



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN  
ISNIN 30 MAC 2026**

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UKK KPKM

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

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# Kerajaan pastikan bekalan makanan mencukupi

Akses kepada rakyat sentiasa terjamin ketika berhadapan dengan konflik di Asia Barat

Oleh Mohammad Khairil Ashraf Mohd Khalid  
bhnews@bh.com.my

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kerajaan akan terus memperkukuh sistem makanan negara bagi memastikan bekalan mencukupi dan akses kepada rakyat sentiasa terjamin ketika berhadapan dengan konflik di Asia Barat.

Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, berkata itu tanggungjawab yang sedang dan akan terus dilaksanakan.

"Dalam keadaan dunia hari

ini, konflik geopolitik di Asia Barat bukan sekadar isu luar negara, tetapi ia turut memberi kesan kepada rantaian bekalan makanan global.

"Kita mungkin tidak nampak secara langsung tapi impaknya boleh sampai ke meja makan," katanya menerusi hantaran Facebook, semalam.

Pada 13 Mac, kerajaan memberi jaminan bekalan makanan negara berada pada tahap mencukupi sekurang-kurangnya sehingga pertengahan tahun ini walaupun ketidaktentuan global susulan konflik di Asia Barat, seperti laporan BERNAMA.

## Jamin bekalan baja cukup

Sementara itu, Pertubuhan Peladang Kebangsaan (NAFAS) memberi jaminan bekalan baja padi negara mencukupi buat masa ini walaupun berlaku ketidaktentuan geopolitik di Asia Barat dan penutupan Selat Hormuz.

NAFAS berkata, pihaknya melalui Malaysian NPK Fertilizer Sdn Bhd mempunyai stok

bahan mentah mencukupi untuk pengeluaran baja sebatian sehingga Ogos depan, bagi pelaksanaan Skim Baja Padi Kerajaan Persekutuan, Skim Insentif Pengeluaran Padi, Skim Subsidi Baja dan Racun Padi Bukit/Huma membabitkan lebih 200,000 pesawah.

"Bekalan ini disokong sumber yang pelbagai, termasuk urea daripada sumber tempatan, manakala bahan mentah fosfat diimport dari China, India, Australia dan Maghribi serta potassium dari Kanada dan Russia.

"Kepelbagaian sumber bekalan ini membolehkan rantaian bekalan kekal stabil dan berdaya tahan, sekali gus mengurangkan kesan terhadap pengeluaran baja walaupun berdepan ketidaktentuan global," katanya.

Dari segi harga, NAFAS berkata, konflik di Asia Barat memberi tekanan jelas kepada pasaran global baja, khususnya bahan mentah berasaskan nitrogen seperti urea dan fosfat.

"Negara pengeluar utama se-

perti Oman, Qatar, Arab Saudi dan Iran, selain China, Russia, Australia dan India menguasai sebahagian besar pengeluaran bahan mentah baja dunia.

"Kesan ini turut dirasai pada peringkat global dengan kenaikan harga bahan mentah diunjurkan 40 peratus atau lebih susulan konflik yang berlaku.

"Berdasarkan pemantauan dan penilaian semasa oleh NAFAS, kos bahan mentah menunjukkan trend peningkatan yang ketara susulan ketidaktentuan geopolitik dan gangguan rantaian bekalan global," katanya.

NAFAS berkata, peningkatan kos bahan api dan caj insurans perkapalan yang dikenakan syarikat perkapalan meningkatkan kos jualan secara keseluruhan.

"Pada masa sama, sekatan eksport oleh negara pengeluar bahan mentah turut menyukarkan pembelian bahan mentah itu.

"Keadaan ini seterusnya menjejaskan kelancaran bekalan bahan mentah dan keupayaan

Dalam keadaan dunia hari ini, konflik geopolitik di Asia Barat bukan sekadar isu luar negara, tetapi ia turut memberi kesan kepada rantaian bekalan makanan global

Mohamad Sabu, Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan



penyediaan baja bagi program subsidi serta pasaran terbuka," katanya.

NAFAS berkata, sokongan intervensi kerajaan penting bagi membolehkan rundingan strategik dilaksanakan pada peringkat antarabangsa, demi memastikan kelangsungan bekalan baja ke negara ini.

"Sebagai langkah jangka panjang, NAFAS juga sedang meneroka kerjasama strategik bersama pengeluar bahan mentah global termasuk potensi pembangunan kemudahan pengeluaran dalam negara bagi memperkukuh jaminan bekalan dan kelestarian industri baja negara," katanya.

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## Minister calls for home farming as food risks rise

By **ARFA YUNUS**  
arfayunus@thestar.com.my

**PETALING JAYA:** From distant conflicts to dinner tables, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East are quietly reshaping global food supply chains with potential implications for Malaysia, says Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu (*pic*).

With this in mind, the Agriculture and Food Security Minister called on Malaysians to

adopt small-scale farming at home.

Mohamad said geopolitical conflicts in the Middle East were not merely foreign issues but were already affecting global food supply chains, with impacts that could reach households in Malaysia.

"We may not see it directly, but the effects can reach our dining tables," he said in a Facebook post yesterday.

He urged Malaysians to make use of even small spaces at home to grow basic food items such as chillies, vegetables and herbs, adding that such efforts could help reduce reliance on external supply while benefiting households.

"Even a small effort can reduce dependence and at the same time benefit the family."

Mohamad said the government would continue strengthening the

national food system to ensure sufficient supply and consistent access for the public.

"This is a responsibility that we are carrying out and will continue to implement."

He also called for collective action, encouraging Malaysians to start with whatever resources they have.

"God willing, small efforts today will become a great strength for the future," Mohamad added.

# Shift to homegrown greens

## Govt to boost local output and tighten imports

By KHOO GEK SAN  
geksan@thestar.com.my

**PETALING JAYA:** The focus will shift to the domestic vegetable supply as the government moves to strengthen food security and stabilise the market amid rising farming costs fuelled by the Middle East conflict.

With this in mind, the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry will review its vegetable production database to better match domestic supply with imports.

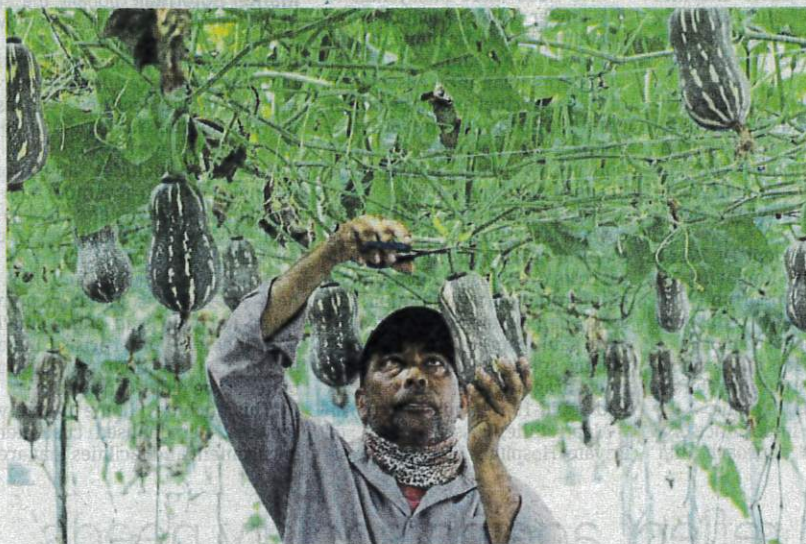
Deputy Minister Datuk Chan Foong Hin said, to enhance accuracy and timeliness, the ministry is progressively expanding digital reporting tools and encouraging greater farmer participation.

