

PM: FOOD SYSTEM TO BE STRENGTHENED

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National Agro-food Policy 2.0 will help country prepare for future pandemics, says Ismail Sabri

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THE contribution of the agro-food sector to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) has jumped by almost 100 per cent following the implementation of the National Agro-food Policy (NAP) in 2011.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the sector's contribution had increased with an average annual growth of 6.8 per cent last year.

He said total food exports had also increased by an average annual growth rate of 6.4 per cent from RM18.1 billion to RM33.7 billion during the same period.

To continue the success of NAP, Ismail Sabri said NAP 2.0 was enacted to develop the agro-food sector, particularly to improve food security.

"The national food system needs to be strengthened to be more resilient and sustainable to face pandemics, other than Covid-19, that may happen in the future.

"This includes improving performances at all levels related to

production, processing, distribution, preparation, food security and nutrition," he said.

Ismail Sabri said this during the virtual launch of the National Agro-food Policy (NAP 2.0) 2021-2030 here yesterday.

He said the government had established a Cabinet Committee on National Food Security Policy last year to plan a food security policy.

He added that the National Food Security Action Plan 2021-2025 was developed through this cabinet committee after taking into account national food security issues and challenges.

He said the focus of the nation's food system transformation, as was mentioned at the United National Food Systems Summit, would be implemented via NAP 2.0.

He said to achieve the goals of NAP 2.0, smart farming methods would play a vital role in modernising the agro-food sector.

"Smart agriculture is one of the key economic growth activities outlined in the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030. It aims to increase the productivity of all agro-food sub-sectors.

"NAP 2.0 has positioned modernisation strategies and smart agriculture as key game-changers for the transformation of the agro-food sector.

"It will be driven through funds, investment incentives and manpower to increase technology adoption."

He said research, development, commercialisation and innovation would be the core in developing the agro-food sector.

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DATUK SERI ISMAIL SABRI YAAKOB
prime minister



A farmer ploughing his padi field in Pokok Sena, Kedah. The agro-food sector's contribution to the GDP has jumped by almost 100 per cent since 2011. FILE PIC

"At the same time, the cooperation of government research agencies, public and private higher learning institutions will be mobilised to make NAP 2.0 a success."

He said the policies and plans would complement each other in

improving the sustainability of the agro-food system.

"These efforts will be successful through the modernisation and smart agriculture as well as strengthening the agro-food value chain.

"The priority this time is fo-

cused on efforts to improve productivity and income as well as the quality of life among food sector producers," he said.

He said the agro-food sector was expected to grow by 4.5 per cent annually under the 12th Malaysia Plan.