



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
JUMAAT 28 MAC 2025

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UKK KPKM

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

28/3/2025

SINAR
HARIAN

NASIONAL

4

Harga barang terkawal, bekalan mencukupi

PM puas hati dengan harga barangan keperluan menjelang Aidilfitri

Oleh MOHD FAZUL HAIKA
MAT KHAZI
SUBANG JAYA

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berpuas hati dengan harga barang keperluan yang dijual di pasaran tempatan menjelang musim perayaan Aidilfitri.

Malah, Perdana Menteri berkata, beliau juga gembira kerana harga barangan keperluan musim perayaan adalah lebih murah daripada harga sebeginar di pasaran tempatan.

Katanya, berdasarkan tinjauan dibuat didapati bekalan barangan keperluan musim perayaan seperti telur ayam, barang merah dan banyak lagi juga mencukupi pada tahun ini.

"Saya juga berasa bangga dengan kerjasama semua pihak termasuk agensi kerajaan dan swasta seperti Mydin yang berusaha keras untuk memastikan harga barang tidak mengalami kenaikan menjelang Hari Raya Aidilfitri tidak lama lagi.

"Ini adalah kali pertama berlaku sejak saya memimpin Jawatankuasa Kabinet Kawalan Harga Barang Keperluan pada tahun 1990-an," katanya ketika di-



FOTO: BERNAMA

Anwar (tengah) ketika meninjau harga barang keperluan di Mydin USJ, Subang Jaya pada Khamis.

temui pemberita selepas meninjau harga barang keperluan di Mydin USJ, Subang Jaya pada Khamis. Hadir sama, Pengarah Urusan Mydin Mohamed Holdings Bhd, Datuk Dr Ameer Ali Mydin dan Menteri Besar Selangor, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari.

Sempena kehadiran Perdana Menteri, Mydin turut menjual 500 ayam dengan harga RM1 sekilogram kepada pelanggan terpilih. Dalam pada itu, Perdana Menteri turut mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam-Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup, Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan

KPDN pantau peniaga santan, elak jual mahal

KOTA BHARU - Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN) akan memantau ketat peniaga santan bagi memastikan harga maksimum RM17.50 sekilogram sepanjang Skim Harga Maksimum Musim Perayaan (SHMMP) sempena Aidilfitri tahun ini, dipatuhi.

Pengarah KPDN Kelantan, Azman Ismail berkata, tindakan tegas akan diambil terhadap mana-mana peniaga menjual santan melebihi harga kawalan bagi melindungi hak pengguna.

"Harga runcit maksimum santan pada RM17.50 sekilogram dan peniaga wajib mematuhi peraturan ini bagi memastikan pengguna tidak terbeban dengan kenaikan harga tidak munasabah.

"Pegawai penguat kuasa serta pemantau harga akan turun ke pasar awam, pasar tani dan pusat beli-belah untuk memastikan pematuhan peniaga sepanjang tempoh skim kawalan ini," kata Azman pada sidang akhbar sempena Walkabout Skim Harga Maksimum Musim Perayaan Aidilfitri 2025 di sini pada Khamis.

Menurut Azman, kerajaan memahami cabaran dihadapi peniaga berkaitan pengurangan bekalan kelapa di pasaran, namun tidak boleh dijadikan alasan melonggar harga kawalan ditetapkan.

Azman berkata, pihaknya sudah berhubung dengan Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) dan mendapati masalah bekalan kelapa di Kelantan berpunca daripada serangan kumbang merah yang menjejaskan pengeluaran tempatan.

"Bagi menampung permintaan, peniaga terpaksa mendapatkan bekalan dari luar negeri, tetapi itu bukan alasan menaikkan harga sesuka hati.

"Harga ditetapkan adalah berdasarkan kajian menyeluruh dan mesti dipatuhi," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, pelaksanaan SHMMP sempena Aidilfitri tahun ini bermula 24 Mac lalu hingga 7 April turut melibatkan 24 barangan kawalan termasuk santan. Lain-lain seperti kelapa, biji borong ditetapkan maksimum pada RM3.50 sekilogram dan kelapa parut runcit maksimum RM13.20 sekilogram.

"Kami tidak akan berkompromi dengan peniaga yang sengaja mengambil kesempatan menaikkan harga melebihi kadar ditetapkan.