He said the Agriculture Department maintains an extensive database to support supply monitoring, strategic planning, and policy formulation.

The AgrisGeoPortal system, developed in 2009, supports national-level monitoring and management of food crop production, while the GeoTanaman system, introduced in 2017, enhances geospatial data visualisation, integration, and accessibility for stakeholders.

“Both systems were designed to collect, integrate, and standardise data from multiple sources, enabling continuous monitoring, accurate forecasting, and in-depth trend analysis.

“This allows the government to formulate informed policies, plan strategic initiatives, and respond



**Growing supply:** A worker harvesting pumpkin. Rising farming costs is spurring a push for local vegetable production.  
— ART CHEN/  
The Star

proactively to emerging challenges,” he told *The Star*.

Chan said the database is restricted to authorised government use due to the sensitivity of information, but added that the ministry is exploring secure ways to allow limited access in line with the government’s open data policy.

He said there is room for improvement, noting that some data collection processes are still manual, while farmer registration remains voluntary.

Chan said efforts were also ongoing to strengthen the domestic vegetable sector through improved productivity, adoption of modern agrotechnology, and better post-harvest management to enhance long-term resilience and competitiveness.

Federation of Vegetable Farmers Associations president Lim Ser Kwee, in backing the proposal, said a comprehensive database system would help better manage domestic vegetable supply, allowing imports only during genuine shortfalls.

Such a system, he said, would enable tighter control over imports, ensuring that certain items, such as beans, are not brought in excessively.

Agricultural economics expert Prof Datuk Dr Nasir Shamsudin said he supported a comprehensive production database to better align vegetable imports with actual domestic supply gaps.

“This will support local farmers and prevent an oversupply that depresses farm-gate prices.”

Prof Nasir said Malaysia’s current vegetable self-sufficiency ratio remained relatively low at 45.4% in 2023, with key crops such as round cabbage at 41%, chilli at 37.1% and ginger at 16.9%.

He said the country continued to rely on imports from China, Thailand, Indonesia and India to supplement local production.

“A comprehensive database with real-time data on output, acreage, yields, and demand will allow farmers to make more informed planting decisions and help the government manage

imports effectively.

“This would prevent excessive imports from undercutting local prices and discouraging production.”

Prof Nasir, who is with the Putra Business School, said implementation has been challenging as the local agriculture sector is dominated by smallholders, fragmented data collection, low digital adoption, and weak inter-agency coordination.

He said overcoming these structural constraints was essential for a more resilient and efficient food system.

“Malaysia’s vegetable sector shows mixed performance, with productivity uneven among smallholders due to rising costs, labour shortages, ageing farmers and limited technology adoption, he said.

“To strengthen self-sufficiency, the government should invest in precision agriculture, quality inputs and data-driven planning, while farmers embrace modern technologies and better management practices,” he said.

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## Meeting with farmers to resolve cost issues

**PETALING JAYA:** With tensions in the Middle East disrupting fertiliser supply and driving up diesel costs, the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry will meet vegetable farmers tomorrow to plan remedies.

Deputy Minister Datuk Chan Foong Hin, in confirming the meeting, said it was to enable the government to better address the issues.

Federation of Vegetable Farm-

ers Associations president Lim Ser Kwee said the dry season and sharp increases in diesel prices have made some farmers scale back on planting, which could reduce vegetable output for April.

He said a reliable production database would allow authorities to estimate domestic supply more accurately and enable importers to bring in only the vegetables in short supply.

This would protect local farm-

ers and allow the government to provide more targeted assistance, he added.

Lim said many farmers remained hesitant to expand production due to higher costs, especially with diesel prices having doubled in some areas, and dry weather further hindering planting.

"A rise in local vegetable prices next month is inevitable given the expected drop in output," he said.

**"A rise in local vegetable prices next month is inevitable given the expected drop in output."**

Lim Ser Kwee

**P**enyertaan golongan muda dalam sektor pertanian dan agromakanan terus menjadi antara isu penting dalam usaha memastikan keterjaminan makanan negara.

Data Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM) menerusi Laporan Interim Banci Pertanian 2024 menunjukkan hanya kira-kira 15 peratus tenaga kerja pertanian berumur bawah 40 tahun, sekali gus membayangkan penyertaan belia dalam sektor ini masih rendah dan menimbulkan persoalan mengenai masa depan tenaga kerja dalam industri ini.

Ikuti temu bual Wartawan Hafiz Ithnin bersama **Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan (KPKM), Datuk Chan Foong Hin** mengenai usaha kerajaan menarik minat generasi muda menceburi sektor pertanian.

**Statistik menunjukkan hanya kira-kira 15 peratus golongan muda di bawah 30 tahun terbahit dalam sektor pertanian. Adakah perkara ini membimbangkan dari segi kestabilan sektor dan keterjaminan makanan negara?**

Memang kerajaan sentiasa mempunyai pelbagai program untuk menggalakkan golongan muda menceburi sektor pertanian.

Antaranya melalui 16 institusi latihan yang menyediakan latihan berkaitan bidang pertanian kepada anak muda.

Program latihan ini bukan sahaja ditawarkan secara percuma. Malah peserta turut menerima elaun bulanan bagi menggalakkan lebih ramai golongan muda menyertainya.

Namun selepas tamat latihan, berapa peratus daripada mereka yang terus bekerja dalam

sektor pertanian masih dalam kajian.

Bagaimanapun, berdasarkan anggaran awal, kira-kira 70 peratus daripada mereka kembali bekerja dalam sektor yang sama selepas mengikuti latihan berkenaan.

**Apakah pendekatan yang diambil Kementerian untuk menarik lebih ramai golongan muda menyertai sektor pertanian?**

Salah satu pendekatan utama ialah melalui usaha mereka-majakan sektor pertanian.

Ini kerana gene-

rasi muda hari ini hidup dalam era teknologi. Jika kita hanya meminta mereka bekerja menggunakan kaedah tradisional seperti bekerja di sawah menggunakan peralatan biasa, kemungkinan besar ia kurang menarik minat mereka.

Sebab itu Kementerian menggalakkan penggunaan teknologi moden dalam pertanian.

Antara teknologi yang diperkenalkan termasuk penggunaan dron, selain kaedah *vertical farming* yang membolehkan sayur-sayuran dan buah-buahan ditanam dengan pendekatan lebih moden dan efisien.

Pendekatan ini dilihat lebih sesuai dengan minat generasi muda yang lebih terdedah kepada teknologi.

