as developing a new piece of software or filming a movie."

The company's US subsidiary collects fees to run mail-in recycling for corporate brands, sells postage-paid Zero Waste Boxes direct to consumers and charges for collection of regulated trash, such as medical waste. The company then sells recovered material, mostly plastics, for reuse in various products.

It has not always been smooth sailing.

An environmental group last year sued TerraCycle and some of its clients, arguing some of TerraCycle's recycling instructions on client products were misleading.

The company agreed in November to change the labels to show some sponsors cap the number of items they pay to be recycled.

Szaky aims to show the world that garbage isn't just down, drab, gross, nasty, but can be as exciting a topic as developing a new piece of software or filming a movie. — ZIBIK/Unsplash

into a pulp and flattened into A3 size film sheets. Next, the items are dried under the sun for several days to turn them into paper.

Asna operates from a make-shift structure in her parent's backyard. It isn't big, measuring 6m by 3m where Asna and three permanent staff run the operations. The business operations are not elaborate: Several workbenches, tools, paper-making moulds and decks (a papermaking apparatus used to collect handmade sheets of paper pulp), and 54-litre plastic containers where she stores the pulp derived from pineapple leaves.

From 100kg of leaves, Asna produces around 200 pieces of A3 sized paper.

She works closely with several factories around Johor Bahru to transform the paper pieces into gift boxes, cards, handbags and key-chains.

The process of turning pineapple leaves to paper, as she explained it, seems pretty straightforward but Asna clarified that it is a laborious and time-consuming job.

Her biggest concern is the unpredictable weather conditions.

"It takes about three to seven days to dry the sheets. With continuous rain, the sheets take a longer time to dry.

"Excess moisture can lead to fungus and mould on the sheets. I make it a point to check the weather forecast to determine the quantity of sheets to produce in a day."

Aside from producing eco-friendly paper, Asna also sells yarn derived from pineapple leaves.

This too is a tedious process where leaves are put through a machine to extract the fibre. The fibres are then washed and dried.

She uses 100kg of pineapple leaves to obtain 1kg of pineapple thread. The eco-friendly thread - used to stitch embroidery for songket material - is sold at RM800 per kg.

Upcycling pineapple leaves is not without its challenges and there were many times when Asna almost gave up.

"But I've persevered because I am aware there's so much potential in pineapple waste," said Asna.

Despite it all, Asna's glad she took the plunge. Business has been good and she's reaping the rewards. But most of all, she has the satisfaction of successfully chasing her dream.

"It is crucial to identify your interests and work towards your dream. Follow your heart and never let anyone dampen your spirit. Anyone can succeed with lots of hard work and some luck," Asna concluded.

Breathing life into pineapple byproducts

MALAYSIA is one of the world's largest producers of pineapple; the industry brings in over RM600mil to the country's economy, according to the Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board (MPIB).

But harvesting pineapples results in tonnes of biomass waste such as pineapple leaves, core, peel, crown, and stem. Universiti Malaysia Pahang's Assoc Prof Dr Aizi Nor Mazila Ramli is doing her part to use improved farming practices aimed at reducing pineapple waste to promote environmental sustainability.

She is among a handful of UMP researchers who turn pineapple waste into reusable items such as baby bottle liquid cleansers, meat-tenderiser and oyster mushroom production blocks.

"In recent years, we have seen a rising demand for pineapple-based products like tinned pineapple, jam and vinegar. However, there is an abundance of pineapple waste which is often left to rot or are burned. In the long run, it can lead to greenhouse gases, which profoundly impacts the environment.

"Therefore, using the pineapple waste and turning it into a value-added products could be the most sustainable way of managing these residues due to their useful properties and compositions," said Dr Aizi, a senior lecturer from UMP's Faculty of Industrial Sciences and Technology.

Dr Aizi's research focuses on using bromelain, a digestive enzyme in pineapples.

"Bromelain is generally found in high quantities in pineapple fruit, stem, core, peel, and leaves. Bromelain is also a proteolytic enzyme with the ability to break down complex protein structures into simple protein structures."

"UMP has invented several products using bromelain. One of the most talked-about products is PineBaby, our baby bottle liquid cleanser that's safe to clean baby bottles, feeding accessories, toys, and vegetables.

"Bromelain is also a bioactive element used in other UMP innovations including liquid cleansers for medical fabric and as a meat-tenderising agent," explained Aizi.

