



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
ISNIN 19 MEI 2025

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UKK KPKM

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

Dept to review **import plan** amid swine fever outbreak

➤ Proposal comes after several farms in Selangor closed, causing meat supply shortage in market: Food security minister

KUALA LUMPUR: The Veterinary Services Department will review a proposal from the Federation of Pork Sellers Associations to import pork from Thailand, Brazil and China as a temporary measure to overcome local supply shortages.

Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu said the proposal comes after several pig farms in Selangor were closed due to an outbreak of African swine fever.

"Malaysia is still able to import pork from countries in Europe, Australia, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

"We encourage importers to source pork from these countries."

He highlighted that the shortage has hurt local pig farmers and led to a sharp increase in fresh pork prices,

impacting consumers.

A whole local pig is now priced at RM1,800 per 100kg, rising from between RM1,300 and RM1,400 per 100kg since last year.

The Agriculture and Food Security Ministry previously said thousands of pigs were culled in Selangor and Malacca, which forced a drop in pork supply and pushed meat prices higher.

Mohamad said the ministry would work closely with the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry to review proposals for pork price controls.

Price regulations, under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011, are typically applied during festive seasons when demand is high, Bernama reported.

For a long-term solution to

address African swine fever, industry players are urged to upgrade their farms to a modern pig farming (MPF) system, which is proven to reduce the risk of diseases.

Mohamad welcomed support from the governments of Penang, Perak and Sabah for MPF implementation.

He also noted that Sarawak and Negeri Sembilan are taking steps to establish special pig farming areas (PFA) dedicated to the pig industry.

MPF and PFA use modern techniques to improve biosecurity and minimise the chance of disease outbreaks on farms.

While the transition to MPF requires significant investment, the ministry is ready to assist stakeholders through a streamlined process and plans to hold an engagement session soon.

"It is our hope that these measures would help stabilise the pork supply, benefit consumers and farmers, and enable us to achieve a 90% self-sufficiency rate in local pork production by 2030," said Mohamad.

Penang Pig Farmers Association

chairman Wong Fu Sheng said the number of pig farms has decreased by 25% following a major outbreak last year.

Wong said the Valdor, Sungai Jawi area has the highest number of pig farms in the state.

"The African swine fever outbreak forced farmers to reduce their livestock numbers to avoid overcrowding, which could speed up the spreading of the virus.

"Many farmers here are still recovering from the losses they suffered as they were forced to cull their pigs to contain the outbreak. African swine fever is still our biggest challenge."

He also said the price of maize, a key feed component, has risen from RM800 per tonne before the Covid-19 pandemic to RM2,000 at its peak.

"On top of dealing with the African swine fever outbreak, the rising cost of feed is putting further pressure on us," he said.

According to the Veterinary Services Department, there were 401 pig farms in Peninsular Malaysia and 118 in East Malaysia as of 2023.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/5/2025	BERITA HARIAN	NASIONAL	17

Bimbang ikan bandaraya jajah Sungai Kampung Ara

Seremban: Inventori perikanan darat di Sungai Kayu Ara, Mambau, di sini memperoleh hasil yang disifatkan kritikal hanya lima kilogram (kg) daripada dua tan ikan yang ditangkap adalah ikan tempatan, manakala baki-nya ikan asing, majoriti spesis bandaraya (*Hypostomus Plecostomus*).

Inventori itu dilakukan Jabatan Perikanan Negeri Sembilan sejak kelmarin.

Pengarah Perikanan Negeri Sembilan, Kasim Tawe, berkata dalam tempoh dua hari program memburu ikan bandaraya, sebanyak dua tan ikan ditangkap.

“Ini program kedua memburu ikan asing di sungai ini yang mana kali pertama diadakan Oktober tahun lalu, dengan tangkapan 1.1 tan ikan bandaraya.

“Ini menunjukkan keadaan sungai ini agak kritikal dengan kehadiran ikan asing dan semestinya ia sangat membimbangkan sekiranya tiada tindakan diambil,” katanya.

Terdahulu beliau turun padang pada Program Inventori Perikanan Darat dan Memburu Ikan Asing Peringkat Negeri Sembilan di Sungai Kampung Kayu Ara, semalam.

Bagaimanapun Kasim berkata, ada perkembangan positif apabila beberapa spesies ikan asli muncul semula.