Selain itu, bagi sektor penternakan dan perikanan, Kementerian turut menyediakan kursus khas di 16 institusi latihan bagi memberi pendedahan kepada golongan muda mengenai peluang dalam bidang

terbahit.

**Pada pandangan Datuk, apakah punca utama golongan muda kurang berminat menyertai sektor pertanian?**

Pada pandangan saya, keadaan ini bukan sahaja berlaku dalam sektor pertanian.

Golongan muda kini ada banyak pilihan pekerjaan dan mereka juga lebih menghargai kebebasan serta fleksibiliti waktu bekerja.

Sebagai contoh, terdapat ramai anak muda yang memilih pekerjaan dalam sektor gig seperti menjadi pemandu e-hailing atau pekerjaan lain yang lebih fleksibel dari segi masa kerja.

Cabaran mendapatkan tenaga kerja ini bukan sahaja dihadapi sektor pertanian, malah sektor lain juga berdepan masalah sama, khususnya bagi pekerjaan di peringkat asas.

**Adakah faktor gaji turut memainkan peranan dalam menarik minat golongan muda?**

Ya, faktor gaji yang lumayan adalah antara per-

kara penting.

Jika kita mahu menarik minat golongan muda, pendapatan yang ditawarkan juga perlu kompetitif.

Seperti yang pernah dinyatakan oleh Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, syarikat besar digalakkan menawarkan gaji bermula sekitar RM3,000 kepada graduan TVET tertentu.

Langkah seperti ini boleh membantu menarik minat golongan muda untuk menceburi bidang pekerjaan tradisional termasuk dalam sektor pertanian.

**Apakah implikasi sekiranya golongan muda tidak menyertai sektor keterjaminan makanan?**

Jika kita bercakap mengenai keterjaminan makanan, kita juga perlu bercakap mengenai keterjaminan pekerjaan.

Sekiranya sektor pertanian semakin bergantung kepada pekerja asing, ia menimbulkan persoalan besar dalam jangka panjang.

Sebagai contoh, jika kita melihat ekosistem pertanian dari Pasar Borong Se-

HANYA kira-kira 15 peratus golongan muda di bawah 30 tahun terbahit dalam sektor pertanian.



# Orang muda tak minat pertanian

**Kerajaan sedia program galak pembabitan golongan belia**

layang hingga Cameron Highlands terdapat banyak kawasan pertanian yang tenaga kerjanya terdiri daripada buruh asing.

Perkara ini menimbulkan kebimbangan kerana jika trend ini berterusan dan tidak dapat diubah, ia boleh membawa kerugian besar kepada negara.

**Adakah pembabitan lebih ramai golongan muda boleh membantu mengurangkan kebergantungan terhadap import makanan?**

Import dan eksport makanan tidak semestinya bergantung kepada siapa yang bekerja dalam sektor itu.

Apa yang penting ialah produktiviti dalam negara. Namun persoalan utama ialah bagaimana kita mahu memastikan sektor pertanian terus didominasi oleh pekerja tempatan.

Bagi tujuan itu, kerajaan turut menyediakan pelbagai insentif dan sokongan kepada golongan muda.

Melalui kerjasama dengan Agrobank, terdapat program NextGen yang menawarkan geran padanan sehingga RM30,000 bagi projek permulaan dan RM50,000 bagi projek pengembangan kepada anak muda yang ingin memulakan atau mengembangkan projek pertanian mereka.

Langkah ini diharapkan dapat membantu menarik lebih ramai golongan muda menyertai sektor pertanian pada masa hadapan.



“**Golongan muda  
harga kebebasan  
serta fleksibiliti  
waktu bekerja**  
Foong Hin

| TARIKH    | MEDIA        | RUANGAN  | MUKA SURAT |
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| 30/3/2026 | SINAR HARIAN | NASIONAL | 5          |

# Mat Sabu ajak rakyat bercucuk tanam

**Manfaatkan ruang di kediaman, kurangkan kebergantungan bekalan import**

Oleh NURUL HIDAYAH HAMID

**SHAH ALAM** - Rakyat diseru memanfaatkan ruang di kediaman masing-masing untuk bercucuk tanam sayuran sebagai langkah mengurangkan kebergantungan kepada bekalan import susulan ketidaktentuan geopolitik di Asia Barat.

Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu berkata, konflik geopolitik yang berlaku ketika ini bukan sekadar isu luar negara, sebaliknya ia turut memberi kesan kepada rantaian bekalan makanan global.

Menurutnya, walaupun impak tidak dirasai secara langsung, kesannya boleh sampai ke meja makan rakyat sekiranya gangguan terhadap rantaian bekalan berterusan.

"Sebab itu, Bang Mat hendak ajak semua, kalau ada ruang walaupun kecil di rumah, tanamlah apa yang mampu. Cili, sayur, ulam.

"Sedikit sebanyak boleh bantu kurangkan kebergantungan dan dalam masa sama jadi satu usaha yang bermanfaat untuk keluarga," katanya menerusi satu hantaran di Facebook pada Ahad.

Pada Disember lepas, Mohamad membuktikan ruang tanah terhad bukan halangan untuk bercucuk tanam apabila berjaya memanfaatkan tanah di sekeliling rumah untuk mengusahakan tanaman seperti pandan dan ulam raja.

Beliau berkongsi pelbagai hasil



Mohamad menyeru rakyat Malaysia memanfaatkan ruang di kediaman masing-masing untuk bercucuk tanam.

tanaman di sekeliling kediaman yang dinikmatinya selepas kejayaan menternak ikan tilapia dan menanam bawang Rose Ehsan beberapa bulan sebelumnya.

Dalam masa sama, Mohamad menambah, kerajaan akan terus memperkukuh sistem makanan negara bagi memastikan bekalan mencukupi serta akses kepada rakyat sentiasa terjamin.

"Ini tanggungjawab yang sedang dan akan terus kita laksanakan. Yang penting, kita sama-sama ambil peranan. Mulakan dengan apa yang ada.

"Insya-ALLAH, usaha kecil hari ini akan jadi kekuatan besar untuk masa depan," kongsiya lagi.

Pada 13 Mac, kerajaan memberi jaminan bekalan makanan negara berada pada tahap mencukupi sekurangnya sehingga pertengahan tahun ini walaupun ketidaktentuan global susulan konflik di Asia Barat.

## JENIS TANAMAN SAYUR MUDAH DITANAM SEKITAR RUMAH



|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| Kangkung | Kunyit      |
| Bayam    | Halia       |
| Sawi     | Kesum       |
| Cili     | Serai       |
| Terung   | Daun pandan |

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## Weather volatility puts crops at risk

**PETALING JAYA:** A government study has found that up to half of Malaysia's fruit and vegetable crops could be lost at the farm level under unpredictable weather, highlighting the fragile state of the country's food supply.

The Agriculture and Food Security Ministry told *theSun* that the findings were based on a Food Loss Index study conducted by the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Mardi) to measure food loss levels nationwide.

"Post-harvest losses at the on-farm production stage for the fruits and vegetables sector are estimated at around 14% under normal weather conditions and can rise to as much as 50% if harvesting occurs during the rainy season or under unpredictable weather conditions," the ministry said in a statement.