"Tindakan kompaun dan pendakwaan boleh dikenakan sekiranya mereka didapati melanggar peraturan ini," katanya.

Beliau turut menasihatkan pengguna supaya melaporkan sebarang ketidakpatuhan harga menerusi pelbagai saluran aduan disediakan KPDN.

Harga barang terkawal, tiada kekurangan bekalan - Anwar

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SUBANG JAYA: Harga barang mentah dan barang keperluan utama berada di bawah harga pasaran sekali gus membantu meringankan beban rakyat terutama umat Islam melakukan persiapan untuk menyambut Hari Raya Aidilfitri tanpa rasa bimbang.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, perkara tersebut diperoleh berdasarkan tinjauan dibuatnya yang mendapati bekalan barangan keperluan musim perayaan seperti telur ayam, barang mentah dan banyak lagi yang mencukupi pada tahun ini.



Saya ingat ini dalam sejarah bekalan barangan keperluan musim perayaan seperti telur ayam dan ayam tidak mengalami kenaikan dan bekalannya mencukupi.

“Saya juga berasa bangga dengan kerjasama semua pihak termasuk agensi kerajaan dan

swasta seperti Mydin yang berusaha keras untuk memastikan harga barang tidak mengalami kenaikan menjelang Hari Raya Aidilfitri tidak lama lagi.

“Ini adalah kali pertama berlaku sejak saya mempengerusikan Jawatankuasa Kabinet Kawalan Harga Barang Keperluan pada tahun 1990-an,” katanya kepada pemberita selepas meninjau harga barang keperluan di Mydin USJ.

Dalam pada itu, Anwar merakamkan ucapan terima kasih kepada Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup, Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, serta pihak swasta seperti Mydin.

Jelasnya, pihak-pihak tersebut sudah berusaha keras untuk memastikan tiada kenaikan harga menjelang perayaan Aidilfitri ini.

“Saya ingat ini dalam sejarah bekalan barangan keperluan musim perayaan seperti telur ayam dan ayam tidak mengalami kenaikan dan bekalannya mencukupi.

“Perkembangan ini belum pernah saya lihat sejak tahun ini aktif dalam pemerintahan dan pembangkang dari tahun 1980-an ke-90-an.

“Jadi, kita harus bersyukur dan mengucapkan terima kasih kepada syarikat, pihak berkuasa, dan Kementerian yang terlibat,” katanya.



ANWAR bersama Ameer Ali Mydin (dua dari kiri) melawat Pasar Raya Mydin pada Majlis Perasmian Kempen Turun Harga di Mydin Subang Jaya.

Bangga usaha pihak turun harga barang

Subang: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mengakui berbangga dengan pencapaian pelbagai pihak dalam usaha menurunkan harga barangan sempena sambutan Aidilfitri.

Perdana Menteri berkata, perkembangan itu adalah kali pertama dalam sejarah sejak beliau aktif menganggotai pentadbiran negara, antara 1980-an hingga 1990-an.

Beliau yang juga Menteri Kewangan berkata, pencapaian itu didorong kerjasama pelbagai syarikat swasta, termasuk rangkaian pemborong dan peruncit halal, Mydin Mohamed Holdings Bhd (Mydin).

Ahli Parlimen Tambun itu juga mengakui tiada kes kekurangan bekalan barangan yang berlaku menjelang sambutan Aidilfitri, tahun ini.

"Ada satu kesan yang saya hendak sebut di sini yang penting. Saya dalam kerajaan sudah jadi menteri sejak 1980-an.

"Pada 1990-an saya mempengerusikan jawatankuasa Kabinet (bagi kawalan harga menjelang hari kebesaran seperti hari raya, raya Cina dan sebagainya.

"Tahun ini, terima kasih kepada KPND (Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam

Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup), Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan serta syarikat seperti Mydin.

"Ini pertama kali dalam sejarah yang saya ingat sebelum atau menjelang hari kebesaran, harga (barangan) terkawal, tiada kekurangan barang dan dia dapat memastikan harga turun, terutama seperti telur dan pelbagai barangan lain lagi," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika ditemui selepas merasmikan Kempen Turun Harga dan Peletakan Logo Malaysia Madani di Pasar Raya Mydin di sini, semalam.