“Antaranya ikan keli kayu, haruan dan selat dengan jumlah berat keseluruhan kira-kira lima kilogram berbanding hanya satu kilogram sebelum ini. Jadi masih ada harapan untukbaiki ekosistem sungai ini,” katanya.

DPK platform pelaburan eksklusif

Pelabur yakin SPKP pelaburan terbaik, selamat dan berbaloi

Oleh SITI NOOR FAEZAH MUDA
SHAH ALAM



Pertubuhan Peladang Kebangsaan (NAFAS) terus berusaha membuka peluang pelaburan yang stabil, khas untuk ahli peladang menerusi Skim Pelaburan Khas Peladang (SPKP) – Dana Peladang Kebangsaan (DPK), sekali gus menjadi platform pelaburan yang eksklusif, diyakini dan memberi pulangan kompetitif setiap tahun.

Sejak DPK ditubuhkan pada tahun 2013, skim pelaburan itu menjadi pilihan utama dalam kalangan pelabur yang mengutamakan kestabilan, pulangan lebih konsisten serta ketelusan pengurusan.

Pengurus Besar Pertubuhan Peladang Negeri (PPN) Perak, Mohd Shakran Shamsudin berkata, dalam membuat pemilihan pelaburan, perkara utama yang sering menjadi keutamaan ialah tahap risikonya.

"Kebanyakan individu cenderung memilih pelaburan yang berisiko rendah contohnya seperti faedah bank atau pelaburan-pelaburan yang dikawal selia kerana ia lebih stabil dan selamat.

"Kita berkeyakinan tinggi dengan DPK, yang merupakan pelaburan berisiko, mampu memberi pulangan yang baik kepada pelabur dalam kalangan pertubuhan peladang dan ahli-ahli.

YUHAN PE



MOHD SARIFUDIN



YUHA

"Antara pertimbangan dalam pemilihan pelaburan ialah apabila kita mempunyai lebih dana yang tidak digunakan untuk projek semasa," katanya.

Menurut Mohd Shakran, dana lebih itu wajar dilaburkan di tempat yang selamat dan berisiko rendah bagi memastikan nilainya terus berkembang tanpa menjejaskan perancangan sedia ada.

Ujarnya, skim pelaburan SPKP-DPK turut memberi manfaat kepada ahli dan pertubuhan peladang itu sendiri.

"Saya dapati daripada dana peladang ini juga telah pun membantu ahli dan pertubuhan peladang itu sendiri untuk mendapat manfaat daripada pinjaman-pinjaman melalui DPK ini.

"Maknanya dengan adanya duit lebih daripada PPN Perak, kita dikumpulkan bersama-sama dengan pelabur-pelabur lain dan akhirnya manfaat itu kita dapat agihkan semula kepada ahli dan juga pertubuhan peladang itu sendiri," ujarnya.

Jelas Mohd Shakran, DPK telah membangunkan struktur penilaian yang kukuh dan sistematik.

Beliau berkata, ia membuktikan keyakinan terhadap kecekapan sistem DPK, yang hanya menilai dan membiayai projek-projek bersesuaian serta berpotensi.

"Pendekatan ini membantu memastikan risiko pelaburan kekal rendah dan terkawal pada masa hadapan. Bagi saya, DPK juga merangka satu proses permohonan yang tersusun dan teliti merangkumi peringkat permohonan, penilaian risiko serta ketulusan.

"Setiap langkah ini menunjukkan komitmen DPK dalam memastikan setiap pelaburan yang dibuat benar-benar selamat dan tidak membebankan pada masa hadapan.

"DPK telah membina DPK telah membina struktur penilaian yang mantap dari peringkat awal sehinggalah ke tahap ketulusan, sekali gus memperkukuh keyakinan terhadap kebolehpercayaan sistem ini," katanya.

Tawaran menarik

Dalam pada itu, menurut Pengurus Besar Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK) Hutan Melintang, Mohd Sarifudin



NAFAS perlu bergerak seiring dengan koperasi pertanian global untuk memperkasakan teknologi moden.

"Kebanyakan individu cenderung memilih pelaburan yang berisiko rendah contohnya seperti faedah bank atau pelaburan-pelaburan yang dikawal selia kerana ia lebih stabil dan selamat."

- Mohd Shakran



FAIRUS AZMIHA



SAIZUL SOFIAN

Selain itu, pelabur DPK, Fairus Azmiha Salleh berkata, tidak ada institusi lain pada tahun 2016 yang menjamin dividen setinggi itu sebaliknya DPK menawarkan dividen 10 peratus ketika itu.