On March 24, Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu said the government was stepping up preparedness measures to safeguard national food security amid geopolitical tensions in West Asia and the hot weather conditions.

"The efforts include improving supply management efficiency, strengthening the agro-food value chain and implementing mitigation measures, with close coordination between ministries and industry players to ensure continued availability of essential food supplies."

The ministry said the study focused on selected commodities such as pineapple, watermelon and mustard greens, highlighting the vulnerability of perishable produce to environmental conditions at the farm level.

"The initiative forms part of efforts to develop a structured indicator to better quantify food loss across the country's agri-food system, particularly at the production stage," the ministry added.

Meanwhile, Mardi is conducting a follow-up study at the off-farm level to assess losses across the supply chain.

"A follow-up study at the off-farm supply chain level, covering processes such as collection, packaging and distribution, is being carried out by Mardi and is expected to be completed in April.

"The study will later expand to include all agri-food commodity groups, including livestock and fisheries, to develop a comprehensive Food Loss Index for the sector."

The findings underscore how food losses can occur early in the supply chain, before produce reaches wholesale, retail or consumers.

Weather instability has increasingly affected agricultural output.

Last week, the Health Ministry reported that several areas across Kedah, Penang, Perak, Pahang and Perlis were under a Level 1 heat alert, with parts of Kedah escalating to Level 2, where temperatures exceeded 37°C and could reach up to 40°C after several consecutive days of heat. — by **Faiz Ruzman**

## Alih sangkar ikan elak rugi

**Kuantan:** Jabatan Perikanan Pahang menasihatkan penternak ikan sangkar Sungai Pahang di kawasan Chenor, Maran supaya dapat mengalihkan sangkar ke tempat lebih sesuai bagi mengelak terus menanggung kerugian setiap kali tiba musim kemarau.

Terdapat 24 penternak ikan sangkar di beberapa kampung seperti Kampung Sasehin, Kampung Tanjung Berangan, Kampung Pesagi dan Kampung Paya Pasir hampir setiap tahun terdedah kejadian air Sungai Pahang cetek dan kering hingga menyebabkan sangkar mereka berada di atas pasir.

Pengarahnya, Roslan Abu Hasan berkata, tidak ada kaedah lain lebih sesuai melainkan alih atau pindah sangkar ke kawasan Sungai Pahang yang lebih dalam dan tidak mudah berlaku pasir timbul yang membentuk beting pasir luas.

Menurutnya, untuk rekod kawasan Kampung Pesagi paling mudah terdedah kejadian air sungai cetek dan kering berbanding kampung lain hingga menyebabkan banyak sangkar ikan tersadai di atas pasir. Faktor itu menyebabkan penternak tidak dapat menternak ikan sepanjang tahun.

Katanya, musim kemarau juga memberi masalah pada ternakan disebabkan suhu air meningkat dan boleh menyebabkan tekanan memuncak pada ikan sehingga boleh mengundang penyakit seterusnya kematian dengan yang banyak secara berperingkat.

"Bagi mengelak kerugian penternak perlu bijak menyusun jadual melepaskan benih seterusnya tempoh menuai hasil, dengan cara itu dapat mengelak ikan belum cukup matang ketika berlaku musim tengkujuh yang menyebabkan air Sungai Pahang menjadi cetek dan kering," katanya.



PENTERNAK ikan sangkar Sungai Pahang di Kampung Pesagi perlu alihkan sangkar mereka bagi elak kerugian pada musim kemarau. - Gambar NSTP/MOHD RAFI MAMAT

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Cuaca panas jejas pengeluaran, pesawah tanggung kerugian

# Hasil padi merosot 60 peratus

Oleh MUHAMAD AIMY AHMAD dan MOHD. HAFIZ ABD. MUTALIB  
 utusannews@mediamulla.com.my

**ALOR SETAR:** Hasil padi di beberapa kawasan utama negara dilaporkan merosot sehingga 60 peratus susulan faktor cuaca panas melampau mencecah 37 sehingga 40 darjah Celsius sejak dua minggu lalu.

Keadaan tersebut menyebabkan banyak padi yang dituai tidak berisi, selain kekurangan bekalan air akibat kemarau berpanjangan, malah pesawah dijangka terpaksa menangguhkan musim penanaman baharu yang sepatutnya bermula April ini.

Pengerusi Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Muda (MADA), Datuk Dr. Ismail Salleh berkata, kemerosotan itu boleh berlaku apabila suhu terlalu tinggi sehingga mengganggu proses penting dalam pembentukan hasil padi.

Katanya, suhu ekstrem terutama melebihi 40 darjah Celsius boleh menjejaskan proses pen-

debuangan sehingga menyebabkan pengisian padi tidak sempurna.

Beliau berkata, kemarau turut memberi kesan besar kepada bekalan air apabila sumber utama seperti hujan dan simpanan empangan semakin berkurangan.

"Ketika ini paras takungan di Empangan Muda berada pada tahap rendah iaitu 7.64 peratus atau 9,550 ekar kaki berikutan ketiadaan hujan di kawasan tadahan yang mana keadaan ini perlu diberi perhatian serius.

"Apabila kemarau, air hujan tiada, air empangan pun berkurang dan ini memberi kesan langsung kepada bekalan air untuk pengairan padi," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Beliau berkata, bekalan yang ada ketika ini hanya mencukupi untuk dilepaskan ke Loji Rawatan Air (LRA) bagi kegunaan domestik dan industri yang menyebabkan air tidak dapat disalurkan ke kawasan sawah seperti biasa.

"Berkemungkinan pesawah terpaksa menggunakan kaedah



**KEBANYAKAN** kawasan sawah merekah dan kering-kontang ekoran cuaca panas yang berlarutan di Kampung Alor Redis, Kangar, Perlis semalam. - UTUSAN/IZLIZAN OTHMAN

tabur terus kering (TTK) untuk meneruskan penanaman musim satu 2026 yang dijangka bermula April ini.

"Kaedah ini dilakukan dengan cara membajak tanah, menabur benih padi dan memadatkan tanah sebelum menunggu hujan atau embun untuk per-

cambahan," katanya.

Bagaimanapun, Dr. Ismail berkata, kaedah itu akan turut menyebabkan pertumbuhan padi bercampur dengan rumpai dan padi angin, selain meningkatkan risiko serangan perosak seperti tikus serta penyakit tanaman.

Ujarnya, walaupun kaedah

itu bukan pilihan terbaik, ia terpaksa dilaksanakan kerana tiada alternatif lain dalam keadaan bekalan air yang terhad.

"Memang hasil akan rendah, tetapi kita tiada pilihan kerana tidak boleh tunggu tanpa menanam. Namun, sekiranya hujan dan paras empangan kembali pulih, MADA akan lepaskan air untuk pertanian seperti biasa," katanya.

Sementara itu di Perlis, tinjauan mendapati kesan kemarau menyaksikan kira-kira 14.39 hektar sawah padi di Sungai Batu Pahat, Kangar tidak menjadi berikutan masalah kekurangan bekalan air sejak hujung tahun lalu.

