LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
KHAMIS 29 OGOS 2024

BIL	TAJUK KERATAN AKHBAR	KEMENTERIAN / JABATAN / AGENSI
1.	100,000 BENIH UDANG GALAH, BAUNG DILEPASKAN, NEGARA, KOSMO -18	JABATAN PERIKANAN MALAYSIA (DOF)
2.	KERJASAMA MALAYSIA-CHINA MUDAHKAN PROSES EKSPORT DURIAN SEGAR, ASTRO AWANI -ONLINE	LEMBAGA PEMASARAN PERTANIAN PERSEKUTUAN (FAMA)
3.	PESAK GESA KERAJAAN KELANTAN, KADA SELESAIKAN ISU PENGAIRAN SAWAH, THE SUN DAILY -ONLINE	LEMBAGA KEMAJUAN PERTANIAN KEMUBU (KADA)
4. 5. 6. 7.	PERLIS PADI CROP PLAGUED BY LEAF ROLLER MONTHS, NATIONAL, THE SUN -4 PESAWAH PERLIS 'BUNTU' PADI DISERANG ULAT GULUNG DAUN, DALAM NEGERI, UM -33 PESAWAH RESAH SERANGAN ULAT PUTIH ANCAM TANAMAN, UTARA, HARAKAH -H21 PADI FARMS BUGGED BY CATERPILLARS, NATION, THE STAR -12	LEMBAGA KEMAJUAN PERTANIAN MUDA (MADA)
8.	AGROBANK ENHANCES FOOD PRODUCTION WITH INNOVATIVE FINANCING, NST -2	AGROBANK
9.	INNOVATING NATION'S AGRICULTURE SECTOR, NATION, THE STAR -12	LAIN-LAIN

UKK KPKM

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

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
29/8/2024	KOSMO	NEGARA	18

100,000 benih udang galah, baung dilepaskan

PONTIAN – Jabatan Perikanan Negeri Johor meluluskan permohonan untuk membiakkan udang galah dan ikan air tawar di Sungai Tanjung Air Hitam di sini.

Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Kawasan Pekan Nanas, Tan Eng Meng berkata, permohonan itu dibuat susulan kejadian pencemaran di sungai terbabit pada 21 Julai lalu sehingga menyebabkan nelayan dan pengusaha bot sewa terjejas.

Menurutnya, sebanyak 90,000 benih udang galah dan 11,000 benih ikan baung dilepaskan di sungai tersebut pagi semalam.

"Ada beberapa ribu lagi benih ikan seperti ikan sebarau dan lampam dilepaskan juga pada hari ini, namun di kawasan Parit Sikom sesuai dengan keadaan air di kawasan tersebut.

"Namun untuk di Sungai Tanjung Air Hitam, sepanjang empat kilometer, kita melepaskan benih udang galah dan ikan baung bagi menggantikan udang dan ikan yang mati disebabkan pencemaran yang berlaku," katanya ketika ditemui di sini semalam.

Beliau berterima kasih kepada Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pertanian, Industri Asas Tani dan Kemajuan Luar Bandar Johor. Datuk Zahari Sarip kerana meluluskan permohonan tersebut.

Sebelum ini *Kosmo!* menyiarkan laporan pencemaran Sungai Tanjung Air Hitam pada 25 Julai di mana kira-kira 1 tan udang selain ikan mati disebabkan berlaku pencemaran di sungai itu.

Kejadian tersebut menyebabkan pengusaha bot kehilangan sumber pendapatan kira-kira RM6,000 bagi tempoh empat hari dan jika berlarutan sehingga dua minggu menyebabkan mereka kerugian RM20,000.

ENG MENG (depan) melepaskan benih-benih udang galah dan ikan baung ke dalam Sungai Tanjung Air Hitam, Pontian semalam.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
29/8/2024	ASTRO AWANI	ONLINE	

Kerjasama Malaysia- China mudahkan proses eksport durian segar

Menurut Pengerusi Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA), Aminuddin Zulkipli, proses yang dahulunya sukar kini dipermudahkan dan menyaksikan permintaan terhadap buah segar itu meningkat di republik tersebut.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
29/8/2024	THE SUN DAILY	ONLINE	

Pesak gesa kerajaan Kelantan, KADA selesaikan isu pengairan sawah

KOTA BHARU: Persatuan Pesawah Kelantan (Pesak) mendesak kerajaan negeri dan Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Kemubu (KADA) untuk menyelesaikan isu bekalan air yang telah menyebabkan sebahagian sawah tidak dapat diusahakan.

