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PAHANG'S PROGRAMME CAN MAKE MALAYSIA A MAJOR FOOD PRODUCER

KUANTAN, Sept 23 (Bernama) -- An integrated cattle rearing programme in oil palm plantations introduced by the Pahang state government can help turn Malaysia into a major food producer and exporter.

Veterinary Services Department Director General Datuk Dr Mohamed Nordin Mohamed Noor said there are currently 30,000 cattle reared in oil palm plantations in the state.

The Department plans to increase the number of cattle reared by 6,000 heads a year in the next 10 years, he said after a dialogue with participants and potential participants of the integrated cattle rearing programme.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said Malaysia aimed to become a major food producer and exporter by developing its agricultural sector.

Dr Mohamed Nordin said the integrated cattle rearing programme is suitable for implementation on some 40,000ha of the 577,000ha of land cultivated with oil palm.

He said the programme could also be expanded to suitable areas under oil palm cultivation throughout the country.

-- BERNAMA

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