Seorang pesawah, Mohd. Noor Hashim, 63, berkata, sekitar 70 peratus kawasan tanaman padi di Perlis ketika ini sudah menuai namun kebanyakan tidak mempunyai isi.

Katanya, keadaan itu menyebabkan hasil padi musim ini merosot sehingga 60 peratus dan memberi kesan kepada pendapatan pesawah.

## Harga barang basah naik di pasar awam, kedai runcit

**Kuala Lumpur:** Barang basah seperti sayur-sayuran mengalami kenaikan harga di beberapa tempat seperti pasar awam dan kedai runcit kecil.

Perkembangan itu dimaklumkan Majlis Penasihat Pengguna Negara (MPPN) berdasarkan maklum balas pengguna yang diperolehi melalui rakan strategiknya, Persekutuan Persatuan Pengguna Malaysia (FOMCA).

Presiden MPPN, Mohd Khair Ngadiron, berkata pasar raya besar masih mengekalkan harga yang relatif stabil.

"Barang di bawah kawalan harga Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN) tidak mengalami kenaikan harga.

"Ini menunjukkan wujud tekanan harga pada peringkat tertentu yang memerlukan pemantauan berterusan," katanya

kepada *BH*, semalam.

Laporan sebelum ini menyebutkan, harga barang asas dijangka meningkat dengan kenaikan harga bahan api susulan krisis di Asia Barat.

Mohd Khair berkata, MPPN tidak membuat unjuran khusus mengenai barang yang diramal mengalami kenaikan harga, namun menjangka tekanan sedemikian bersifat bersasar dan tidak menyeluruh.

"Sebarang pergerakan harga pada masa ini dipengaruhi faktor kos semasa termasuk logistik, bekalan dan perkembangan harga komoditi global.

"Antara kategori yang berpotensi terkesan, termasuk sayur-sayuran dan bahan basah, barang makanan yang bergantung kepada bekalan semasa, selain produk yang sensitif kepada kos pengangkutan dan rantaian

bekalan," katanya.

### Saran tanam sayur

Sementara itu, di Georgetown, Persatuan Pengguna Pulau Pinang (CAP) menyarankan rakyat Malaysia mula menanam sayur-sayuran, susulan kenaikan harga.

Pegawai Pendidikan CAP, NV Subbarow, berkata penanam sayur di Cameron Highlands sudah memberi amaran harga boleh melonjak sehingga 50 peratus berikutan peningkatan kos pengeluaran.

Katanya, harga sayur dikatakan boleh meningkat sehingga 50 peratus dalam jangka pendek sebelum menurun sekitar 30 peratus kepada paras semasa.

"Penanam sayur mengadu kepada CAP, harga baja dan kos pengangkutan membebaskan mereka, manakala pekerja di ladang menuntut gaji lebih tinggi kerana kebanyakannya warga asing," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Bagi mengurangkan beban



Barang basah seperti sayur-sayuran dilaporkan mengalami kenaikan harga di beberapa pasar awam. (Foto hiasan)

kenaikan harga, katanya, CAP menggesa pengguna Malaysia menanam sendiri pelbagai jenis sayur-sayuran dan tumbuhan herba.

"Tanam di atas tanah secara semula jadi dan amalkan kaedah kompos dengan menggunakan sisa dapur sendiri bagi mendapatkan baja sihat.

"Tanam di rumah boleh menjimatkan kos dan penanaman sayur-sayuran hijau yang boleh

dimakan tidak memerlukan ruang besar.

"Bendi, terung, cili, sawi, kangkung, kailan, bayam, pudina, pegaga, kesum dan selom boleh ditanam dengan mudah walaupun di balkoni.

"Di kebun bandar pertanian semula jadi CAP, kami menanam lebih 20 jenis tanaman dan kini menuai labu air dengan berat setiap satu antara tujuh hingga 10 kilogram," katanya.

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## 'Reinstate APs for imported produce'

### Impact of the Middle East Conflict

**PETALING JAYA:** The government should consider reinstating Approved Permits (APs) for vegetable imports to prevent market imbalances and protect local farmers, it was pointed out.

Federation of Vegetable Farmers Associations president Lim Ser Kwee said continued inflow of imported produce, despite some being unnecessary, contributed to the drop in prices for locally-grown vegetables.

"While some vegetables do not need to be imported, imports are still coming in. This has caused prices of local produce to decline."

Citing cabbage as an example, he said imports made up 80% to 90% of supply.

"This discourages our farmers from expanding production, as continuous planting without stable prices is not sustainable."

Lim cautioned that the absence of AP controls could further disrupt the domestic farming sector.

Tomato farmers, he said, have also faced prolonged low prices.

"From 2024 to 2025, prices remained weak. Many farmers stopped planting, and only recently has prices recovered slightly to around RM5 to RM6 per kg."

Lim said there is a need for government support, such as subsidies, to help farmers.

Deputy Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Chan Foong Hin, when contacted, said imports remained strictly regulated despite the absence of APs, with compliance required under phytosanitary and food safety standards enforced by the relevant authorities.

He said any move to reintroduce APs would be based on data and industry engagement, with the ministry committed to balancing support for farmers and price stability for consumers.

Agricultural economics expert Prof Datuk Dr Nasir Shamsudin said a strict AP system may not be ideal, suggesting a more balanced approach such as seasonal import controls or data-driven quotas to stabilise the market while maintaining food security.

BY FAIZ RUZMAN

newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA:** Nearly a third of Kedah's paddy crops remain unharvested as scorching heat and rising diesel prices make farming increasingly difficult, raising concerns over Malaysia's low rice self-sufficiency level of just 56%, warned the Malaysian Paddy Farmers Brotherhood Organisation.

Its chairman Abdul Rashid Ayob said prolonged extreme temperatures have disrupted harvesting cycles and damaged yields, particularly in northern districts such as Kota Setar and Pendang, where temperatures have reached 41°C to 42°C in recent weeks.

"Right now, harvesting is still ongoing, but about 20% to 30% of the crops have not yet been harvested.

"For paddy, it becomes too dry. When it is too dry, the yield drops and the grain becomes lighter. It is not just paddy, other crops are affected too because extreme heat stunts growth."

Rashid said the situation is particularly severe in areas where even 36°C to 37°C is already considered excessively hot for

# Heat, diesel costs leave Kedah paddy unharvested

► Up to 30% of crops not reaped as high temperatures, rising fuel costs hit yields, raising food security concerns

crop development.

"The prolonged heat has started to affect crop cycles, slowing growth and reducing quality," he added.

Compounding the situation, diesel price increases have raised costs for mechanised farming operations such as ploughing, harvesting and transporting paddy.

"Everything uses diesel - tractors, lorries, machinery. That is what is making things very difficult for us.

Production cost for one hectare is about RM700. If the increase is only RM50, the gap is very big."

He said farmers have absorbed rising costs over several planting seasons, but government support remains limited and slow.

"We are not rejecting government policies. What we are asking for is a proper solution and a suitable alternative that can be implemented quickly.

"Other sectors have received specific support, but for paddy farmers there is still no focused mechanism. We are also among the biggest contributors to the country's food supply."