Pengerusinya Zuha Ismail berkata isu berkenaan belum selesai atas pelbagai faktor termasuk isu penghadang air di Sungai Kelantan yang pecah sejak beberapa tahun lepas masih tidak diperbaiki.

"Sudah beberapa kali kami menyuarakan masalah ini namun tidak juga dibaiki oleh KADA dengan alasan kerajaan negeri tidak membenarkan sebarang pembinaan dalam Sungai Kelantan.

"Walaupun sekarang musim hujan namun pemecahan penghadang itu menyebabkan air sungai terus mengalir ke laut dan tidak memasuki pam kemubu untuk mengairi sawah serta menyebabkan petani tidak dapat mengusahakan tanaman padi," katanya dalam sidang media di Kampung Pagar Pisang di sini hari ini.

Berikutan kekangan itu, hanya 25 peratus daripada lebih 7,000 petani di kawasan seliaan KADA menanam padi pada musim ini manakala sebahagian besar yang lain masih menunggu masalah itu diatasi.

"Buat masa ini, sebahagian besar petani tidak menanam padi kerana bimbang dan terpaksa menanggung kerugian seperti musim lepas," katanya sambil berharap pihak bertanggungjawab dapat menyelesaikan segera isu berkenaan

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
29/8/2024	THE SUN	NATIONAL	4

Perlis *padi* crop plagued by leaf roller moths

KANGAR: About 700ha of *padi* in five areas of Perlis are under attack from leaf roller moths, leaving up to 352 farmers fearful of losing their crop that is awaiting harvest in two weeks.

The areas, involving the Area Farmers Organisations of Arau, Kayang, Kangar, Tambun Tulang and Simpang Empat, are within the Muda Agriculture Development Authority (Mada) scheme, said Perlis Agriculture, Plantations and Food Industries Committee chairman Razali Saad.

After having a firsthand look at the bug-infested crop near here, he said the crop came under the pest attack about a month ago.

"The income of farmers will drop depending on the age of the *padi* plant. Looking at the situation, we can estimate a 40% loss in yield."

He said Mada is monitoring the situation and providing advice and pesticides to the affected farmers.

"The state government has called for a meeting of the relevant agencies on the matter. We are also awaiting word from the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry." – Bernama

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
29/8/2024	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DALAM NEGERI	33

Pesawah Perlis 'buntu' padi diserang ulat gulung daun

Oleh MOHD. HAFIZ ABD. MUTALIB
hafiz.mutalib@mediamulia.com.my

KANGAR: Sebanyak 352 pesawah membabitkan kawasan seluas 700.19 hektar di negeri ini terjejas dan hasil dijangka merosot sehingga 40 peratus berikutan serangan ulat gulung daun.

Serangan ulat gulung daun tersebut mengakibatkan pertumbuhan padi terencat sekali gus akan merosakkan padi.

Keluasan yang terjejas tersebut membabitkan sekitar 20 peratus daripada keluasan keseluruhan kawasan padi di bawah seliaan Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Muda (MADA) di Perlis iaitu 19,034.53 hektar.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pertanian negeri, Razali Saad berkata, serangan ulat gulung daun pada musim ini agak serius berbanding musim setahun lalu yang dianggarkan kawasan terjejas sekitar 698 hektar sahaja.

Katanya, setiap kali musim penanaman padi, masalah seperti ini pasti akan timbul namun tidak serius seperti kali ini.

Menurut beliau, meskipun hanya sekitar 20 peratus kawasan tanaman padi di negeri ini terlibat namun ia menjejaskan pesawah.

"Antara kawasan yang terjejas teruk adalah seperti di E1 Simpang Empat yang melibatkan 273 pesawah.

"Kerajaan negeri juga sudah berhubung dengan agensi pertanian berkaitan dalam mencari penyelesaian kepada masalah ini dan buat masa ini, serangan ulat tersebut belum lagi sehingga mencapai tahap darurat.

"Oleh itu, memerlukan pemantauan serta penelitian selanjutnya daripada pihak Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan sendiri," katanya ketika ditemui di sini, semalam.

Seorang petani, Ku Hashiam Ku Bakar, 66, berkata, serangan ulat gulung daun itu dikesan berlaku sejak dua minggu lalu.

