

30/09/2002

The biggest and best this year

THERE will be foods, flowers and fruits galore and if you want to know how they are produced, farmed and brought to the dining table, head for the Malaysian International Exhibition Centre at the Mines in Sungei Besi for Asia's agricultural show.

The MAHA 2002, AgriTech and HPPNK 2002 runs from Oct 1 to 6 and it will be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed at 2.30pm tomorrow.

The MAHA 2002, AgriTech Malaysia 2002 and HPPNK (The National Farmers, Breeders and Fishermen's Day) 2002 will be Asia's largest agricultural event this year.

Datuk Abi Musa Asa'ari, the chief secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, said it should be the best MAHA exhibition ever.

The Ministry of Agriculture, the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA), Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Authority (Mardi), the Department of Veterinary Services and the national farmers association (PPK) had spent two years preparing for this event.

Among the "must-see" events will be the Ministry of Agriculture's visualisation centre.

It will show highlights of the ministry's vision to transform the agricultural landscape in crops, livestock and fisheries.

Over 350 exhibitors from 20 countries will display biotechnological and agricultural achievements.

The countries are Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, China, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Venezuela.

With over 700 booths and tickets priced at RM5 for adults and RM3 for children, there will be plenty of things to see and do for visitors.

About 5,000 of Malaysia's best and most productive farmers will also attend the HPPNK 2002 and they will be the perfect target audience for the exhibitors.

A greenhouse pavilion will showcase research and development in agriculture.

There will be many food and drinks and cooking demonstrations by chefs at the international food court.

A farm and garden set across 23,000 squares metres will display livestock.

The AgriTech Malaysia 2002 at the same venue will feature agricultural innovations. There will be a display of products and services, from farm machinery and equipment to latest methodologies in bringing food from farm to table.

Visitors and businessmen will get a chance to see opportunities in agrotechnologies, the latest development of agri-products, applications of technology in agriculture, post-harvest technology, fisheries and genetic modifications in food.

A two-day international conference and seminar, Agriculture Biotechnology-Business and Education 2002, will be held in conjunction with the MAHA 2002 and AgriTech Malaysia 2002. The conference, on Oct 3 and 4 at the Palace of Golden Horses, will feature experts like Professor German Spangenberg from Australia, Professor W. Paul Davies from the United Kingdom, Dr Harry A. Kuiper from the Netherlands, Professor C.S.

Prakash from the United States, Professor David Hughes from the UK, Professor George Chu from Canada, Director General of FAMA Datuk Wan Ibrahim Wan Daud and Dr Jo Bury of Belgium. The conference and seminar will emphasise opprtunities to advance agro-technology in Malaysia.

Among areas to be highlighted are the development in tropical flowers, herbs, fruit trees and fishes for food and ornamental purposes.