

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 4 MAC 2015 (RABU)

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Nuklear Malaysia hasil produk vitamin tingkat pengeluaran pertanian

ARAU - Agensi Nuklear Malaysia (Nuklear Malaysia) dengan kerjasama Avid Focus Resources Sdn. Bhd. tampil dengan produk vitamin tanaman yang mampu meningkatkan kadar pertumbuhan dan hasil pokok padi, buah-buahan serta bunga-buahan dengan menggunakan teknologi radiasi nuklear.

Pengarah Bahagian Teknologi Pemprosesan Sinar Nuklear Malaysia, Dr. Kamaruddin Hashim berkata, produk vitamin cecair jenama Oligochitosan itu diperbuat daripada ekstrak udang yang disinarkan dengan teknologi pemprosesan radiasi pada tahap derivatif (selamat).

"Jangan khuatir kerana tahap radiasi yang digunakan selamat bukan sahaja untuk tanaman malah manusia. Kita sedia maklum radiasi nuklear digunakan untuk perubatan dan konsep yang lebih kurang sama dipraktikkan untuk pertanian.

"Produk Oligochitosan telah



KAMARUDDIN (dua dari kanan) memberikan penjelasan mengenai produk Oligochitosan kepada Maznah (dua dari kiri) pada Majlis Pelancaran Produk Oligochitosan di Tambun Tulang kelmarin.

diuji di kawasan penanaman padi di Selangor dan Pulau Pinang dan hasilnya agak baik dengan peningkatan 20 hingga 25 peratus hasil padi," katanya pada sidang media sempena pelancaran produk Oligochitosan di Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan Setiajaya MADA, Tambun Tulang di sini kelmarin.

Turut hadir Pengerusi Eksekutif Kumpulan Securiforce, Datuk Dr. Maznah Hamid. Produk yang digunakan secara semburan itu dijual pada harga RM40 seliter.

Tiada permintaan pembenihan awan

Kuala Lumpur: Paras empangan di seluruh negara masih belum mencapai tahap kritikal sehingga memerlukan operasi pembenihan awan dijalankan.

Mengesahkan perkara itu, Ketua pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia) Datuk Che Gayah Ismail berkata, pihaknya belum menerima permohonan daripada mana-mana kerajaan negeri bagi menjalankan operasi itu walaupun cuaca panas dan kering.

Bagaimanapun, MetMalaysia bersedia menjalankan operasi pembenihan awan sekiranya terdapat permintaan daripada agensi terbit.

"Belum ada operasi pembenihan awan dijalankan berikutan belum ada empangan yang dilaporkan mengalami kekurangan air.

"Kita juga mendapati persekitaran seluruh negara tidak mengalami keadaan berjerebu yang memerlukan operasi itu dijalankan," katanya ketika dihubungi, di sini, semalam.

Cuaca diramal kekal panas

SHAH ALAM - Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia meramalkan cuaca panas sepanjang minggu ini dan keadaan ini dijangka berterusan hingga hujung bulan ini.

Pengarah Khidmat Korporat dan Komersialnya, Dr Mohd Hisham Mohd Anip berkata, seluruh negara akan mengalami keadaan ini kecuali negeri Sarawak yang mungkin akan mengalami hujan lebih sedikit berbanding negeri lain.

"Bagi minggu ini, cuaca akan kekal panas dan kering tetapi akan mengalami lebih banyak hujan berbanding minggu lalu, namun suhu kekal panas.

"Kalau ada hujan pun, ia mungkin sekejap dan kuantiti yang sedikit. Keadaan ini dijangka akan berterusan untuk tempoh dua atau tiga minggu lagi sehingga bermulanya musim peralihan monsun timur laut kepada monsun barat daya," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*, semalam.

Menurutnya, ketika perubahan monsun berlaku, negara akan mengalami hujan lebih dari biasa dan keadaan itu dijangka berterusan sehingga awal Mei.

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 13
TARIKH: 04 MAC 2015 (RABU)

Dry spell will not affect food supplies, says minister

PUTRAJAYA: The current dry spell is not that serious and will not affect food supplies, said Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said the Meteorological Department had informed him that although it was hot in the day, there

was a lot of rain in the evenings.

"It is not as hot as it was in 2014 so the situation is not alarming.

"But we have taken several measures to ensure the agricultural sector is able to withstand the current dry and hot spell," he said after opening an agro-tourism seminar

here yesterday.

Ismail Sabri said the Government was also not too worried about areas under the Kemubu Agricultural Development Authority (Kada) and Muda Agricultural Development Authority (Mada) as both had enough irrigation.