Dia yang mengusahakan tanaman di kawasan seluas dua hektar di Permatang Keriang, Simpang Empat itu berkata, serangan ulat tersebut agak mendadak pada musim ini sekali gus menjejaskan hasil pendapatan petani.

"Setiap musim memang akan berlaku kejadian seumpama ini namun kali ini begitu ketara. Serangan ulat ini telah menjejaskan hasil pendapatan petani dan ia lebih teruk berbanding musim lalu.

"Ulat gulung daun ini dipercayai datang daripada hama rama-rama yang bertelur di dedaun padi yang kemudian membiak dalam cuaca yang tidak menentu dan walaupun hujan, ulat ini masih dapat membiak dengan banyak.

"Sebagai langkah kawalan saya sudah menyembur racun di beberapa bahagian sawah padi bagi mengelakkan kerosakan padi lebih banyak," katanya.

SERANGAN ulat gulung daun mengakibatkan pertumbuhan padi menjadi terencat dan akan merosakkan padi.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
29/8/2024	HARAKAH	UTARA	H21

Pesawah resah serangan ulat putih ancam tanaman

Oleh **NOOR SARA MASHITOH MOHAMAD HANIF**

ARAU: Lebih 140 pesawah di kawasan Guar Sanji dan Sanglang di sini, terjejas akibat serangan ulat pengorek batang padi atau lebih dikenali sebagai ulat putih.

Serangan itu yang menyebabkan tanaman padi rosak membabitkan kawasan seluas kira-kira 150 hektar di Kampung Chantek Bangun dan Kampung Tengah Tok Pulau.

Kejadian serangan ulat putih sebelum ini dilaporkan berlaku di Kedah dan merebak ke Perlis kira-kira sebulan lalu, dianggap sebagai serangan paling teruk dalam tempoh 20 tahun.

Pesawah Kampung Tengah Tok Pulau, Ros Mat, 56, berkata serangan ini mengingatkan mereka kepada kejadian serupa kira-kira 20 tahun lalu.

"Namun kali ini, skala serangan jauh lebih besar. Hampir keseluruhan Kedah dan Perlis diserang ulat putih," katanya.

Walaupun pelbagai usaha dilakukan untuk mengawal serangan itu, termasuk penggunaan racun serangga, keadaan semakin buruk.

Padi yang kelihatan sihat dari jauh sebenarnya tidak berisi, manakala padi yang diserang rebah, menunjukkan keseriusan serangan ulat putih.

Abdul Aziz Sapi menunjukkan padi yang diserang ulat putih.

Pesawah Kampung Tengah Tok Pulau, Yusri Saad, 49, kecewa kerana walaupun racun digunakan berkali-kali, serangan ulat putih semakin merebak, menyebabkan kos pengeluaran semakin tinggi.

"Memang tak mati, malah lebih merebak. Kos makin tinggi, kerugian tak dapat dianggarkan," ujarnya.

Abdul Aziz Sapi, 65, pesawah dari Kampung Chantek Bangun, turut berkongsi kebimbangannya mengenai kerosakan yang semakin meluas.

"Apabila satu tempat kena, serangan ulat putih akan melarat ke tempat lain. Kita sudah cuba pelbagai cara, tapi tidak berjaya," katanya.

Selain penggunaan racun meningkatkan kos pengeluaran padi dengan mendadak, kenaikan kadar sewa jentuai turut membebankan pesawah.

Pesawah berharap Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Muda (MADA) dan kerajaan negeri dapat mencari jalan penyelesaian segera untuk menangani masalah ini.

Sementara itu, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani negeri, Razali Saad, mengesahkan masalah serangan ulat putih adalah serius, tetapi tidak melibatkan keseluruhan kawasan sawah di bawah lima unit Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK) iaitu Guar Sanji, Kayang, Tambun Tulang, Simpang Empat dan Kangar.

"Pemantauan dan kawalan telah dilakukan oleh agensi berkaitan. Serangan ulat putih masih terkawal dan belum diisytiharkan sebagai darurat," katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
29/8/2024	THE STAR	NATION	12

Padi farms bugged by caterpillars

Crop yield could see 50% drop due to severe infestation

Parasitic presence: A farmer showing padi infested by the caterpillars. – Pic courtesy of farmers

By IMRAN HILMY
imran@thestar.com.my

KANGAR: Padi farmers here are staring at a 50% drop in yield due to a severe infestation of the leaf roller moth caterpillar, known locally as ulat putih (white worm).

