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Sulaiman-Tunisia

MALAYSIA MAY BUY MORE PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER FROM TUNISIA

KUALA LUMPUR, May 28 (Bernama) -- Malaysia may consider increasing phosphate fertilizer imports from Tunisia to extend its use among the country's padi crop, Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud said today.

He said at present the fertilizer was only used in the country's oil palm plantations.

"Tunisia has convinced us that phosphate fertilizer is also very good for padi crops," Dr Sulaiman told reporters after talks with Tunisia's Foreign Minister Said Ben Mustapha here.

A final decision would be made after the Agriculture Department had established that it was indeed suitable for padi and also if the price was reasonable, he said.

Tunisia is the world's third largest exporter of phosphate and the fertilizer had proved to be very suitable for oil palm and pepper crops.

Tunisia also pledged to increase imports of Malaysian pepper, palm oil and rubber.

Apart from phosphate, Malaysia also imports dates and olive oil from Tunisia.

Mustapha arrived here on Wednesday for a three-day official visit to Malaysia.

The Tunisian Minister also held talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

-- BERNAMA

NM AAM