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FARMERS-AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE OUTPUT CAN REACH RM15.8 BLN IN 2010

KUALA LUMPUR, July 12 (Bernama) -- The country's agriculture output is expected to increase to RM15.8 billion in 2010 from RM9.5 billion in 2000 through the Third National Agriculture Policy (DPN3) approach (DPN3), Farmers Organisation Authority (FOA), Farmers' Entrepreneur Development Director, Mariam Mas Yaacob, said here today.

She said that the agriculture industry is one of the major economic sectors which had the potential to grow.

As such, the government came out with the DPN3 to modernise the sector so that it could contribute to the country's economic development and turn Malaysia into a major food producer in the world, she said.

Mariam Mas said this at a press conference on Business Opportunities and the Economic Stimulus Package in the agriculture sector seminar to be held on July 21.

She said that DPN3 projected an investment of RM32.98 billion in the agriculture sector from 2000-2010 with private sector investment at RM21.939 billion.

Under the new economic package announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in May, the government has allocated RM2.85 billion of the RM7.3 billion for the agriculture sector.

As for the seminar, Mariam Mas said that it will provide guidelines to future agri entrepreneurs and give out information on government facilities and incentives in the agriculture sector.

The seminar is also aimed at creating an agri business network and provide information on financing by financial institutions.

The seminar to be held at the Palace of Golden Horses, will see some 500 people participating in a dialogue with Agriculture Minister Datuk Mohd Effendi Norwawi. -- BERNAMA

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