She added that pineapple waste contains phenolic compounds, a good source of antioxidants.

UMP innovations have won sev-



Pineapple leaves can be transformed into products like paper, yarn and vegart leather. — ANIS NABIHAH AZIZ



Prof Thariq says it took his team a year to design and conceptualise the drones. — PROF DR MOHAMED THARIQ HAMEED SULTAN

eral awards, including UMP's Gold Medal and Best Biotechnology Awards at the Creation, Innovation, Technology and Research Exposition 2021 Exhibition and an invention award at the 2017 International Trade Fair in Nuremberg, Germany.

In addition, UMP has collaborated with MPIB to determine the suitability of pineapple leaf waste as a

substrate - instead of sawdust - for the cultivation of oyster mushrooms.

UMP isn't the only institution championing pineapple waste as a sustainable means of waste management. Last year, University Putra Malaysia (UPM) researchers developed a method to transform the fibre found in pineapple leaves to build the frames for drones.

Project leader Prof Dr Mohamed Thariq Hameed Sultan created drones as a sustainable method to reuse pineapple waste.

"It all started back in 2018 where pineapple farmers in Telok Panglima Garang,

Selangor faced problems with agricultural waste. "The remnants of these leaves are usually disposed of by open burning or they are left at the site. Open burning leads to pollution, while the discarded leaves will be a habitat for snakes, scorpions and rats.

"Another push factor was the drone market size forecast which showed a growing trend for the next six years.

"We also wanted to create a product that's in line with the United Nations sustainable development goals criteria," said Prof Thariq, who is with UPM's Department of Aerospace Engineering.

But are pineapple fibre boards



Dr Aizi, one of UMP's researchers, turns pineapple waste into reusable items such as baby bottle liquid cleansers. — ASSOC PROF DR AIZI NOR MAZILA RAMLI

study enough?

"Drones for agricultural purposes do not require high-end materials like carbon fibre. Pineapple bio-composite material is reinforced with polymer, making it suitable for daily operations," explained Prof Thariq, adding his team had taken a year to design and conceptualise the unmanned drones.

Globally, food and beverage company Dole Sunshine Company is working with vegan pineapple leather brand Pinatex to transform pineapple leaves into a non-woven mesh to form the base of the sustainable Pinatex material.

Last year, Nike launched its Happy Pineapple sneaker collection using Pinatex. Brands like H&M and Hugo Boss have also adopted the material as part of their move towards sustainability.

Dr Aizi encourages companies to upcycle agricultural waste into eco-friendly alternatives.

"Various studies report that agricultural waste derived from coconut, bamboo, and banana are valuable raw materials for other industries.

"Some of these waste can be used as natural anti-microbials. In addition, these materials also represent a possible medium for mushrooms cultivation and the production of other bio-based products like bio-energy and bio-fertilisers.

"Some of the agricultural residues contain essential components for animal feed too.

"Agro waste material derived from palm oil, rice husk ash and palm oil fibre is also used to produce green concrete, described as concrete made using waste materials from different industries," he said. — By Sheela Chandran

KKPPSB ceburi pasaran hasil laut, tingkat pendapatan ahli

GEORGE TOWN – Koperasi Komuniti Pulau Pinang Selatan Berhad (KKPPSB) menyasarkan sehingga 5,000 keahlian terdiri daripada nelayan dan penduduk setempat yang tinggal atau bekerja di kawasan Pulau Pinang Selatan.

Timbalan Ketua Menteri, Datuk Ir. Ahmad Zakiyuddin Abd. Rahman berkata, modal sebanyak RM5 juta diperuntukkan kepada KKPPSB dengan keahlian dibuka secara berperingkat mengikut perkembangan perniagaan koperasi.

“Yuran keahlian sebanyak RM10, manakala perolehan hak dan syer minimum adalah RM100.

“Keahlian dibuka untuk tiga kategori iaitu kategori satu terdiri daripada nelayan yang berdaftar dengan Jabatan Perikanan dan beroperasi di koridor Pulau Pinang Selatan.

“Manakala, kategori dua bagi mereka yang tinggal atau bekerja di Pulau Pinang Selatan serta kategori tiga pegawai kerajaan negeri dan agensi pelaksana projek,” katanya di sini semalam.

