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Plan for pilot 'UK farm' in Kedah

EDINBURGH, Mon: The Government is looking for a suitable 4,000ha land in Kedah for a pilot mixed and integrated and modern farming village, emulating farms in England.

If the pilot project is successful, others will be introduced where mixed crops will be planted in an area complete with amenities for living.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told Malaysian newsmen here that the idea came during his recent stay on a farm in Cotswald, England.

"We cannot do things the way we did a century ago. We are trying to restructure our farming industry, especially to do mixed crops," he said.

The Prime Minister said in England a farm of 3,200ha may have as few as eight workers. In Malaysia, he added, within such an area, the locals only tend to plant a single crop.

With the advice of the Royal College of Agriculture in England, the Government is trying to conduct mixed-crop farming where if one crop is affected by price decline, the others may help. He said meanwhile, such an area can also be turned also into a tourist attraction.

The Prime Minister added that the Government would want young people to be trained in the modern way of farming and they in turn would employ others in their farms.

"Herbs and vegetables that have vanished from the compounds of homes in Malaysia can be planted once more in the new farming areas," he said giving an example of how such a farm would look like.

The Prime Minister leaves Edinburgh after conclusion of CHOGM today for an official visit to Slovenia.

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