The outbreak has threatened the livelihood of more than 350 farmers in five areas under the Muda Agricultural Development Authority in Perlis.

The five affected Area Farmers Associations are Arau, Kayang, Kangar, Tambun Tulang and Simpang Empat.

Padi farmer Sharipudin Ahmad, 64, said the attack, which began two weeks ago, stunted padi growth resulting in crop damage.

He said his 1.2ha padi farm was hit by the infestation, with production yield expected to be slashed by half.

"We face this problem every year but the infestation this year seems severe and unusual," said the farmer of 30 years from Kampung Pida 15 in Sanglang.

Sharipudin said he and other farmers in the area have been using different types of pesticides to prevent further damage, to no avail.

"I hope the relevant agencies can help us mitigate the impact of the infestation," he added.

The larvae of the caterpillar often called white caterpillars, present a recurring threat to padi farmers every planting season. Its rapid reproduction rate requires immediate eradication efforts.

During the early growth stages until the padi matures, the larvae roll and join the leaves at the tips, feeding on the green tissue and leaving only the cuticle behind. This feeding behaviour severely damages the leaf structure.

El Simpang Empat PPK unit chief Mat Khamis Hassan said more than 100 padi farmers in his area have been affected by the infestation.

"The problem began when the rain started falling at night. This likely exacerbated the infestation," he said.

Mat Khamis said white caterpillars pose a significant threat, especially to farmers from underprivileged and low-income backgrounds who rely on padi sales for their livelihood.

"If their production yield is affected, their survival is at risk," he said, adding that the relevant authorities should take swift action to prevent further damage to both the padi crops and to farmers' livelihood.

Perlis agriculture committee chairman Razali Saad said some 700ha involving 352 farmers were affected by the infestation.

He said the attack, said to have started about a month ago, could severely affect farmers who will begin harvesting in two weeks.

"The farmers' income will suffer, depending on the stage of the padi affected by the caterpillars.

"If the infestation hits during this mid-growth phase, we could see a loss of up to 40% of the expected yield," Razali said.

The Simpang Empat assemblyman said the state government had already contacted the relevant agricultural agencies to hold discussions on the issue.

"For now, the infestation has not reached the emergency stage. But we need the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry to monitor so that losses among farmers can be reduced," he added.

INNOVATING NATION'S AGRICULTURE SECTOR

More than 18,000 Penang households involved in agriculture tally

(From left) Khairolnizam, Mohd Uzir, Policy and Strategic Planning Branch head Ayesha Ismail and Nabilah during the census taking in Penang.

BAYAN LEPAS: The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) Penang has been conducting a census of 18,122 households in the agriculture sector across the state since July.

It will run until the month of October this year.

Nearly 65% of organisations and households involved in agricultural activities in Penang were surveyed on their crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, as well as forestry and logging.

According to Malaysia chief statistician and the 2024 Agriculture Census commissioner Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin, this is the fourth census conducted by DOSM this year.

The survey was done in collaboration with the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry (KPKM) and the Plantation and Commodities Ministry (KPK) along with other agencies involved in agriculture.

Mohd Uzir mentioned that the census was part of the Government's efforts to evaluate the performance of the agriculture industry in Malaysia.

It provides essential data on the profile of agricultural holdings, including demographic information, agricultural yields, input costs, farm size, land use and ownership, mechanisation and the use of technology.

He was speaking during an official one-day working visit to Penang, which included visits to Penaga (crops), Pulau Jerejak (aquaculture) and Sungai Bakap (crops).

Also present were Penang deputy commissioner (technical) Khairolnizam Hassan, Penang Agriculture (extension) deputy director Awang Iffaizul Awang Muhamad Sapuani and Penang Fisheries Department deputy director Nabilah Mohammed Yussof.

Based on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) report, the Penang agricultural sector contributed 1.9% to the state's GDP, with an added value amounting to RM2.2bil.

The fisheries subsector was the largest contributor to the agriculture sector in the state, accounting for 40.0%, followed by the crops (33.0%) and livestock (27.0%) in 2023.

The findings from the census are expected to benefit farmers by providing them with more detailed data on crops and livestock, helping them make better decisions on how to increase supply chain efficiency and improve product offerings.

In addition, the data will assist policymakers and industry players in making more informed decisions and optimising operations within the agriculture sector.

However, census takers faced challenges while canvassing for information in Penang, which include the reluctance of respondents to disclose agricultural information.