Terdahulu, beliau merasmikan seminar dan mesyuarat

agung pertama KKPPSB dihadiri Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Penang Infrastructure Corporation, Datuk Seri Farizan Darus.

Dalam pada itu, katanya, sebagai permulaan KKPPSB akan menceburi bidang pemasaran hasil laut di bawah inisiatif Samudra yang akan menjamin pendapatan setara dan mampan bagi para nelayan.

“Melalui KKPPSB, kerajaan negeri membantu nelayan meningkatkan hasil pendapatan mengikut konsep *fair trade* dengan sasaran pemasaran hasil tangkapan laut bulan depan.

“Nelayan akan membentuk kumpulan, memilih peraih untuk menjual hasil tangkapan kepada koperasi,” katanya.

Tambahnya, KKPPSB akan membeli dengan harga lebih tinggi dan membayar gaji pokok serta komisen 10 peratus daripada hasil jualan kepada peraih.

Selain itu, katanya, KKPPSB juga menawarkan perkhidmatan pengangkutan bot selain menceburi aktiviti lain antaranya mengusahakan pusat pembiakan benih ikan dan udang bagi tingkatkan pendapatan.

Penternak ayam kampung gulung tikar di Jerantut

JERANTUT – Harga dedak ayam naik kira-kira 50 peratus memberi kesan kepada pengusaha ternakan ayam termasuklah penternak ayam kampung yang terpaksa gulung tikar.

Seorang penternak ayam, Mohd. Nor Faizuhar Ibrahim, 36, berkata, dengan hampir 70 peratus kos ternakan ayam bergantung kepada dedak membuatkan dia tidak lagi mampu mengusahakan ternakan ayam kampung kerana kos yang terlalu tinggi.

“Menternak ayam ini memang hampir keseluruhan modal dikeluarkan adalah untuk membeli dedak dan ketika

saya mula menternak ayam harga dedak ketika itu adalah RM100 untuk satu beg, sekarang saya dapat tahu harga kini adalah RM150.

“Ayam kampung pula kurang sambutan pembeli sejak pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan,” katanya yang sebelum ini menternak ayam di Kampung Perias di sini.

Menurut Mohd. Nor Faizuhar, dia yang mengusahakan ternakan ayam kampung sejak 2017 yang melibatkan lebih 5,000 ekor ayam kini menghentikan operasi penternakan dan bekerja di sebuah syarikat pembinaan. ,



LADANG ternakan ayam Mohd. Nor Faizuhar yang terblar selepas dia terpaksa gulung tikar akibat mengalami kerugian di Jerantut.

Majukan tanah terbiar dengan jagung bijirin

Oleh **BADRUL HAFIZAN MAT ISA**
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KUALA PILAH: Tanah-tanah terbiar di negara ini perlu diusahakan dengan tanaman untuk penghasilan makanan ternakan sebagai langkah mengurangkan kebergantungan negara terhadap makanan ternakan import.

Pengusaha ternakan ayam kampung, Oun Mohamad, 62, berkata, memang tidak dinafikan peningkatan harga dedak import ketika ini menyebabkan golongan penternak seperti yang sangat terkesan terutama bagi

menampung kos pengeluaran.

Dalam hal ini, katanya, kerajaan perlu memainkan peranan iaitu dengan mengambil langkah besar dan tegas supaya tanah-tanah terbiar ini diusahakan dengan tanaman termasuklah jagung bijirin supaya ia boleh dijadikan makanan ternakan.

“Hanya mengharapkan penternak untuk mengambil inisiatif menanam sendiri memang sukar kerana tidak semua penternak mempunyai tanah untuk menanamnya, jika adapun hanya kecil-kecilan.

“Penternak hanya mahu lihat

kerajaan mengambil langkah penyelesaian bagi jangka masa panjang dalam isu peningkatan makanan ternakan ini. Kerajaan mempunyai kemudahan dan dana.

“Oleh itu, kami melihat, tanah-tanah terbiar yang ada perlu diusahakan secara besar-besaran dengan tanaman seperti jagung bijirin, satukan semuanya dan kami yakin negara akan keluar daripada kebergantungan dedak import kelak,” katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* di Kampung Solok Mura, Tanjung Ipoh, di sini baru-baru ini.

