

PM: MALAYSIA CAN BE BIOMASS HUB

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Sources have been identified to produce value-added products, says Ismail Sabri

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MALAYSIA will step up efforts to use materials derived from commodity by-product to reduce waste and generate more revenue.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said biomass sources had been identified to produce value-added products.

“Malaysia can emerge as a biomass hub, which is appropriate for the country’s status as the second largest palm oil producer and biggest biomass industry contributor,” he said at the launch of Malaysia International Agricommodity Expo and Summit 2022 (MIACES) held at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre yesterday.

It is learnt that the Plantation Industries and Commodities Ministry is collecting data before undertaking a biomass plant project.

Ismail Sabri said the event would be the best platform for



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob being briefed on an exhibit at the Malaysia International Agricommodity Expo and Summit 2022 at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Kamaruddin (left).
PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

local agri-commodity industry players to expand into new export markets and promote products and technologies for palm oil, rubber, timber products, cocoa, pepper and kenaf.

He said the agri-commodity sector was expected to generate over RM300 billion in exports and the government would encourage foreign direct investment (FDI) to diversify high-value agri-commodity products.

Chinese government-owned companies, he said, would be

working with local companies and the Malaysian Palm Oil Board to produce hydro-treated vegetable oil (HVO) and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) involving an FDI value of RM6 billion.

“The companies from China are Shanxi Construction Investment Group Co Ltd and Institute of Coal Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The Malaysian companies are Pengerang Maritime Industries Sdn Bhd and Sabah Oil and Gas

Development Corporation.

“The collaboration will see 1,000 jobs created. The construction of the first HVO and SAF factories in the country is one of the initiatives to drive the palm oil sector towards being a high-tech and high-value industry,” he said.

Two second generation biodiesel and biojet plants will be built in Johor and Sabah, covering between 202.3ha and 242.8ha.

Construction is expected to take about four to five years and the feasibility of the projects are being studied.

In his speech, Ismail Sabri also shared other achievements in sub-sectors, including exports in rubber products and furniture, which the country is known for.

He said Malaysia exported high-quality gloves to almost 190 countries and recently invented new rubber composites, a result of a research led by Malaysians

with the cooperation of world-renowned universities.

“Malaysia is also a pioneer in implementing a certification for tropical forest timber — the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme, which is recognised in other countries.

“Malaysian-certified timber products have been used in the construction of the Japan National Stadium for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.”

The country’s furniture sector, meanwhile, has been made famous by the Tanggam label.

Themed “Advancing Agri-commodity in Sustainable Ecosystem”, the exhibition features in-demand commodity products, services, and up-and-coming agri-technology.

Producers, innovators, investors, exporters and importers, as well as policy-makers, researchers and academicians from 39 countries are taking part in the event that runs until tomorrow.