"Bagi saya, tawaran ini amat menarik. Konsep yang dibuat oleh DPK itu sendiri iaitu selain daripada dividen 10 peratus, simpanan dan dividen ahli sudah ditolak zakat.

"Ia menarik minat saya kerana penolakan zakat dan sebagainya jarang ditawarkan oleh mana-mana institusi lain," katanya.

Sementara itu, bagi Saizul Sofian Musa yang juga pelabur DPK, dividen diberikan organisasi berkenaan kekal relevan, berbaloi dan tinggi berbanding saham-saham lain.

"DPK satu-satunya memberi pulangan yang paling tinggi. Saya tengok saham-saham lain, yang paling tinggi pun adalah 5.7 peratus.

"DPK memberikan pulangan sebanyak sembilan peratus pada tahun lepas, saya terus kekal dengan DPK. Pulangan DPK masih tinggi dan kekal berbanding dengan bank-bank konvensional.

Untuk rekod, pada tahun kewangan berakhir 31 Disember 2023, DPK telah mencatatkan kadar dividen sebanyak sembilan peratus, dengan agihan melibatkan enam peratus dan tiga peratus bonus bagi pelaburan RM50,000 unit pertama.

NAFAS akan mengumumkan kadar pulangan pelaburan bagi SPKP-DPK bagi tahun kewangan 2024 dalam masa terdekat.

Pengumuman rasmi tersebut dijangka memberi gambaran prestasi semasa dana sekali gus menjadi indikator keyakinan pelabur terhadap inisiatif yang diterajui NAFAS.



Pelabur dan ahli mengharapkan DPK akan mencatatkan kadar dividen lebih baik pada pengumuman kali ini berbanding sebanyak sembilan peratus pada tahun kewangan berakhir 31 Disember 2023.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/5/2025	BERITA HARIAN	PENDIDIKAN	20

UiTM hasilkan inovasi terkini kaedah tanam cendawan jerami

Tandan sawit dijadikan bongkah dapat pendekkan masa penanaman

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Kuala Pilah: Unit Perkembangan Teknologi Cendawan, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Negeri Sembilan Kampus Kuala Pilah berjaya membangunkan kaedah penanaman cendawan jerami atau nama komersialnya Volvariella dengan teknik lebih mudah dan cekap berbanding kaedah tradisional.

Pengarahnya, Dr Noor Azrini Umor, berkata sebelum ini penanaman cendawan jerami menggunakan tandan kosong sawit dalam kuantiti besar serta memerlukan proses pengkomposan selama 10 hari.

Inovasi terkini katanya, hanya memerlukan tandan sawit dikisar dan dibentuk menjadi bongkah seberat dua kilogram, tanpa perlu melalui proses pengkomposan, sekali gus memendekkan masa penanaman dan mengurangkan keperluan tenaga kerja.

"Jika dahulu banyak tandan sawit digunakan dan ia memer-



Cendawan jerami yang dihasilkan menerusi kaedah baharu diperkenalkan UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan, Kampus Kuala Pilah.

lukan tenaga kerja yang ramai, kini prosesnya lebih ringkas. Hanya perlu kisar tandan sawit dan bentuk menjadi bongkah, jauh lebih mudah dan praktikal," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kaedah ini membolehkan tanaman dapat dituai seawal hari ke-20 dan berterusan sehingga hari ke-35.

Dijadikan baja organik

Tambah beliau, kajian turut dijalankan terhadap penggunaan semula bongkah cendawan selepas

penuaian pertama, sama ada ia boleh digunakan bagi tanaman kali kedua atau dijadikan baja organik.

Katanya, 100 kilogram (kg) tandan kisar mampu menghasilkan antara 20 hingga 30 kg cendawan, dengan harga pasaran mencecah RM30 sekilogram.

"Cendawan ini bukan sahaja mengandungi sumber protein yang tinggi, malah berpotensi dikembangkan sebagai produk hiliran untuk menjana pendapatan sampingan," ujarnya.

'Tak malu pun jual telur itik'

Graduan SKM kubur impian bergelar cef, sambung legasi perniagaan arwah bapa

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Yan

Impian bergelar cef terkubur demi membantu keluarga mengusahakan perniagaan telur itik arwah ayah.

Itu pengorbanan Muhammad Fawwaz Zolkfley Mohd, 22, graduan Sijil Kemahiran Malaysia (SKM) Tahap Tiga dalam bidang kulinari dari GiatMara Pendang, Kedah.