Turut hadir, Menteri Besar Selangor, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari, Menteri KPND, Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali dan Pengarah Urusan Mydin, Datuk Ameer Ali Mydin.

Perdana Menteri turut memuji inisiatif dilaksanakan syarikat swasta, termasuk Mydin membantu menurunkan harga, sama ada barangan dalam senarai kawalan mahupun sebaliknya.

Beliau juga bersyukur dan berterima kasih kepada syarikat swasta, penguat kuasa dan kementerian berkenaan yang menjayakan usaha mengawal harga barangan di pasaran.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
28/3/2025	BERITA HARIAN	NASIONAL	3

Skim harga musim raya atasi masalah bekalan

Subang: Pelaksanaan Skim Harga Maksimum Musim Perayaan (SHMMP) dapat memastikan harga barangan menjelang musim perayaan Aidilfitri terkawal, selain tiada berlaku masalah kekurangan bekalan bahan makanan, kata Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Katanya, tindakan Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN) dan Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan (KPKM), juga berjaya memastikan harga barangan makanan tertentu menjadi lebih murah.

“Tidak ada masalah kekurangan barang dan ia (SHMMP) juga dapat memastikan harga itu turun, terutama macam telur (masih ada di pasaran) dan banyak barang lain lagi,” kata Perdana Menteri selepas merasmikan program Singgah MADANI bagi meninjau harga sempena Hari Raya Aidilfitri di Pasar Raya Mydin USJ Subang, semalam.

Turut hadir, Menteri Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup, Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali; Menteri Besar Selangor, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari serta Pengarah Urusan Mydin, Mohamed Holdings Berhad (Mydin) Datuk Dr Ameer Ali Mydin.

“Pada 1990-an saya mpe- ngerusikan jawatankuasa Kabinet (bagi) kawalan harga menjelang hari kebesaran seperti hari raya.

“Tahun ini, terima kasih kepada KPDN (Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup), Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan serta syarikat seperti Mydin,” katanya.

Prices of goods under control, says Anwar

SUBANG JAYA: The implementation of the Festival Season Maximum Price Scheme (SHMMP) has been able to ensure the prices of goods ahead of Hari Raya Aidilfitri are under control and there is no shortage of food supplies, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said that as a result of the continuous actions of the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry (KPDN) and the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry (KPKM), prices of cer-

tain food items have also got cheaper during the period in question.

"There is no shortage of goods, and it (SHMMP) has also been able to ensure prices remain low, especially eggs and many other items," he told Bernama after launching the Singgah Madani programme to check the prices of goods during SHMMP for Aidilfitri at the USJ Subang Mydin Hypermarket here yesterday.

Also present were KPDN

Minister Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari and Mydin Mohamed Holdings Bhd managing director Datuk Dr Ameer Ali Mydin.

Anwar also thanked the management of Mydin for participating by offering reasonable prices to the people.

The Singgah Madani programme aims to provide information on the efforts and policies implemented by the Madani government in ensuring that the

well-being of the people continues to be maintained.

Anwar, who arrived at 11.40am, also spent time checking the prices and quantities of goods in the hypermarket and officiated the price reduction campaign and the placement of the Madani Malaysia logo at the premises.

The Prime Minister also launched the Singgah Madani Happy Hour Sale which saw many buyers take the opportunity to buy essential goods at reasonable prices.

28/3/2025

KOSMO

NEGARA

14

Gagal seludup 1 treler beras putih Siam

- **PGA tahan pemandu kenderaan berusia 36 tahun**
- **Beras dibawa masuk melalui pangkalan haram**

Oleh MUHAMMAD AYMAM
GHAFFA

TANAH MERAH – Cubaan satu sindiket menyeludup masuk lebih 20 tan beras putih dari Siam gagal selepas Pasukan Gerakan Am (PGA) menahan sebuah treler di kawasan kebun di Kampung Jahar, Bukit Bunga di sini kelmarin.

Penahanan itu dilakukan kira-kira pukul 6 pagi semasa anggota PGA menjalankan tugas menerusi Op Taring Bravo 4 di kampung tersebut.

