



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
ISNIN 6 OKTOBER 2025

BIL	TAJUK KERATAN AKHBAR	KEMENTERIAN / JABATAN / AGENSI
1.	AKUAPONIK BANTU OKU PENGLIHATAN JANA PENDAPATAN, DALAM NEGERI, UTUSAN MALAYSIA, M/S – 10	LAIN-LAIN
2.	LIVING IN FEAR OF THE RAIN, NATION, THE STAR, M/S – 1	
3.	STAPLE CROP AT MONSOON’S MERCY, NATION, THE STAR, M/S – 7	

UKK KPKM

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

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
6/10/2025	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DALAM NEGERI	10

Akuaponik bantu OKU penglihatan jana pendapatan

KUALA NERUS: Projek pembangunan akuaponik marin berasaskan polikultur yang diterajui Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) membuka peluang kepada komuniti orang kurang upaya (OKU) penglihatan menjana pendapatan tambahan secara praktikal dan mampan.

Projek melibatkan 30 peserta itu adalah program inisiatif Institut Akuakultur Tropika dan Perikanan Akuatrop UMT itu sebahagian daripada pelaksanaan Program Pendayaan Komuniti Universiti Awam Komuniti@UniMADANI dengan peruntukan berjumlah RM100,000.

Pengerusi Pertubuhan Orang Cacat Penglihatan Malaysia (SBM) Cawangan Terengganu, Imran Faisal Zulkifli berkata, projek itu membuka ruang baharu kepada ahli SBM menceburi bidang akuakultur berskala kecil.

“Projek udang umpan dan latok ini sedang dijalankan dan bersedia untuk dijual dalam masa terdekat.

“Setakat ini, kami mempunyai lima tangki udang umpan yang menempatkan kira-kira



TIMBALAN Naib Canselor (Penyelidikan dan Inovasi) UMT, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ikhwauddin Abdullah (dua dari kanan) bersama peserta OKU projek pembangunan polikultur akuaponik marin.

3,500 ekor udang manakala 10 tangki latok dijangka mula mengeluarkan hasil dalam tempoh sebulan,” katanya pada Bengkel Pemindahan Ilmu dan Peluncuran Projek Pembangunan Polikultur Akuaponik Marin untuk Penjanaan Pendapatan Tambahan yang diadakan di Teluk Ketapang, Seberang Takir, di sini, baru-baru ini.

Presiden SBM, Mohd. Mus-

taza Mohammed Zin menyifatkan ia sebagai sinar buat komuniti OKU yang sering berdepan keterbatasan dalam mendapatkan peluang ekonomi.

“Projek ini membuktikan dengan sokongan teknologi dan latihan yang betul, golongan OKU mampu berdikari dan menyumbang kepada pembangunan ekonomi negara,” katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
6/10/2025	THE STAR	NATION	1

Man and machine vs Nature

Abu Bakar Ahmad looking at a harvester at work on his padi fields in Bukit Indera Muda, Penang. The 67-year-old farmer is scared that the soil is too soft for heavy machinery to operate on after torrential rain. — ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star



Living in fear of the rain

Kedah padi farmers are in dire straits because heavy rain and strong winds have been damaging their crops. The unpredictable weather, they say, has inflicted heavy losses and will affect harvest and the next planting cycle.

> See reports on page 7 by IMRAN HILMY and R. SEKARAN

Staple crop at monsoon's mercy

Heavy rain hampers northern padi harvest, delays replanting efforts

By IMRAN HILMY
and R. SEKARAN
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ALOR SETAR: The inter-monsoon season has dealt a heavy blow to Kedah padi farmers due to the incessant rain.

Farmer Abdul Rahman Mohamad, 75, from Pendang, said each year, the weather has become worse and unpredictable.

"Heavy rain and strong winds during the harvesting season have left us with damaged crops and an empty field," he said.

Abdul Rahman said the losses had left many farmers in dire straits and unable to properly plan for the next planting season.

Another farmer, who wanted to be known as Ahmad, 40, said the inter-monsoon season has not reached its full cycle.

Yet, he has already felt the wrath of the weather.

"If the rain continues, it could damage our padi field and destroy our crops before we could even finish harvesting."

"Too much water could destroy our next planting season, which is at the end of October," he said.

Malaysia Padi Farmers Brotherhood Association treasurer, Muhammad Rafidraus Abu Bakar said that this season, Kedah farmers could only produce about 800kg of padi compared with about two tonnes per hectare in

the previous season.

"It's not just the inclement weather but also a bacterial infection. The dreaded bacterial leaf blight (BLB) disease had infected the crops during the monsoon season," he said.

The BLB spreads easily in warm, wet and windy conditions, making the inter-monsoon season a high-risk period.

He hoped the relevant authorities would assist affected farmers in overcoming their hardship and losses.

In Penang, the new padi planting season will also be delayed.

Zulkifli Mat Said, 45, said the delay was because of the unpredictable weather pattern.

"The ideal time to harvest is during the dry season when the padi can be collected easily, either manually or via machines."

Zulkifli added that the sudden delay had proved costly for the farmers as all their planning was disrupted.

"Sometimes we have to wait several days for the field to dry before we can bring in the machines. If we rush, the heavy machinery might get stuck in the mud and damage the crops."

Zulkifli said the prolonged wet condition would also affect the grain quality.

Another farmer Abu Bakar Ahmad, 67, said torrential rain often caused the soil to become

too soft, making it unsuitable for the harvesting machine to operate.

"There's a high risk for tractors to get stuck in the field if we try to harvest in this condition," he said.

Abu Bakar urged the authorities to provide better support and guidance for farmers to cope with these challenging times.

"Not only do we risk losing the yield, (we may also lose) our income for the season," he said.

Kampung Pelet Farmers Area Organisations chairman Mohd Fauzi Hussin pleaded with the state government to provide suitable subsidies or assistance to support farmers during the monsoon period.