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MAHATHIR SUGGESTS ESTATE CULTIVATION OF FOOD AND SALADS

Mahathir-crops

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HULU TERENGGANU, July 15, (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today suggested that food and salad cultivation be carried out on an estate basis to ensure adequate supply as well as introduce a new agro-based industry to the people.

He said traditional crops like pandan and saffron leaves, lengkuas, cashewnut shoot and other species essential to traditional and modern cooking were becoming scarce because of the depleting cultivation.

With these foodstuff, the people could save expenses and need not use imported foodstuff, seasoning or artificial colouring, especially when such plants grew wild in their compounds.

+In fact, my favourite food, laksa, has lost its unique taste because artificial seasoning has been added,+ he said when opening the Terengganu Agricultural Park in Sekayu, here.

Dr Mahathir said agricultural agencies should be more creative in identifying suitable crops for cultivation in an organised manner and in introducing the farming methods to rural folk to enhance their economic source. -- more

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Mahathir-crops 2 (last) Hulu Terengganu

The produce could also be marketed on a large scale to meet the increasing demand as well as be introduced to the food industry overseas, he said.

Earlier in his speech, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said the 85.4ha park was set up by the state government in the 1980s with the objective of developing agro-tourism.

The park contains rare species of food crops and traditional medicinal herbs.

Wan Mokhtar said its location near the Sekayu recreational park and waterfall could also lure tourists who were always in search of tranquility and unpolluted environment.

The prime minister and his delegation spent three hours at the park accompanied by the Menteri Besar and state executive councillors. -- Bernama

▼15/07/21-25MST