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Showcasing latest changes in agricultural landscape

Shamini Darshni

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Malaysian Agriculture, Horticulture & Agrotourism (MAHA) 2002 and Agritech Malaysia 2002 exhibition, which will be held here from Oct 1 to 6, will showcase the latest technological developments in the industry.

MAHA 2002 will be participated mainly by private companies and agencies under the Agriculture Ministry.

Agriculture Ministry secretary general Datuk Abi Musa Asa'ari Mohd Nor said the ministry would highlights vision for the future through a visualisation centre showing the changing agricultural landscape in crops, livestock and fisheries.

MAHA 2002 will bring 6,000 farmers to the exhibition, he told a Press conference today.

He added that the Hari Peladang, Penternak dan Nelayan Kebangsaan (Farmers, Livestock Breeders and Fishermen's Day) will be celebrated at the same time and place as MAHA 2002/Agritech 2002.

Awards will be presented to outstanding farmers, livestock breeders and fishermen.

From this year, MAHA 2002 will be held biennially.

Agritech Malaysia 2002 will have 350 exhibitors from 20 countries including China, the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, India and Hungary.

With the theme "Transforming Agriculture Through Technology", the joint exhibition aims to bring together agriculture leaders to create more business opportunities.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open MAHA 2002, Agritech 2002 and the Farmers, Livestock Breeders and Fishermen's Day at the Malaysian International Exhibition Centre on Oct 1.

The exhibition will be on from 11am to 9pm daily. The New Straits Times is the official paper.

One of the attractive features will be a farm and garden setting covering six acres on the golf driving range with 250 different types of livestock. There will also be pony rides for children and a rabbit farm.

In addition, there will be green houses to display flowers, tropical fruits, orchids and tropical plants.

In conjunction with the exhibition, an international conference on "Agriculture Biotechnology - Business and Education" will be held for two days from Oct 3 at the Palace of the Golden Horses.

It will deal with the trends and knowledge of agriculture biotechnology which are important to developing countries in Asia.

Local participants will gain an international perspective on how agriculture can be profitable through the use of appropriate technology.

MAHA 2002 is organised by the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority and managed by Asian AR Trade Exhibitions (M) Sdn Bhd which is organising Agritech 2002 and the international conference.