Komander Briged Tenggara PGA, Datuk Nik Ros Azhan Ab. Hamid berkata, pemeriksaan di dalam treler itu menjumpai se-



SEBUAH treler membawa lebih 20 tan beras putih dari Siam ditahan di kawasan kebun di Kampung Jahar, Bukit Bunga dekat Tanah Merah kelmarin. – IHSAN PGA

banyak 20,240 kilogram (kg) beras putih yang disyaki diseludup melalui pangkalan haram.

Menurutnya, pemandu treler yang berusia 36 tahun itu dita-

han untuk membantu siasatan berhubung kes tersebut.

"Rampasan keseluruhan termasuk sebuah treler yang membawa beras-beras itu dianggar-

kan bernilai RM451,000.

"Suspek dan barang rampasan dibawa ke Agensi Kawal Selia Padi dan Beras Negara (AKSPBN) Kelantan untuk tindakan lanjut,"

katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

Dalam perkembangan sama, Nik Ros Azhan memberitahu, PGA turut merampas 1.4 tan beras Siam di dalam sebuah kenderaan utiliti sukan (SUV) jenis Mitsubishi Pajero di kampung sama kira-kira sejam selepas rampasan pertama dijalankan.

Menurutnya, pemandu SUV itu dipercayai melarikan diri meninggalkan kenderaan tersebut di tengah jalan.

"Pemeriksaan di dalam SUV itu menjumpai beras putih sebanyak 1,400 kg beras putih yang disyaki diseludup melalui pangkalan haram.

"Rampasan keseluruhan beras dan kenderaan itu dianggarkan bernilai RM 43,500. Barangan rampasan dibawa ke AKSPBN Kelantan untuk tindakan selanjutnya," ujarnya.

Kedua-dua kes diasiat mengikut Seksyen 20 Akta Kawal Selia Padi dan Beras Negara 1994.

Ikan tongkol tertakluk skim kawalan harga

Langkah pastikan kestabilan harga, ketersediaan bekalan susulan permintaan meningkat

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Kuala Lumpur: Harga ikan tongkol atau ikan aya kini dikawal bawah Skim Harga Maksimum Musim Perayaan (SHMMP) bagi memastikan kestabilan harga dan ketersediaan bekalan di pasaran, khususnya menjelang musim perayaan yang lazimnya menyaksikan permintaan meningkat.

Jabatan Perikanan (DoF) berkata kenyataan, semalam, mengenai harga maksimum bagi ikan tongkol bersaiz satu hingga

dua ekor sekilogram sudah ditetapkan di Pahang, Terengganu dan Kelantan, manakala beberapa hasil laut lain turut dikawal termasuk ikan demudok, sagai, cermin dan cupak tiga hingga lima ekor sekilogram di Sabah.

Selain itu, ikan kembung termasuk mabung lapan hingga 12 ekor sekilogram serta ikan selayang lapan hingga 12 ekor sekilogram turut tertakluk kepada kawalan harga di seluruh negara.

Sementara itu, DoF melaporkan peningkatan ketara dalam pendaratan tuna neri-tik tahun lalu dengan jumlah pendaratan di seluruh negara mencecah 63,780.32 tan bernilai lebih RM781.3 juta.

sektor perikanan negara mencatat pertumbuhan positif berbanding 2023 yang merekodkan pendaratan sebanyak 55,222.67 tan.

Perak merekodkan sebagai pengeluaran utama tuna neritik sebanyak 16,933.90 tan bernilai RM207.4 juta, diikuti Sabah dengan 12,479.22 tan bernilai RM152.9 juta.

Ketua Pengarah Perikanan, Datuk Adnan Hussain, menegaskan pihaknya komited dalam memastikan harga dan bekalan ikan terus stabil di pasaran khususnya pada musim perayaan ini.

“Peningkatan pendaratan ikan tuna neritik, termasuk ikan tongkol, adalah bukti usaha berterusan kerajaan dalam memastikan kelangsungan industri perikanan negara dan kestabilan harga untuk kesejahteraan rakyat,” katanya.



Adnan Hussain

Sektor: perikanan meningkat
Kenyataan itu turut menjelaskan

28/3/2025

HARIAN
METRO

BISNES

23

PRESTASI AGROBANK 2024

Pembiayaan tertinggi RM10.44b

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Kuala Lumpur

Agrobank mencatat rekod penyaluran pembiayaan tertinggi sebanyak RM10.44 bilion membabitkan tiga segmen perniagaan utamanya bagi 2024.

