

**1,704 farmers in Kelantan suffered RM26.49 million losses in floods –  
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The massive floods which crippled the state of Kelantan saw 1,704 farmers suffer losses amounting to RM26.49 million last year, said Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said the figure was obtained through a census conducted by the ministry with the relevant departments and agencies at the Kemubu Agricultural Development Authority (KADA) area which was affected by the disaster.

"The survey also found that 4,929 hectares of paddy fields were affected," he said in a written reply to Tan Sri Annuar Musa (BN-Ketereh).

Annuar had wanted to know if the government had conducted a study to determine the value of the losses incurred by paddy farmers and the extent of damage to irrigation infrastructure which would affect cultivation of rice in the KADA area for the next planting season.

In terms of the estimated value of damage to infrastructure, Ismail Sabri said it was about RM7.69 million, comprising damage to irrigation canals, farm roads, bridges and embankments.

He admitted that the infrastructural damage would affect the irrigation system to the paddy fields in the next planting season if not repaired quickly.

"For this year, the government will repair three types of damaged infrastructure, that is farm roads, irrigation and drainage, and buildings that include agricultural assets. For other infrastructure improvements, an application for provisions will be made under the 11th Malaysia Plan," he said. – Bernama, April 7, 2015.

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