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Agriculture

SABAH WANTS TO ADOPT KEDAH'S AGRICULTURE METHODS

SUNGAI PETANI, March 2 (Bernama) -- Sabah is keen to adopt certain aspects of Kedah's agriculture methods in an effort to boost its food production.

Sabah Agriculture Development and Food Industry Permanent Secretary Datuk Abidin Madingkir said there were several agriculture projects in Kedah which could be adapted by Sabah.

"We are keen to inject certain agriculture technology into Sabah based on the two working visits by the Sabah Agriculture Minister's delegation to this state," he told reporters after visiting the Gurun Satellite Estate vegetable farming project near here today.

Abidin was accompanying Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Lajim Ukin on a follow-up visit to inspect vegetable, fruit and dairy farming projects in Kedah.

Lajim, who is also Agriculture Development and Food Industry Minister, inspected several padi cultivation projects during the first visit early last year.

"This visit is also being made following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion that Sabah see for itself the goat milk-based processing industry," he said.

Yesterday, Lajim and Abidin visited a dairy farm and factory making soap, cosmetic products and health food which were owned by a local company.

Abidin said further discussions would be held with the company on the possibility of undertaking similar projects in Sabah on a joint-venture basis.

The vegetable farming methods used at the Gurun Satellite Estate would be adopted as a model for a project in Papar by next year, he said.

Kedah Agriculture and Rural Development Committee Chairman Datuk Zainol Md Isa said a Kedah delegation would visit Sabah soon to explore opportunities for joint ventures.

He said the Gurun Satellite Estate would become the state's leading vegetable production centre when a vegetable collection and marketing centre was built at the foot of Gunung Jerai.

A total of 121 people from villages around Gunung Jerai, like Kampung Jelatang, Kepala Bukit, Banggol Lalang and Guar Nanas, are involved in vegetable farming on the 97.8ha estate.

The project, which was undertaken intensively early this year, is capable of giving each participant a monthly income of RM1,000.

-- BERNAMA

MNH JM YBY