

PM visits Iris Corp's hi-tech farming facility

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi visited Iris Corporation Bhd's latest venture in hi-tech farming carried out on the technology company's office rooftop at the Technology Park Malaysia here.

Iris's managing director Datuk Tan Say Jim said during the private visit, which lasted more than an hour, Abdullah was shown how Iris applied new and smart technologies to produce fruits and vegetables on a commercial basis.

Among the crops being grown via Iris's Smart AutoPot Systems were melons, cucumbers, chillies, ladies fingers, tomatoes and other vegetables.

The visit is in conjunction with next Wednesday's launch of the system, which introduces an efficient and good quality farming technique.

The system allows the farmer to control the size of the product when addressing customers' requirements.

"We are also testing padi-

growing," Tan said. Also present during the visit was its chairman Tan Sri Razali Ismail.

Tan said Abdullah, who has been pushing agriculture as another pillar of growth for the economy besides manufacturing and services, had remarked that steps should be taken to make agriculture work and for it to emerge as an engine of growth for the country.

Tan said Iris was responding to the Government's call to make agriculture an important revenue earner for the economy.

Through new technologies and sheltered farming, he said farmers would be able to overcome problems such as adverse weather conditions, lack of water, low quality crops and inconsistency in supply.

Iris Corporation, an MSC-status company and listed on the Mesdaq market, has a RM60mil Smart Technologies Complex at Technology Park Malaysia at Bukit Jalil, which houses integrated manufacturing facilities for contactless smart cards. — Bernama