The organisation hopes the government will deliver more targeted aid for farmers rather than relying on broad agricultural measures that fail to reflect the sector's critical role in national food security.

Rashid warned the situation could worsen if major rice-exporting countries also face climate-related disruptions or global uncertainties, tightening supply while Malaysia remains dependent on imports for a significant share of its rice.

"Malaysia's rice self-sufficiency

ratio is now only around 56%. Our dependence on imported rice is already high. If farmers start pulling back because they cannot absorb the costs, that is what we fear," he said.

Meanwhile, the Malaysian Muslim Restaurant Owners Association (Presma) declined to comment when asked whether the slowdown in agricultural production had driven up food prices, citing an upcoming meeting with the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry this week.

Presma had previously warned that *mamak* operators were facing cost increases of 10% to 30% for certain goods due to supply chain disruptions, rising logistics expenses and prolonged global uncertainty, including the ongoing conflict in Iran.

## Call to grow vegetables amid price surge

BY KIRTINEE RAMESH  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA:** Malaysians are being urged to grow their own vegetables to cope with rising food costs, as prices are expected to spike in the coming months amid global supply pressures.

Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu warned that geopolitical conflicts in West Asia are no longer a distant concern, with disruptions to global food supply chains set to directly affect households in Malaysia.

"Conflicts in the region may seem far removed, but their impact can reach our dining tables," he said, highlighting how supply disruptions are tightening availability and driving up costs.

In a statement yesterday, Mohamad called on Malaysians to take practical steps at the household level, including cultivating basic food items at home wherever possible.

"Even with limited space, plant what you can, chillies, vegetables, salad. It may seem small, but it helps reduce dependence and benefits the family," he said.

Mohamad added that the government will continue to strengthen the national food system to ensure sufficient supply and safeguard public access, describing it as an ongoing responsibility.

"What matters is that we all play our part. Start with what we have. God willing, small efforts today will become a stronger foundation for the future."

The call echoes concerns raised by the Consumers Association of Penang (CAP), whose natural farming coordinator N. V. Subbarow warned that a surge in vegetable prices could be imminent, driven by global conflicts, rising production costs and climate-related challenges.

"Vegetable prices are already very high, and further increases could be just around the corner. Malaysians must start growing their own vegetables instead of just complaining," he said.

CAP cited warnings from growers in Cameron Highlands that vegetable prices could rise by up to 50% in the short term due to escalating costs linked to conflicts in the Middle East.

Prices are expected to stabilise later but remain about 30% higher than current levels.

Subbarow said farmers are under mounting pressure from rising fertiliser and transport costs, as well as increasing labour expenses as foreign workers demand higher wages.

"These factors point to a more challenging



Malaysians have been urged to take practical steps at home, including cultivating basic food items wherever possible. — MASRY CHE ANI/THE SUN

outlook for consumers in terms of food affordability," he said.

To ease the burden, CAP is encouraging households to grow their own vegetables and herbs, even in limited spaces.

"You don't need a large plot of land. Vegetables can be grown in soil using natural methods, which can help cut costs," he said, adding that kitchen waste can be composted into nutrient-rich fertiliser.

Global trends further underscore the urgency.

Food and Agriculture Organization projections indicate world food demand could rise by 70% by 2050, driven largely by increasing incomes in Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

At the same time, climate crises continue to disrupt food production worldwide, with extreme weather damaging crops, livelihoods and supply chains, contributing to rising food prices and growing food insecurity.

Subbarow said fertiliser prices have surged even faster than food prices, exacerbated by geopolitical tensions including the war in Ukraine and ongoing Middle East conflicts.

"These disruptions have reduced global supplies, increased costs and threatened

agricultural output," he said, adding that higher natural gas prices directly affect fertiliser costs, which in turn threaten crop yields if usage is reduced.

"This could turn a food affordability crisis into a food availability crisis," he warned, pointing to key staples such as maize, rice, soybean and wheat.

In response, CAP is promoting urban gardening as a practical solution.

"A wide variety of crops, including okra, brinjal, chillies and leafy greens such as sawi, kangkung, kailan and bayam, can be easily grown at home. Herbs like mint, pegaga, kesum and selom are also suitable for small-scale cultivation," he said.

Subbarow added that household items such as milk cartons, plastic bottles and small containers can be repurposed for shallow-rooted plants, while larger containers such as biscuit tins, oil cans and water bottles are suitable for deeper-rooted crops.

"With adequate sunlight, water and compost, anyone can grow vegetables, even in small spaces such as balconies," he said.

CAP said adopting urban gardening practices can help Malaysians better manage rising living costs while improving food security at the household level.

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## Harga sayur naik hingga 30 peratus

Oleh NOOR HASLIZA NUSI,  
MOHD. SHARKAWI LONDING  
dan MOHAMAD NAUFAL

**PETALING JAYA** – Harga sayur-sayuran di dua negeri menunjukkan peningkatan antara 20 hingga 30 peratus berikutan peningkatan kos pengangkutan ekoran kenaikan harga diesel serta cuaca panas berterusan biarpun bekalannya masih stabil serta mencukupi ketika ini.

Tinjauan *Kosmo!* di pasar awam dan premis jualan runcit di Johor Bahru, Johor dan Shah Alam, Selangor semalam mendapati, orang ramai dan peniaga mula merasai kenaikan harga yang ketara pelbagai jenis sayuran berbanding sebelum ini.

Seorang peniaga di Johor Bahru, Ahmad Roslan, 45, berkata, antara sayur-sayuran yang mengalami kenaikan harga ialah cili merah yang sebelum ini sekitar RM10

sekilogram, namun kini mencecah RM13 hingga RM15 sekilogram.

Katanya, harga kubis pula mengalami kenaikan daripada RM3 kepada sekitar RM4 hingga RM5 sekilogram.

Menurutnya, walaupun bekalan masih stabil, harga terpaksa dinaikkan berikutan peningkatan kos pengangkutan serta bekalan daripada pembekal yang turut meningkat.

BERITA LANJUT DI MUKA 3

## Harga sayur naik hingga 30 peratus



PENGGUNA memilih sayur-sayuran di sebuah pasar di Johor Bahru semalam.

### DARI MUKA 1

"Setakat ini bekalan tidak terjejas, tetapi harga memang naik antara 20 hingga 30 peratus bergantung kepada jenis sayur," katanya ketika ditemui di sini semalam.

Seorang pengguna, Noraini Hassan, 38, mengakui terkesan dengan kenaikan harga tersebut kerana sayur merupakan keperluan harian keluarganya.

Katanya, kenaikan harga walaupun tidak terlalu mendadak tetapi memberi kesan kepada perbelanjaan bulanan terutama bagi golongan berpendapatan sederhana.

Dalam pada itu, tinjauan di sebuah pasar basah di Shah Alam mendapati harga cili hijau dan cili merah naik daripada RM9 kepada RM12 sekilogram.

Selain itu, harga halia turut meningkat RM2 daripada RM7.50

kepada RM9.50 sekilogram, manakala kacang panjang mencatat kenaikan daripada RM7 kepada RM10 sekilogram.