Presiden dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Agrobank, Datuk Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin berkata, prestasi itu menunjukkan pertumbuhan ketara sebanyak 25.46 peratus yang mengatasi pertumbuhan tahun sebelumnya (2023)



TENGGU AHMAD BADLI

sebanyak 15.97 peratus. Katanya, jumlah portfolio pembiayaan juga meningkat sebanyak RM1.2 bilion yang juga kenaikan memberangsangkan seba-

nyak 72.08 peratus berbanding pencapaian pertumbuhan pada 2023.

"Peningkatan ini didorong prestasi luar biasa yang dicapai tiga segmen perniagaan utama iaitu segmen perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) berjumlah RM547.68 juta (161.08 peratus melebihi sasaran), segmen Ar-Rahnu dengan RM186.92 juta (155.76 peratus melebihi sasaran) dan segmen mikro dengan RM181.21 juta (100.67 peratus melebihi sasaran).

"Bagi 2025, Agrobank menyarankan peningkatan jumlah pembiayaan kepada RM12 bilion," katanya pada taklimat media prestasi da-

2024 Agrobanki, kelmarin.

Beliau berkata, baki deposit juga menunjukkan pertumbuhan yang sihat dan tertinggi dalam tempoh lima tahun pada RM13.25 bilion.

Menurutnya, prestasi Agrobank yang kukuh dalam aktiviti pengumpulan deposit dapat dilihat pada nisbah Akaun Semasa Akaun Simpanan (Casa) yang berada pada paras 44 peratus daripada jumlah deposit, mengatasi purata industri perbankan yang hanya 31 peratus.

Selain itu, baki deposit juga menunjukkan pertumbuhan sihat dan men-

lam tempoh lima tahun iaitu RM13.25 bilion.

"Tumuh pendapatan juga pada trajektori positif, mencapai RM1.26 bilion dengan pertumbuhan 9.32 peratus berbanding tahun sebelumnya yang juga pencapaian tertinggi dalam tempoh tiga tahun," katanya.

Pencapaian itu disumbang oleh pertumbuhan yang stabil dalam pembiayaan dan pendapatan sampingan daripada pelaburan (naik sebanyak 22.8 peratus), usaha pemuliharaan sebanyak 9.67 peratus) serta pendapatan berasaskan yuran (menokok 9.95 peratus).

Pada 2024, Agrobank me-

nyalurkan pembiayaan untuk usahawan Bumiputera, sebahagian besarnya kepada segmen PKS berjumlah RM222.97 juta (40 peratus) dan diikuti segmen korporat sebanyak RM209.84 juta (38 peratus) serta segmen mikro RM121.47 juta (22 peratus).

Tengku Ahmad Badli berkata, bagi tahun ini, Agrobank menyasarkan pembiayaan PKS berjumlah RM600 juta.

"Bagi segmen PKS, sektor sokongan menerima peruntukan tertinggi sebanyak RM96.38 juta, manakala sektor penternakan menerima RM54.08 juta," katanya.

Agrobank reaches record-high in financing disbursement

By SYAZWANI HASNIZAM
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KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Pertanian Malaysia Bhd, or also known as Agrobank, aims to achieve RM12bil in financing disbursement with an increase in net financing growth of up to RM1.6bil in 2025.

President and chief executive officer Datuk Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin said the bank will be focusing on self-sufficiency level segments, including the automation, ruminant, as well as the micro industries.

"From our discussions with the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry, we are in the process of changing the dependency of the fisheries sector to aquaculture. Currently, the ratio stands at 60:40 in favour of fish capture, but by 2030, the goal is to reverse this to 40:60," he said as aquaculture was added to be among the key focus areas.

The bank also targets to provide RM220mil in financing for micro small and medium enterprises and RM600mil for the small and medium enterprises (SME) sector.

"For the SME sector, we will cap the maximum financing to be not more than RM5mil, following the government's definitions. Anything above RM30mil, we will consider for corporate financing," he told the media at the Agrobank 2024 Performance Review and 2025 Outlook event on Wednesday.

In 2024, Agrobank reached a record-high in financing disbursement of RM10.44bil with a recorded performance across all sectors. The number of disbursements recorded has shown a growth of up to 25.46% year-on-year (y-o-y), surpassing 2023's growth of 15.97%.

Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah attributed the outstanding performance to three of its major business segments – namely the SME, Ar-Rahnu and micro segments.

The SME segment had seen an increase to



Strategic priorities: (From left) Agrobank chief strategy officer Mohamad Taufik Mahamad Zakaria, Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah and chief business officer Syed Hairul Anuar Syed Fadzil at the Agrobank Iftar, 2024 Performance Review and 2025 Outlook event.

RM547.68mil, which was 161.08% above the target, while Ar-Rahnu had increased to RM186.92mil, above by 155.76% of the target.

The micro segment jumped to RM181.21mil, also above target by 100.67%. "Our deposit balance also showed healthy growth to RM13.25bil, the highest in five years."

"Our strong performance in deposit taking activities is reflected in our current account savings account ratio, which stood at 44% over total deposits, outperforming the banking industry's average at 31%," he said.

Additionally, the bank's total income was noted to have maintained its positive trajectory – reaching RM1.26bil with 9.32% y-o-y growth.

He attributed the achievement towards the steady growth in financing and ancillary

of Excellence. On top of that, he shared that 10.23 million transactions valued at RM10.53bil in digital transactions were recorded in 2024, over the span of three years, following the bank's educational campaign in promoting digital literacy.

"As an example, Agrobank's AGRONetBIZ recorded 890,000 transactions, which is a 32% increase.

"Meanwhile the transaction value of QR, a payment of services, soared to 4.16 trillion, which is a 247% growth.

"In addition, we have exceeded several targets, namely the implementation of DuitNow QR, AgroCash-i, deposits as well as takaful transactions," he said.

Moving forward into 2025, Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah said Agrobank will continue to play a key role as the nation's agricultural development financial institution by charting the path to drive agricultural growth and resilience through innovative financial solutions, digital transformation and sustainable agricultural practices.

He stated that Agrobank will expand initiatives to stimulate the modernisation of the agricultural sector through affordable financial solutions and programmes that encourage the use of smart agricultural technology, precision farming systems and Industry 4.0.

He added that the bank will also strengthen its commitment to financial inclusion, support the transition of the agricultural sector toward more sustainable activities and integrate climate risk assessments into its core lending practices, thus attracting and developing talent to advance Agrobank's development agenda in the agricultural sector.

"Through these strategic priorities, Agrobank aims to catalyse a more resilient, inclusive and technology-driven agricultural sector while ensuring environmental stewardship and community development remain central to our mission," he added.

Agrobank's disbursement in 2024 hits record high RM10.44b

■ BY HAVATUN RAZAK
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KUALA LUMPUR Agrobank achieved a record disbursement of RM10.44 billion in 2024, marking 25.46% year-on-year growth compared to the 15.97% growth recorded in 2023.

Agrobank's president/CEO Tengku Ahmad Basri said the bank's total disbursement financing expanded by RM1.21 billion, a 72.08% increase over 2023's growth.

"The growth was driven by strong performance across three key segments—the micro segment with 660% increase to RM6 million (51.08% above target), the Agro-bro segment at RM186.92 million (155.76% above target), and the micro segment with RM181.21 million (100.67% above target)," he said during Agrobank's 2024 performance review and reflection media conference on Wednesday night.

He commented, "Our disbursements showed significant growth, reflecting our unwavering support for the development of rural and agribusiness sectors."

He said deposit balance also showed healthy growth to RM13.25 billion, the highest in five years.

"Our strong performance in deposit taking activities is reflected in our CASA (current account savings) deposits, which grew by 44% over total deposits, outperforming the banking industry's average at 31%."

Total income reached RM1.26 billion with 9.32% year-on-year growth – the highest in five years.

"This achievement was enabled by steady growth in financing and ancillary income from investments (up by 22.8%), recovery efforts (up by 50.9%), as well as fee-based income (up by 10.9%) compared to 2023," he said.

As the bank advances into 2025, he said, it is intensifying efforts across four interconnected areas.

First, it will expand initiatives to catalyse the growth of agribusinesses through affordable financial solutions and programmes, which would encourage the adoption of smart farming technologies, precision agriculture systems and industry 4.0 solutions.

Second, it will deepen commitment to financial inclusion by exploring the expansion of labetal solutions to agricultural sectors beyond paddy and enhancing their service offerings to rural communities.

