

**Najib Wants FELDA Settlers to Adopt New Technology, Venture into Global Market**  
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MERSING, June 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants FELDA settlers to explore and venture into the global market and not just depend on the local economy to market their products.

He said to attain international status, FELDA settlers must adopt new technology, innovation and creativity in the process of developing and manufacturing their products.

"FELDA cannot remain in a limited enclosure like before but rather move forward to grab a share of the global market by mastering the latest technology and innovation," Prime Minister said when launching the National level 'Sentuhan Kasih' Project at Dewan Sentuhan Kasih FELDA, FELDA Tenggara 3, in Mersing.

Also present were Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin and FELDA chairman Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Samad.

Najib said FELDA cannot depend on opening big scale land development but should move towards technological advancement to ensure a high yield in productivity from a small land area.

The Prime Minister said under the 'Sentuhan Kasih' programme, FELDA would work with a number of companies like Iris Corporation Berhad, to apply the latest technology in agriculture ventures undertaken by FELDA settlers.

He said among agriculture products produced through the programme were the cultivation of Rock Melon, vegetables, fish-breeding, fresh-water fish breeding and chicken breeding.

Najib said under the 'Sentuhan Kasih' programme FELDA were working with a company from South Korea to breed Sturgeon fish to produce 'Caviar' for the international market.

He said the Sturgeon project was a unique venture and had a huge potential to penetrate the international market.

Najib said when he met Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), he had told him about the Sturgeon fish-breeding and Caviar production project in Malaysia.

"President Putin joked that Malaysia's Sturgeon fish breeding and Caviar production would break Russia's dominance in the industry for all these years," he said.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Isa said since the 'Sentuhan Kasih' programme was launched in October last year, 100 settlers had enrolled to take part in the programme and more are expected to participate when FELDA expands the programme to 12 other districts throughout the country.

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