OUN Mohamad memberikan makan kepada ayam ternakannya ketika ditemui di ladang ternakan ayamnya di Kampung Solok Mura, Tanjung Ipoh, Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan, baru-baru ini. - UTUSAN/MOHD. SHAHJEHAN MAAMIN





Cattle congestion: Cows blocking the road near Ladang Sungai Jernih in Kerling, Hulu Selangor, forcing motorists to wait — AHMAD SYUKRY MOHD KASSIM/The Star

Straying too far

Roaming livestock is causing conflict between residents and farmers in Kajang

By GRACE CHEN
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KAJANG residents are locking horns with cattle farmers whose cows are eating up crops, causing a stink with their dung trails and posing a safety risk to motorists.

Kampung Sungai Tangkas village head Raman Zainuddin said he had come across two serious accident cases.

"One motorist drove into a cow. Not only was the university student's vehicle badly damaged, he also suffered a broken leg.

"A cow was also hit by a train near the UKM KTM Komuter station. Thankfully, the train was not derailed," he said.

Azaharee Buyong, who is vice-chairman of the Taman Universiti Jalan Cerdik and

Jalan Desa Residents Association in Sungai Tangkas, said the police and local authorities had to resolve the problem.

"In one incident, a cow turned aggressive when one of the residents tried to shoo it away from his fruit and vegetable patch.

"The man fell and hurt himself. He made a police report," he said.

He highlighted that the problem had been ongoing for five years.

"In addition to cows eating residents' plants, people rushing for work in the mornings have had to contend with traffic jams caused by cattle ambling on the road.

"This poses a safety risk as motorists may try to hurry a herd along by honking at them. And there is no telling what kind

of damage a startled cow can do.

"Or motorists trying to overtake a slow-moving herd may run into oncoming traffic," he said.

Taman Universiti resident Najih Mohd Nor, who lives in Jalan Desa 5, said his friend's motorcycle was badly damaged after he ran into a cow.

"It was dark and he could not see the cow which was lying on the road," said Najih.

He expressed hope that something could be done.

He pointed out that many students staying nearby and studying at the German-Malaysian Institute (GMI) in Jalan Ilmiah travel by motorcycle, so the presence of cattle posed a safety risk to the riders.

The issue escalated last December when

herds of cattle numbering as many as 10 to 15 were seen roaming around the Taman Universiti housing area.

Concerned residents brought this to the attention of Bangi MP Dr Ong Kian Ming, Sungai Ramal assemblyman Mazwan Johar and Kajang Municipal Council (MPKJ) councillor Nasar Khan Mirbas Khan.

In response, MPKJ's enforcement unit conducted an operation to round up stray cattle in January.

At another hotspot, the simmering conflict between residents and a dairy farmer operating in the area has resulted in the cattle being poisoned and subjected to parang attacks.

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Farmers cite limited grazing space, high feed costs

FROM PAGE 1

One resident, who declined to be named, said they were unhappy with the cattle farmer who kept disregarding requests to confine his livestock to the vicinity of his farm.

"A resident in Jalan Sungai Ramal said 60 of his mango tree saplings were eaten by a herd of goats," he revealed.

Residents have also expressed concerns over frequent encroachment of cows, buffaloes and goats into private property.

The animals have nibbled away at crops as well as defecated on village roads.

They say erecting a fence does not always work as they can either be butted, kicked down or even jumped over.

The animals have also been spotted wandering beside Kajang SILK Highway, raising concerns of motorists' safety should the cows wander onto the highway.

Resident Abdullah Sani Wahab said although cattle farmers were letting their animals roam as they wanted free feed for them, this practice was not without risk as the cows would be targeted by thieves.

He said the animal could fetch between RM4,000 and RM5,000 on the open market.

Need for solutions

In Sungai Tangkas, Sivakumary Nalliah, who runs a dairy farm with some 20 heads of cattle and 10 goats, apologised to residents in Taman Universiti for the problems caused by her herd.

She explained that she had built fences in three areas where her



Mohd Yusof will confine his cattle to the farm area for their safety.

herd usually grazed near GMI, Taman Universiti and Jalan Alam Sari.

However, the fencing was stolen last December, probably for scrap metal.

Sivakumary stressed that she had tried to apply for land to raise her livestock, but had yet to receive a positive response.

"Over the past 30 years, I have brought this matter up with several assemblymen.

"What I need is enough land to raise my herd.

"I am not asking for free land. I am willing to rent it," she said.