Anak kelapan daripada sembilan beradik itu berkata, dia tidak malu mencari rezeki dalam bidang itu kerana situasi ekonomi kini tidak membenarkan seseorang memilih pekerjaan.

"Tak ada apa nak dimalukan kerana sekarang-kurangnya saya dapat bantu keluarga usahakan apa yang arwah ayah (Zolkfley Mohd Ibrahim@Ismail) tinggalkan," katanya.

Kesungguhan Muhammad Fawwaz mencari rezeki jelas terpancar apabila dia aktif menggunakan platform TikTok untuk membuat siaran langsung dan memuat naik video bagi menarik pelanggan membeli telur itik jualan-

nya. Berkongsi lanjut, Muhammad Fawwaz memberitahu, sebelum ini dia pernah bekerja sebagai pembantu di kedai makan.

"Sejak Mei tahun lalu, saya mula membantu keluarga menjual telur itik bagi menambah penda-

patan. "Dari situ, timbul minat bekerja sendiri sebagai penjual telur. Arwah ayah banyak beri galakan sebelum meninggal dunia akibat jangkitan kuman dalam paru-paru pada awal Ramadan lalu.

"Saya nekad lebih serius kerana mahu membantu emak (Rusliza Mohd Rashid) yang sebelum ini dibantu abang (Mohamad Amzar Zolkfley Mohd)," katanya.

Selain menjual, rutin harian Muhammad Fawwaz termasuk mencuci telur baru menetas, mengasingkan mengikut grad dan meletakkan harga.

Dia juga bertanggungjawab membuat penghantaran terus kepada peniaga kedai runcit dan pelanggan yang membuat pesanan.

"Arwah ayah menternak itik yang kini berjumlah 230, jadi bekalan telur mencukupi daripada ternakan sendiri.

"Cabaran utama adalah harga makanan itik yang mahal, namun ia perlu dihadapi. Selain itu, kami tiada alat khas mencuci telur, jadi setiap hari saya bersihkan telur dengan tangan," katanya.

Muhammad Fawwaz bersyukur kerana setakat ini tiada pihak memperlekehkannya hanya kerana menjual telur itik. Malah, ramai memberi sokongan dan dia bersyukur pendapatannya mencukupi untuk keperluan diri.

"Alhamdulillah, rezeki membantu keluarga menjual telur ini cukup untuk saya. Hebahan di TikTok banyak membantu dan abang mencadangkan untuk membuat siaran langsung di platform itu kerana zaman sekarang kita perlu lebih berusaha mencari pelanggan.

"Setakat ini, saya tidak terfikir mencari pekerjaan lain kerana mahu membantu keluarga mengembangkan lagi perniagaan," katanya.

**“
Rezeki
membantu
keluarga menjual
telur ini cukup
untuk saya
Fawwaz**



MUHAMMAD Fawwaz kini menternak 230 itik yang menjadi punca pendapatannya.

ORGANIC SOLUTION

Restoring soil with innovation

Eco Foodsoft champions sustainable farming through vermicast compost

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In a world grappling with environmental challenges and dwindling soil fertility, Eco Foodsoft Sdn Bhd, a Malaysian-based pioneer in organic compost production, is transforming the way farmers approach agriculture.

Founded in 2017 by Jason Teo Giin Liang, Eco Foodsoft began by collecting food waste from restaurants, which was composted into organic fertilisers.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic forced the company to adapt, shifting to processing organic waste from factories and focusing on supporting farmers across Malaysia.



Farmers must prioritise the health of their land because land is finite.

JASON TEO GIIN LIANG
Eco Foodsoft Sdn Bhd
founder and director

RESTORING SOIL HEALTH

Teo said Malaysian farmlands have suffered from overuse of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, leading to deteriorating soil quality. This degradation not only reduces crop yields, but also harms farmers' health and the environment.

"Farmlands today are over-reliant on chemical fertilisers. The soil has become so depleted of liv-

ing matter that crops can barely grow," he said.

"If a hectare of padi field once produced eight tonnes of rice, after 10 to 15 years it now only yields four tonnes. This is a direct result of poor soil health."

Eco Foodsoft's answer lies in its high-quality organic compost, enhanced with vermicast — a nutrient-rich byproduct of earthworms that significantly boosts soil fertility.

