

Launched — policy to give agro sector a boost

9 02 FEB 19

KUALA LUMPUR: The National Agricultural Policy 1992-2010, aimed at transforming the sector into a more commercialised and modernised industry, was launched yesterday by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid said six long-term strategies had been identified.

They include the new course of development contained in the Second Outline Perspective Plan and Vision 2020.

According to the policy, strategies to be deployed would be optimum use of resources, intensified development of agro-based industries, research and development, primary role of the private sector, market restructuring and development of a dynamic food industry.

Briefing some 5,000 farmers and fishermen who attended the launching at the Putra World Trade Centre here, he said the policy's main objective was to maximise income through optimum use of resources, rehabilitation and consolidation of idle land.

"The policy also targets a balanced development between the manufacturing and food industries," said Sanusi.

The value added target for the sector up to the year 2010, he said was 3.1 per cent yearly while the agricultural workforce would drop to 1.6 per cent a year to make up 11.2 per cent of the total workforce in the year 2010.

"To achieve this growth rate, more emphasis would be given to new marketing strategies, especially for exports," he said.

Efficiency, he said, was the main criterion in the allocation of resources.

Sanusi said the Government would give subsidies to farmers and fishermen participating in joint ventures with local and foreign investors.

"Courses will also be organised for the farming community to enhance their production in the field, for greater penetration in both foreign and local markets," he said.

A food policy will also be formulated to emphasise qualitative and nutritional aspects, Sanusi added.