

03 FEB 2001

Agriculture-workshop

AGRICULTURE ENGINEERS TO HOLD SMART FARMING WORKSHOP

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 3 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Society of Agriculture Engineers (MSAE) is organising a "smart farming" workshop to seek the support of the non-agriculture sector in the use of high-technology.

Its President Associate Professor Dr Mohd Amin Mohd Soom said the workshop from March 13 to 15 at Renaissance Hotel, Putrajaya, would discuss how agriculture could be improved through the use of modern technology.

He said the MSAE supported the call by the Prime Minister to focus on agriculture and food manufacturing.

"As Agricultural Engineers, we are highly confident that with the personal lead of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the era of quantum leap in the Malaysian agriculture scene has arrived," he said in a statement.

Dr Mahathir had said on Thursday that Malaysia would focus on agriculture to improve food production and also on manufacturing to bring down the food import bill.

"The MSAE's gives its full support and commitment to the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister as well as the relevant parties in persuing the agriculture issue in the greater interest of the people and the country," he said.

He said major improvements for the agriculture sector could be achieved through the use and assimilation of high technology.

"The current economic unit size of two-fifths of a hectare as defined in the National Land Code needs to be reviewed for this purpose," Amin said.

To further the use of high technology in the agricultural sector, he said inputs from computer scientists as well as electronic, mechanical, spatial and remote sensing engineers and surveyors was much needed.

Details of the workshop could be obtained vis telephone number 03-89486101 ext 2018 or e-mail wiwi@eng.upm.edu.my or by visiting the website at <http://www.eng.upm.edu.my/kbp/>.

-- BERNAMA

MUN AZZ AAM