Teo said the company had conducted a research with Malaysia's Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), which showed that using Eco Foodsoft's compost can increase yields by 30 per cent.

SUSTAINABILITY AT THE CORE

Eco Foodsoft follows a circular economy model, where organic waste, such as coffee grounds, soy dust and cow dung, is collected and composted using a proprietary Japanese formula, which accelerates the process from six to nine months to just three months.

This method not only reduces land usage for composting, but also lowers compost affordable for farmers.

Eco Foodsoft also repurposes durian husks, tackling the challenge of managing thousands of tonnes of durian shell waste generated in Malaysia annually.

This innovative approach not only enhances farmers' productivity, but also mitigates environmental pollution caused by organic waste in landfills, creating a synergy between agricultural efficiency and environmental sustainability.

In essence, the company's process restores soil health while reducing the detrimental effects of accumulated organic waste at landfills.

Teo described the process: "We turn waste into gold, helping farmers improve their soil, grow healthier crops, and close the sustainability loop. Consumers benefit from higher-quality produce, and the waste they generate goes back into the cycle."

UNIQUE FEATURES OF ECO FOODSOFT COMPOST

Eco Foodsoft stands out as Malaysia's largest vermicast producer, using advanced techniques to create compost that functions as both fertilisers and soil conditioner.

Teo said the company's package also includes customised "Soil Solutions", where farmers will receive soil analysis and tailored composting methods based on their farm types, whether they are vegetable



Eco Foodsoft Sdn Bhd's high-quality organic compost is enhanced with vermicast, a nutrient-rich byproduct of earthworms that significantly boosts soil fertility.

farming or palm oil plantations.

Teo added that different types of farms will have different "cures". For example, a vegetable farm will need plowing with compost, while palm oil plantations have dense soil, making it impossible to be plowed.

Eco Foodsoft also offers consumer-friendly packs, which are smaller compost packages for households, encouraging home gardening and organic practices.

Teo said it is crucial to use organic composts for at-home farming as chemical fertilisers can be harmful especially for children, elders and pets.

Eco Foodsoft also strives to raise educational outreach by regularly conducting workshops in schools to raise awareness about sustainable farming and organic agriculture.

CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

One of the biggest hurdles in Malaysia's agriculture industry is the reluctance of farmers to adopt organic compost due to cost concerns as many still view chemical fertilisers as more affordable and effective in the short term.

However, Teo warns that this mindset ignores the long-term damage to soil health and crop quality and focuses on only the return on investment.

"When farmers switch to organic compost, they see significant improvements," he said, citing a case in Cameron Highlands where a client saw better produce quality and longer shelf life with Eco Foodsoft compost.

"But when they reverted to using cow dung to save cost, the quality dropped, and they came back to us."

Teo also advocates for greater collaboration among Malaysian farmers, drawing inspiration from countries like Japan and Thailand, where knowledge-sharing has strengthened their agricultural sectors.

Teo also warned against the overuse of chemical fertilisers that poses significant health and

environmental risks, including chemical poisoning.

According to the World Health Organisation, pesticide poisoning leads to approximately three million hospitalisations and 220,000 deaths annually as prolonged exposure to these chemicals can cause severe health issues, such as cancer, among farmers and agricultural workers.

By adopting organic compost, such as Eco Foodsoft's vermicast-enriched fertilisers, farmers can reduce their reliance on chemical inputs as organic compost naturally replenishes soil nutrients and improves soil health, providing a sustainable alternative that protects both farmers' wellbeing and the environment.

A CALL TO ACTION

Teo urges both farmers and consumers to consider the bigger picture.

"Farmers must prioritise the health of their land because land is finite. In 20 to 30 years, we could face a land shortage if we don't act now."

"Farmers must also take caution of the impact of chemical fertilisers on their health, which can cause serious damage due to high exposure to chemicals."

He stresses the importance of consumers supporting organic products.

"Yes, they're more expensive, but they're a small price to pay for protecting our soil and environment."

LEADING THE WAY FOR CHANGE

As one of Malaysia's pioneers in organic compost production, Eco Foodsoft is paving the way for a more sustainable agricultural future.

With increasing awareness and demand, Teo envisions a time when organic compost becomes an integral part of farming in Malaysia.

"Will it cost more to use our products? Maybe in the short term. But the alternative — exhausting the soil and buying new land — is far more costly."



Eco Foodsoft also offers consumer-friendly packs, which are smaller compost packages for households.