Seorang peniaga sayur yang mahu dikenali sebagai Amir berkata, kenaikan itu berpunca daripada tindakan pembekal menaikkan harga susulan cuaca panas serta peningkatan harga petrol dan diesel pada masa ini.

Katanya, dia terpaksa menyesuaikan harga jualan bagi memastikan perniagaan terus bertahan.

"Memang ada pelanggan mengeluh, tetapi mereka faham keadaan yang kami hadapi dan berharap cuaca panas tidak berpanjangan kerana bimbang bekalan sayur terjejas," katanya.

"Saya berharap harga bahan api dapat diturunkan semula bagi menstabilkan harga sayur di pasaran," jelasnya.

Di George Town, Pulau Pinang,

Persatuan Pengguna Pulau Pinang (CAP) mengulangi gesaan agar pengguna mengamalkan amalan berjimat cermat dengan menanam sayur-sayuran dan tumbuhan herba di rumah ekoran jangkaan kenaikan harga keperluan asas itu sehingga 50 peratus.

Pegawai Pendidikannya, N.V. Subbarow berkata, ini susulan kenyataan penanam sayur di Cameron Highlands yang memberi amaran mengenai lonjakan harga sayur-sayuran susulan konflik Asia Barat sehingga meningkatkan kos pengeluaran.

"Mereka menjangkakan kenaikan harga sayur sehingga 50 peratus dalam jangka pendek sebelum menurun kepada sekitar 30 peratus di atas paras semasa."

"Penanam sayur mengadu harga baja dan kos pengangkutan sudah menjadi beban besar bagi mereka," katanya.

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EFFECTS OF DROUGHT

# KERIAN PADI FARMERS FACE RISING LOSSES

Bukit Merah Dam's 'critical' level forces delay in irrigation schedule

IPOH

**P**ADI farmers in the Kerian district are worried about the current dry spell, which has left the Bukit Merah Dam at a critical level.

Ishak Yunus, 66, who is Parit Abas unit chief, said this had led to a delay in the scheduled irrigation for the new planting season, impacting farmers who had already forked out capital to prepare the soil and buy padi seedlings.

The irrigation was originally slated for March 25 but has been postponed to April 8.

He said the farmers feared it would be delayed further if the

area did not see heavy rainfall.

"There is now a two-week delay. We've already experienced losses. The later we plant, the later we harvest. We don't have a fixed income," he said.

Shaiful Shahrin Ahmad Pauzi, 42, a farmer in Kuala Kurau, said they had taken the initiative to switch to a hardier padi strain that would be able to remain in water for a long time, preventing wastage.

"We're trying to mitigate the risk that irrigation would not be available soon," he said.

Fellow Kuala Kurau farmer, Mohd Ehsan Khairudin, 41, said the delay in irrigation had not only incurred extra cost due to the need for more pesticides, but also affected the quality of the padi seedlings.

He said he was under pressure as most farmers in the district practiced a delayed payment system, meaning that funds would only come in only after the planting season.

"We've taken note of the Ir-



The water level at the Bukit Merah Dam in Bagan Serai yesterday. The dam's 'critical' irrigation level is impacting farmers who have already forked out capital to prepare for the new planting season. BERNAMA PIC

rigation and Drainage Department's (DID) advice to use water carefully.

"However, we are also concerned that if the hot weather persists, our planting schedule would also be delayed."

Meanwhile, Perak DID director Dr Asnor Muizan Ishak said the Kerian DID had recommended that water distribution for compartments that had yet to begin planting be delayed for two weeks.

The recommendation, he said,

was tabled at a recent meeting chaired by the Kerian Integrated Agricultural Development Area. It was agreed that the water distribution schedule would be amended, based on Bukit Merah Dam's critical water level.

"The situation requires continued monitoring, disciplined management of water discharge and careful use of water resources," he added.

The Kerian DID, in a statement posted on Facebook, said the current water level at Bukit

Merah Dam was at Critical Irrigation Level 1, measuring 6.965 metres, compared with the "alert" level of 7.62m.

It said that the dam's irrigation storage stood at 18.6958 million cubic metres as of Saturday.

"Farmers are advised to use water wisely and practise conservation at all times," the statement added.

Under standard operating procedures, the normal irrigation supply level is 8.69m. **Bernama**

### SEKTOR PERTANIAN BERDEPAN PENUAAN TENAGA KERJA

Kajian menunjukkan sektor pertanian di Malaysia sedang mengalami peningkatan umur purata petani kerana kemasukan generasi muda yang rendah.



### PENYERTAAN BELIA DALAM SEKTOR INI SEMAKIN BERKURANG

Data Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (Laporan Interim Banci Pertanian 2024) menunjukkan pembabitan belia menurun dalam beberapa kumpulan umur.



Kedua ini menunjukkan kadar keluar belia lebih tinggi daripada kemasukan baharu.

### JURANG ANTARA JANGKAAN DAN REALITI PENDAPATAN

Generasi muda yang membesar dalam ekonomi digital cenderung mengharapkan pendapatan yang cepat diperolehi.

Namun, sektor pertanian memerlukan tempoh masa lebih panjang sebelum mencapai keuntungan kerana hasil bergantung kepada musim, cuaca dan harga pasaran.

### FAKTOR BELIA KURANG BERMINAT DALAM SEKTOR PERTANIAN

**Penghijrahan ke bandar**  
Urbanisasi pesat menyebabkan ramai belia memilih pekerjaan di bandar khususnya dalam sektor perkhidmatan dan teknologi yang dilihat lebih menjanjikan dari segi pendapatan.

### Persepsi terhadap pekerjaan pertanian

Kerjaya dalam pertanian sering dikaitkan dengan kerja fizikal yang berat dan prestij sosial yang rendah. Malah terdapat keluarga yang menggalakkan anak mereka memilih pekerjaan di luar sektor ini.

**Akses tanah dan modal**  
Struktur pemilikan tanah yang kecil menyukarkan golongan muda memulakan projek pertanian.

**Lebih 98 peratus ladang dimiliki secara individu**

# BELIA PENENTU MASA DEPAN AGROMAKANAN

Malaysia mencatatkan defisit makanan hampir RM40 bilion setahun, menjadikan pembabitan generasi muda dalam sektor agromakanan penting bagi meningkatkan pengeluaran makanan domestik.

Pembabitan golongan muda dalam sektor agro-

makanan semakin mendapat perhatian kerana mereka dilihat sebagai pelapis kepada tenaga kerja pertanian negara. Walaupun minat belia menunjukkan peningkatan, penyertaan mereka masih kecil berbanding kumpulan umur lain.

### BELIA CENDERUNG KEPADA PERTANIAN MODEN

Golongan muda yang memasuki sektor ini lebih tertarik kepada aktiviti berasaskan teknologi seperti:

- Hidroponik
- Fertigasi
- Pertanian digital

• Syarikat permulaan agritech  
Ini menunjukkan peralihan kepada pertanian berasaskan pengetahuan dan teknologi.