"It is the other areas that require water to be channelled in from elsewhere.

"For these areas, we have constructed 25 tube wells costing RM3.35mil and provided 450 units of pumps for farmers in Kelantan," he said.



Gempa Bumi Kuat Gegar Indonesia

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Mac (Bernama) -- Satu gempa bumi kuat berukuran 6.0 pada skala Richter berlaku di selatan Sumatera, Indonesia pada 6.37 petang, Selasa.

Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia dalam kenyataan berkata gempa bumi itu berpusat di 71km barat laut dari Siberut, Indonesia dan 511 km barat daya dari Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan.

"Gegaran dirasakan di sekitar Selangor dan Negeri Sembilan. Tiada ancaman tsunami kepada Malaysia," menurut kenyataan itu.

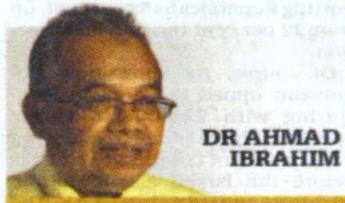
Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia sedang memantau perkembangan ini dan akan memaklumkan perkembangan terkini.

-- BERNAMA

Better water technologies vital with climate change

CRUCIAL RESOURCE:

World consumption is expected to rise by more than 50 per cent by 2050



DR AHMAD
IBRAHIM

THE nation has just celebrated Chinese New Year. As usual, all Malaysians, irrespective of race and religion, took advantage of the long weekend to head back to their kampung. PLUS highways make the journey smoother.

Come to think of it, much of the domestic tourism in the country thrives on the regular "balik kampung" trips that Malaysians enjoy doing. And, because of the ethnic and religious diversity of the population, Malaysians are blessed with many opportunities to embark on the "balik kampung" adventure. After the Chinese New Year, the nation will celebrate "Hari Raya Puasa". This is followed by "Hari Raya Qurban". Then Deepavali will be the excuse to "balik kampung". Next comes the Christmas break. Of course, we should not forget Thaipusam. In East Malaysia there are more festival breaks for "balik kampung".

This year, according to the Chinese calendar, is the year of the Goat. We can hear wishes of "Goat Luck" dominating the social me-

dia. Lots of stories about goats are told as well. The popular one making the round is that goats are known to be shy of baths. Therefore, this year, if we truly follow the "Goat Way", there is a good chance that our water footprint will be much reduced. And this should help us live through the coming dry season that has been predicted by the Meteorological Department until next month. In the "Goat Spirit" we should, in fact, practise water rationing voluntarily.

Hopefully this year will also translate into the economic "Goat Luck" that the nation craves for. This means better commodity prices, higher export earnings, improved oil price and, of course, a stronger ringgit!

Scientists are already making predictions that water will continue to be an important feature of this year. But unlike last year when the Year of the Horse brought us more water than what we needed, the Year of the Goat promises otherwise. The expert prediction is that there will be less of it.

We will be praying for more water this year. The irony of it all is that even when we were flooded with water late last year, we could not harvest them all. They were all drained back to the sea. And when they reach the sea, the water is not of much use unless, of course, we remove the salt through desalination. Realistically, there is no reason why any country with a sea front would ever run out of water. The trick is investing in desalination facilities. Many countries have, in fact, done so. More so because of the advances made in membrane technology, the cost to desalinate has come down a lot.

Yet the United Nations says more than 768 million people worldwide still have insufficient access to clean water. The prediction is that world water consumption will rise by more than 50

per cent by the year 2050. This is due to escalating demand from industrial production and from thermal power generation. The increase will be 400 per cent and 140 per cent respectively. Researchers worldwide are now looking at new technologies to make clean water more available.

Water contamination poses serious challenge. Only recently, a water treatment plant in the Klang Valley had to be shut down because of suspected ammonia and manganese contamination. This affected the supply of drinking water to some parts of the Klang Valley.

In Germany scientists are developing an online test procedure for contaminants. The biosensor they are researching would trigger an alarm whenever contamination of the water is detected. Another research explores the use of laser technology to detect contaminants.

Saudi Arabia increasingly depends on desalination plants to make sure its population has enough water. A vast network of pipes transports water from the coasts to large cities inland. Since desalination is not cheap, water loss through piping defects will have to be minimised.

This is where scientists are working on a reliable control system to detect defects in the pipeline infrastructure. Worldwide, the scientific community and industry are working to research new technologies to help overcome water woes.

The fact is the growing demand for water, the decreasing supply in many regions due to climate change and the enormous decline in water quality make new and better water technologies a necessity.

The writer is a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia



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