In Kampung Sungai Ramal Luar, cattle feedlot farmer Mohd Yusof Abdul Hask said rising cost of feed had forced him to resort to the free grazing method for his 40 heads of cattle, goats and buffaloes.

Following residents' complaints, he said he would ensure that his herd was confined to the farm area.



A cow was spotted grazing on the verge beside Kajang SILK Highway near Kampung Sungai Ramal Luar.

He said that confining the cows to his farm area was also for the safety of his livestock.

"About 20 of my cows died from poisoning last year. Two of my cows were also maimed. One got part of its tail chopped off.

"Another was slashed across the face.

"The cut was near the muzzle so it could not eat. I had to take it to the veterinarian. Luckily, it recovered," he added.

MPKJ councillor Samsol Bahri

had in a letter on Feb 5, 2021, raised his concerns with the Selangor government regarding the direction of cattle farming in Beranang, a district that is experiencing conflicts similar to the ones in Sungai Tangkas and Kampung Sungai Ramal Luar.

In Beranang, some of the 20 families involved in cattle farming are also old-timers who have supplied fresh meat to the community for generations.

The rapidly shrinking size of grazing fields, said Samsol, had resulted in cattle encroaching into housing areas that were once plantation land where they could roam freely.

Among his suggested solutions is a change in mindset on the cattle farmers' part to move away from the old ways.

In addition to planting their own grass, he said farmers needed to make adjustments to their practices.

To this end, he said stalls should not be overcrowded so that the animals could move about.

"Instead of free grazing, feed can be brought to them," he added.

Samsol said it would help if government bodies could allocate space for grass to be planted to feed livestock, as replacement for grazing areas lost to development

and to supplement the animals' diet of livestock feed.

He noted that existing land lots owned by Menterri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI) in Beranang could be used.

Another possible solution, he said, would be to totally abolish small-time cattle farming activities and guide these farmers to take up other forms of livestock rearing.

At present, guidelines provided by the Veterinary Services Department on livestock farming state that cattle farms should be located no less than 1km from residential and industrial areas.

They must not be too close to rivers or water supply systems in

order to prevent sewage overflow in the event of floods or heavy rain, and there must be perimeter fencing as well.

Meanwhile, MPKJ has started operations in cooperation with Veterinary Services Department to address the problem of stray animals in areas under its purview.

A fine of RM1,500 per head will be imposed on individuals whose livestock are caught by enforcement officers.

Sivakumary meeting with Azaharee.



Watch the video [TheStarTV.com](https://www.thestar.com.my)



'Go beyond traditional farming to minimise human-animal conflict'

By GRACE CHEN
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THE search for feed is the main reason cattle farmers let their cows loose.

Dairy farmer Amurthalingham Muthiah, 59, said this was the traditional way of rearing cattle.

He oversees the day-to-day operations of a dairy farm, which has 40 Jersey Friesian cows, at Ladang Sungai Gumut in Kalumpang, Hulu Selangor.

He had grown up watching his grandmother rear cows at the back of the family house in Buntong, Perak.

"For free roaming, location is a factor.

"If the farm is surrounded by estate land, it is still feasible.

"But in housing areas, this prac-

tice is no longer suitable," he said. "To minimise conflicts, farmers must address the issue of feed and clean drinking water.

"Instead of allowing free grazing, feed like grass and straw could be cut or bought and brought to the cows in a stall with pellets as additional supplements," he added.

As a general rule, a cow can consume up to 10% of its body weight, which comes up to between 30kg and 50kg of roughage per day.

Another area to look into is stall space and design.

"A space of 0.4ha can hold about four to six cows on a cut-and-carry concept," said Amurthalingham.

"There is no need for free roaming in intensive farming. As such, stall design is an important factor.

"A well ventilated stall is important as cows will get stressed in hot

conditions," he elaborated. "To ensure there is sufficient light, one simple test is to see if you can read a newspaper anywhere in the stall."

Ideally cows at their optimal milk production and fertility stage like to have 14 to 16 hours of light per day and six to eight hours of darkness, said Amurthalingham.

He acknowledged that providing for the needs of cows under the intensive farming system was neither easy nor cheap.

"However, it will pay dividends in the long-run.

"It will not only improve dairy yield and weight, but also promote health and cleanliness," he said.

He added that allowing cattle to roam freely could also increase their chances of contracting diseases.



Amurthalingham says farmers can also cut grass from elsewhere and carry it to the stalls for their livestock to feed on.