To address this, various efforts have been and are being made, such as providing explanations to the community and intensifying community engagement sessions.

These efforts are expected to help strengthen the census operation in the field.

For that reason, Mohd Uzir urged Penang agricultural organisations and entrepreneurs to cooperate with DOSM to ensure the completion of the census-taking, for the sustainability of the national agriculture sector.

This is in line with the 2024 Agriculture Census theme "Key to Agricultural Development."

For more information on the 2024 Agriculture Census, visit www.myagricensus.gov.my.

The Malaysian government has declared Oct 20 each year as National Statistics Day (MyStats Day).

The theme for this year's MyStats Day is "Statistics The Pulse of Life".

DOSM also celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
29/8/2024	NST		2

REDUCING IMPORTS

Agrobank enhances food production with innovative financing

Agrobank supports the development of food production, particularly through the use of technology to boost productivity. FILE PIC

ASILA JALIL
KUALA LUMPUR
bt@nst.com.my

MALAYSIA should focus on boosting the exports of tropical fruits that are widely available nationwide to counterbalance the rising imports of food, said Agrobank president and chief executive officer Datuk Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin.

He highlighted the banking group's efforts to reduce food imports and enhance domestic food production, thereby ensuring national food security.

Industry players can also look out for training and education opportunities that will generate better entrepreneurs.

DATUK TENGKU AHMAD BADLI SHAH RAJA HUSSIN
Agrobank president and chief executive officer

Agrobank's main assistance comes in various financing options across the food industry, including financing logistics for frozen food and food processing, he said.

As a key player in the food industry, Ahmad Badli Shah said Agrobank supports the development of food production, particularly through the use of technology to boost productivity.

He emphasised that incorporating technology in the industry also promotes long-term environmental sustainability.

Ahmad Badli Shah highlighted the factors that led to the rise in food imports, namely demand for food that is not grown or produced in Malaysia's climate, such as apples, grapes and salmon.

Additionally, the country's growing population and competitive prices of imported goods also contribute to the rise of food imports, he told *Business Times*.

"To offset the import of food or fruits that are grown in other climates, Malaysia needs to focus on increasing exports of tropical fruits such as Musang King durian, Harumanis mango and jackfruit.

"Besides, Malaysia should take advantage of the halal certification by the Malaysian Islamic Development Department to widen food exports," he said.

How Agrobank helps the industry

To facilitate more production of quality food in the country, Agrobank has launched a fund under the Madani Economy framework worth RM200 million to encourage the use of modern agricultural technology throughout the agrofood value chain.

The fund, dubbed the Madani Agrotechnology Funding Programme, aims to improve food production, with a profit rate as high as 2.0 per cent a year and a repayment grace period of up to eight months.

Another fund launched by Agrobank this year was the Agrofood Financing Fund for agricultural entrepreneurs.

The fund aims at the main sectors of plantation, fisheries and farming, totalling RM40 million for each sector and RM30 million for supporting sectors.

"This fund provides financing up to 100 per cent of expenditure costs, which include asset buying, development costs, working costs and others, at a rate of 4.0 per cent a year," said Ahmad Badli Shah.

Meanwhile, Agrobank will roll out another fund in the third quarter of this year, which is the Agrofood Modernisation Fund. It is specifically designed for green farming and technologies related to it.

"This RM30 million fund targets climate mitigation and agricultural adaptation technologies and practices to help agricultural entrepreneurs deal with the risks of climate change and extreme weather changes," said Ahmad Badli Shah.

Considering its mandate as a development financial institution (DFI), Agrobank is committed to advancing sustainable agriculture and food security agenda through this upcoming MAHA (Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism) 2024 that will be held on Sept 11-22.

Ways to reduce food imports

Ahmad Badli Shah said the rise in food imports reflected the increased food consumption in the country as well as better purchasing power.

It also provides opportunities for the food producers in the country to expand their reach.

He said these opportunities enable domestic food producers to improve their production and compete with imported goods.

This can be achieved through innovation as well as utilisation of modern technology.

Ahmad Badli Shah also said there was a need to enhance the development of the food industry to make it more competitive and on par with international standards via innovation and technology.

Other measures to enhance the food industry include support from the government and the private sector, which can be done through tax exemptions and promotional activities.

Tax exemptions are able to reduce the burden faced by industry players.

"Industry players can also look out for training and education opportunities that will generate better entrepreneurs," he added.