Third, it will continue to foster the transition of the agriculture sector towards more sustainable activities and integrate climate/risk assessment into their credit/ lending processes.

Finally, it is committed to attracting and nurturing diverse talent who will continue to advance Agrobank's developmental agenda in the agriculture sector.

Through these strategic priorities, Agrobank is committed to driving inclusive and technology-driven agricultural sector while ensuring environmental stewardship and community development remain central to our mission," said Tengku Ahmad Basri Shah.

Turning to foreign seeds to boost yields

By WANI MUTHIAH
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KLANG: In a bid to increase their yields, some rice farmers have resorted to buying hybrid seeds from China online despite the fact that the practice is not permitted without proper endorsement.

Sekinchan rice farmer Yap Kam Phua said some 100 farmers in the district were already doing this and enjoying a harvest that is more than double their previous yield.

"We can reach up to 14 tonnes per hectare with the hybrid padi seeds but it is quite expensive and costs about RM30 to RM40 per kilogram. Local varieties cost only RM65 for a 25kg sack," Yap said in an interview.

Another Sekinchan farmer, Mohd. Asri Badron, said some farmers were also buying a variety of non-hybrid seeds from another neighbouring country.

"They are buying the padi seeds online and are paying up to RM60 per kg to increase their yields," said Mohd. Asri.

However, the irony is that the seeds had originated from a Malaysian species, he added.

"They took the seeds from here and upgraded them to suit their terrain, climate and soil, and they are now being bought and used by Malaysian farmers," said Mohd Asri.

Sekinchan assemblyman Datuk Ng Suez Lim, who is playing a pivotal role in upgrading his constituency's rice production, said farmers may have resorted to sourcing their own padi seeds because the ones from the Malaysian Agriculture Research and Development Institute (MARDI) did not meet their expectations.

"They feel the seeds from MARDI are old and have been kept for years and the yield from them is not encouraging. The plants were also found to be unresistant to the various diseases that attack padi," said Ng.



In our own backyard: Noraziyah says there are many local experts who can create padi seed variants.

come with different characteristics after every generation.

"Hybrid seeds are offspring of distinctly different parental types. In simple terms, it's a marriage between two different species and the offspring will have the features of both parents."

"But when the child marries, it will have an entirely different structure of its own," she explained.

She added on the other hand, the inbred variety was uniform and had the same fixed characteristics for every generation and planting season.

She said the government must monitor the entry of padi seeds from other countries to avoid the presence of invasive pest species that may be attached to the seeds which can cause an outbreak and adversely affect the rice industry and food security.

"The problem is that there are many entry points and 'backlanes' and because of that the entry of the seeds cannot be controlled," she added.

Noraziyah concurred with Ng that initiatives to produce good quality seeds must be improved but added that it should not just be MARDI's responsibility.

"Entities such as UKM, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Malaysian Nuclear Agency have proven they have the ability to create new varieties of padi seeds such as the UKMRC2, UKMRC8, Putra 1, Putra 2, and NMRI52."

"So, cooperation between domestic and foreign institutions, especially from regional nations, is needed, with more research funding, to support the development of new varieties of padi suitable for local climate and domestic climate change patterns," she added.

There are many experts in Malaysia, she said, who can study and create new padi varieties but funding and grants were limited even though food security was one of the country's main focus areas.

Kebangsaan Malaysia's (UKM) Biological Sciences and Biotechnology Department.

She said although the hybrid seeds from China could increase yields, they came with their own drawbacks.

"Farmers must first understand the difference between hybrid and inbred seeds," said Noraziyah.

"Hybrid seeds can only be used for one generation or season and new seeds have to be bought each time for replanting."

She added that hybrid seeds saved from one harvest and used for replanting tended to produce very low yields as hybrid seeds

"So, MARDI needs to be more proactive and obtain high-yield seeds from neighbouring countries to examine and see if they can be improved for domestic use."

"They have to think outside the box and initiate a paradigm shift. They may need to meet with all the stakeholders to get their opinion," said Ng.

Farmers who want to bring in seeds from other countries have to first obtain permission from the Agriculture Department for plant materials, and the seeds must also be quarantined before use, said Dr. Noraziyah Abd Aziz Shamsudin, of Universiti