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Kada-Success

KADA SUCCESSFUL IN REPLACING TOBACCO WITH VEGETABLE AND FRUIT
CULTIVATION

BACHOK, May 14 (Bernama) -- The Kemubu Agricultural Development Authority (Kada) has succeeded in cultivating vegetables and fruits that can give more lucrative returns than tobacco, Datuk Mohamed Johari Baharum, Political Secretary I to the Prime Minister, said today.

He said Kada had shown that these commodities could replace the tobacco traditionally cultivated by farmers, especially those in Bachok district.

He said he would inform Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad about this so that the government could give full attention to Kada's efforts.

He was speaking to reporters after visiting Kada's commercial vegetable and fruit cultivation project, here, with three other political secretaries -- Maithias Chang (political secretary to the prime minister, Abdul Mutalib Alias (to the finance minister) and Datuk Wan Adnan Wan Mohamad (to the information minister).

He said the prime minister would be taken on a tour of the project later to see for himself Kada's success in augmenting the income of the farmers.

Meanwhile, Kada chairman Tan Sri Husein Ahmad said the lucrative income earned by the farmers now best answered Dr Mahathir's query 15 years ago as to whether tobacco could be replaced with other commodities without adversely affecting the income of the farmers.

He said Kada's effort to develop commercial projects, especially on idle land, was in line with the government's efforts to increase food production in the country.

He said Kada had identified 200ha in Bachok for commercial cultivation at a cost of about RM25 million.

Eight hectares were already producing yield while 80 more would be developed this year, he said, adding that each 0.4ha could bring in about RM7,000 in two months.

He said many tobacco farmers had switched to these commercial projects and were satisfied with the income they were earning now.

-- BERNAMA

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