

**Minister promises savings of up to 20% at farmers' markets –  
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Effective June 1, consumers will enjoy savings of up to 20% on essential goods at the farmers' markets, said Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said the gain was due to the government's move to prohibit farmers, breeders and fishermen from using middlemen in selling their harvest, which helps reduce overhead costs, as well as the pricing of their products.

"The Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama) has been instructed to determine the mechanism for the supply of farm products directly to the farmers' markets.

"In supporting the programme, 200 agro-product collection centres will be set up by the ministry."

The text of his speech was read by Agriculture Department director-general Datuk Ahmad Zakaria Mohamad Sidek.

The prohibition on the use of middlemen applies to 580 farmers' markets nationwide and involves 25,000 traders.

Ismail Sabri said by year-end, another 60 farmers' markets would be set up. – Bernama, April 27, 2015.

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