### PROGRAM AGROPRENEUR MUDA

Sehingga suku keempat 2025:



### PENYERTAAN MELALUI PROGRAM AGROPRENEUR MUDA MENUNJUKKAN PENINGKATAN

Bilangan penerima grant meningkat secara konsisten:



Program Agropreneur Muda menyediakan sokongan seperti bantuan projek atau grant, latihan teknikal, bimbingan keusahawanan serta akses kepada pembiayaan.

### PROJEK AGROPRENEUR MUDA MEMBABITKAN PELBAGAI SUBSEKTOR

Projek yang dijalankan merangkumi:



### SEBAHAGIAN PESERTA BERJAYA MENJANA PENDAPATAN STABIL

Sebanyak **816 peserta** program dilaporkan memperoleh **pendapatan bulanan melebihi RM5,000** selepas menerima sokongan program.



### SOKONGAN PEMBIAYAAN AGROBANK KEPADA BELIA

- 1 **12,471 agropreneur muda** menerima pembiayaan (2023-2025).
- 2 **Belia hanya 7.7 peratus** daripada keseluruhan pembiayaan agro.
- 3 Kadar pembayaran balik belia **97 peratus**.
- 4 **2,415 projek** pengeluaran makanan dibiayai bernilai **RM933 juta**.

### RMK13 MEMBERI TUMPUAN KEPADA PEMBANGUNAN AGROPRENEUR BAHARU

Bermula Rancangan Malaysia Ke-13, Kementerian memperkenalkan Program Agropreneur NextGen yang memberi penekanan kepada pembangunan agropreneur generasi baharu, penggunaan automasi dan teknologi serta pendekatan pertanian moden.

### KETIDADAAN PELAPIS MUDA BOLEH MENJEJASKAN KETERJAMINAN MAKANAN

Jika penyertaan generasi muda tidak diperkukuh:

- Kapasiti pengeluaran makanan domestik boleh menurun**
- Pergantungan kepada import makanan boleh meningkat**
- Risiko inflasi makanan kepada isi rumah juga boleh bertambah**

SUMBER: Laporan berita: temu bual bersama Penyelidik UPM Profesor Dr. Norsida Man, Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan (KPKM) dan Agrobank.

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# Kenaikan diesel, cuaca panas berisiko jejas hasil padi

Oleh ARIF AIMAN ASROL dan FATIN NORIZATI MAT ISA  
utusannews@mediamula.com.my

**PETALING JAYA:** Pesawah berdepan kenaikan kos 40 peratus susulan kenaikan harga diesel semasa yang meningkatkan kos operasi serta keadaan cuaca panas yang berpotensi menjejaskan kelangsungan industri padi.

Pengerusi Pertubuhan Pesaudaraan Pesawah Malaysia (PeSAWAH), Abdul Rashid Yob berkata, peningkatan harga bahan api memberi kesan besar terutama kepada penggunaan pam air, jentera menuai dan kerja-kerja penyelenggaraan sawah yang bergantung sepenuhnya kepada diesel.

Menurutnya, beliau menerima maklumat bahawa untuk musim penuaian akan datang harga terpaksa ditetapkan pada RM150 dari RM120 per relung atau RM450 untuk satu hektar.

"Ini peningkatan yang sangat di luar kemampuan pesawah dan sekarang kami hadapi dua keadaan iaitu kenaikan harga diesel serta cuaca panas.

"Petani perlukan modal untuk operasinya, sudah ada petani-petani yang mula menarik *hand-brake* atau berhenti," katanya ke-



**BEBERAPA kawasan sawah yang terjejas ekoran kekurangan bekalan air hingga menjejaskan hasil padi di kawasan-kawasan yang jauh dari punca air di Kampung Alor Redis, Arau, Perlis. - UTUSAN/IZLIZAN OTHMAN**

pada *Utusan Malaysia*. Abdul Rashid berkata, kerajaan perlu memberi perhatian kepada sektor padi sama seperti industri makanan lain.

"Jika lihat pada nelayan, kerajaan boleh mengadakan *fleet card* dan pekebun-pekebun sayur pun mempunyai inisiatif serta tindakan yang cepat dari kerajaan. Perladangan seperti sawit pun satu geran atau dana yang besar.

"Dalam industri padi, tindakan dari kerajaan adalah lambat

dan kami tidak diberikan *fleet card* atau kelebihan khusus. Dalam inisiatif yang diberikan Perdana Menteri (Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) sendiri pun tidak khusus kepada padi, cuma sebut pertanian sahaja," katanya. Beliau berkata, insentif-insentif yang diumumkan Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan khusus untuk pesawah juga lambat untuk sampai hingga pesawah terpaksa mengeluarkan modal sendiri.

"Penambahan pajakan RM60

iaitu dari RM100 ke RM160 tetapi selepas tiga musim baru diberikan, bermaksud kami tiga musim sebelum ini terpaksa mengeluarkan modal sendiri. Kemudian penuaian sebanyak RM50 perhektar pun belum sampai ke tangan petani, sudah masuk empat musim.

"Jadi kami rasa agak kesal walaupun kami ini boleh dikatakan penyumbang utama makanan atau beras untuk negara tetapi kami masih tidak dapat apa yang sepatutnya," katanya.

Tambahnya, apabila petani berhadapan dengan masalah seperti ini maka ia akan menjejaskan industri hingga menyebabkan padi tidak dapat dituai dan pengilang tidak dapat mendapatkan bekalan.

"Akhir sekali kami bimbang kesan jika terus bergantung kepada beras import, ini kerana perubahan cuaca bukan dihadapi oleh negara kita sahaja tetapi turut dihadapi oleh banyak negara pembekal utama beras seperti India," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, seorang pesawah dari Perak, Mohd. Hafizuddin, 30, berkata, peningkatan harga bahan api memberi kesan besar terutama kepada penggunaan pam air, jentera menuai dan kerja-kerja penyelenggaraan sawah yang bergantung sepenuhnya kepada diesel.

Katanya, setiap musim penanaman memerlukan perbelanjaan lebih tinggi berbanding sebelum ini, sekali gus mengurangkan margin keuntungan yang sedia kecil.

"Sekarang hampir semua kerja di sawah guna mesin. Bila diesel naik, kos pam air untuk saliran, mesin menuai dan pengangkutan hasil turut meningkat," katanya.

| TARIKH    | MEDIA    | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
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# Levelling the 'farming' field

With Malaysia's vegetable self-sufficiency ratio remaining relatively low, the government wants to shift the focus to local production and cut down on imports. This will address supply chain pressures linked to the Middle East conflict, with a meeting to be held tomorrow to discuss remedies.

> See reports on page 6 by  
**KHOO GEK SAN** and  
**ARFA YUNUS**



**Food shield:** A review of the vegetable production database aims to bolster national food security. Seen here is a farm in Batang Kali, Selangor. — AZMAN GHANI/The Star

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# Dry weather, fuel costs Report on > page 3 **impact** paddy harvest

**Kedah farmers say challenging conditions leave part of crop uncollected, affecting quality and timelines.**

**HARVEST HURDLES ...** Up to 30% of yield remains unharvested as growers navigate petrol, diesel spikes and high temperatures. — **MASRY CHE ANI/THE SUN**

