

# Farmers to be sent overseas

KUALA TERENGGANU, Sat. The Government has approved a special scheme to allow farmers to visit countries which are highly advanced in agricultural development.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department **Datuk Dr Yusof Nor**, who announced this today, said the scheme was approved by the Cabinet about two months ago and would be implemented soon.

"Initially, countries like South Korea, Taiwan

and Japan which are highly successful in agriculture and agricultural technology will be selected for the visit.

"Plans are also afoot to send them to backward countries, particularly those which have been let down by poor administration, to enable the farmers to make a comparison," Datuk Dr Yusof told reporters after opening the **Maras/Batu Rakit** Farmers Association meeting at the Tengku Mizan Secondary School in **Maras**.

Datuk Dr Yusof, however, declined to reveal the names of the countries just yet. The visits will be organised by the National and Rural Development Ministry.

He said the various farmers' associations and agencies would have to submit the names of selected farmers to the Ministry for approval.

However, he said in view of the large number of people involved in the sector, the visits would be carried out in batches.

He said this was another effort by the Government

to help the people.

Datuk Dr Yusof also said that the Pilgrims Management and Fund Board was looking for suitable agricultural land for development on a joint-venture basis either with individuals or the private sector.

Interested parties can contact the board for further negotiations.

Currently, the board has ventured into agricultural development on a large scale in Johor, **Pahang** and **Negri Sembilan** where it is involved in oil palm cultivation with local partners.