

JOHORE BAHRU, JAN. 25 (BERNAMA) — FOOD INDUSTRIES OF MALAYSIA SDN. BHD. IS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING PART IN VARIOUS LARGE-SCALE FOOD PRODUCTION VENTURES AT THE JOHORE TENGGAR PROJECT AREA.

THEY INCLUDE THE REARING OF BEEF CATTLE, THE PLANTING OF CORN FOR ANIMAL FEED AND THE GROWING OF LOCAL FRUITS FOR PROCESSING, THE FIMA CHAIRMAN, DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMED, SAID TODAY.

HE ADDED THAT AMONG THE FRUITS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR EXPORT IN CAN WERE RAMBUTAN AND PAPAYA.

+THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE DEMAND FOR CANNED PAPAYA ABROAD, PARTICULARLY IN JAPAN.+

HE WAS SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN AFTER A MEETING WITH THE JOHORE TENGGARA DEVELOPMENT BOARD CHAIRMAN, ENCIK ABDULLAH BIN DATUK ABDUL RAHMAN, HERE.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT A +THOROUGH+ STUDY HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE FIMA COULD UNDERTAKE ANY OF THESE VENTURES. — BERNAMA MORE 1525/ZCM

FIMA 2 JOHORE BAHRU

+FOR FRUIT CULTIVATION, FIMA WILL PROBABLY BEGIN ON SOME EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS AND THEN PROCEED TO BIG ORCHARDS,+ HE SAID.

+BUT THESE ARE LONG-TERM PROJECTS, REQUIRING A LOT PLANNING,+ HE ADDED.

HE HOPED THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE COULD BE EMPLOYED WHEN THE PROJECTS WERE STARTED — +ALTHOUGH MOST WOULD MOST LIKELY BE HIRED ON A PART-TIME BASIS IN THE BEGINNING.+

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT FIMA WAS CONDUCTING VARIOUS STUDIES ON FRUIT JUICE FOR EXPORT.

ON THE PROPOSED CASHEW NUT INDUSTRY, HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE LAUNCHED THIS YEAR WITH 1,000 CULTIVATED ACRES EACH IN PAHANG AND TRENGGANU.

HE ALSO SAID THAT +EVERY POSSIBLE STEP+ WAS BEING TAKEN TO INCREASE THE EXPORT OF CANNED PINEAPPLE. — BERNAMA 1540/ZCM