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Plantation to supply herbal plants to Perlis from June

IPOH, Mon. - Perak's pioneer commercial herbal plantation in Sungai Klah, Sungkai, about 90km from here, will start supplying four types of herbal plants to a manufacturer of traditional medicines in Perlis from next month.

The herbs, naga buara, serai wangi, nilam and kesum (the latter three are aromatic herbs) are ready for harvest.

Zabidi Nawawi, manager of Global Herba (Perak) Sdn Bhd which oversees the 200ha plantation, said initially the plants would be supplied raw but the company planned to sell plant extracts.

He was speaking during a visit by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib to the plantation today.

A joint venture between the State Agriculture Development Corporation, Perak Farmers' Organisation and Bank Pertanian, Global Herba was formed in December 1996 for large-scale herb cultivation.

Global Herba's plantation in Sungai Klah also has a herbal museum where its local and scientific names are displayed.

The company also has a 20-hectare nursery at Sungai Selinsing in Tapah.

Perak's venture was in response to a call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1996 to go into the manufacture of traditional medicines from local herbs and spices.

Besides maintaining the forest, it will be producing herbs for commercial use, fruits and in the long run, can be turned into a health farm.

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