

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 2 FEBRUARI 2018 (JUMAAT)

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KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (AGRO) : MUKA SURAT 8
TARIKH : 2 FEBRUARI 2018 (JUMAAT)

TEPUNG BAKAR LEMAK

Syarikat Bumiputera pasarkan bahan masakan berasaskan guarana

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Tepung yang dihasilkan daripada tanaman herba, guarana atau 'Paulinia cupana' mempunyai ciri sama seperti tepung gandum dengan khasiat tersendiri.

Menyadari keunikan dan peluang itu, syarikat milik Bumiputera, Ritz Biotechnology Development Sdn Bhd (Ritz Biotech) kini dalam usaha memasarkan tepung berkenaan.

Tepung yang bakal memasuki pasaran pada Ogos depan itu dijangka menjadi produk keluaran berasaskan guarana antara yang pertama di dunia.

Pengarah urusannya, Datuk Ibrahim Yahya berkata, produk berkenaan juga sesuai digunakan dalam masakan termasuk penghasilan kek dan kuih serta harganya yang tidak jauh berbeza dengan tepung gandum.

Katanya, biji guarana yang dijadikan tepung itu mempunyai khasiat termasuk boleh membakar lemak, meningkatkan tenaga, membantu memulihkan tekanan darah rendah dan cirit-birit.

"Tanaman herba berkenaan memang sudah terkenal di Brazil dengan pelbagai produk kesihatan yang dihasilkan daripada guarana."

"Malah di negara berkenaan, tepung ini hanya dihasilkan dan digunakan dalam kalangan penduduknya saja namun tidak dikomersialkan."

"Ia memberi peluang terbaik kepada Malaysia untuk mempelbagaikan produk keluarannya," katanya dalam sidang media di Georgetown, Pulau Pinang, baru-baru ini.

Ibrahim ditemui dalam majlis menandatangani perjanjian (MoU) antara Ritz Biotech bersama syarikat di bawah seliaan Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Malaysia (MOSTI) iaitu Institut Bioteknologi Malaysia (NIBM) diwakili Timbalan Menteri MOSTI



DR Abu Bakar (dua dari kiri) mendengar penerangan mengenai tanaman herba.

yang juga Pengerusi NIBM, Datuk Dr. Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah. Turut hadir, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif NIBM, Rozairi Muhammad.

Menurut Ibrahim, selain tepung, Ritz Biotech juga dalam usaha untuk mengeluarkan produk lain berasaskan guarana seperti produk kesihatan.

kesantikan dan minuman tenaga tersendiri.

Katanya, manfaat produk daripada tumbuhan itu bukan saja sesuai bagi pasaran domestik malah di peringkat antarabangsa.

"Faktor iklim Khatulistiwa yang menyamai cuaca di Brazil juga memudahkan penanaman guarana di

negara ini.

"Kita sudah membekalkan benih kepada pekebun kecil di lima lokasi di sini pada tahun lalu dan hasilnya akan dituai pada penghujung tahun ini dengan nilai kira-kira RM1.8 juta."

"Di Malaysia, kita mempunyai 9,307 hektar



DR Abu Bakar



IBRAHIM

kebun penanaman guarana iaitu masing-masing 2,023 hektar di Nani dan Sik, Kedah, Segamat, Johor, Raub, Pahang dan Pinang Tunggal, Pulau Pinang manakala 1,214 hektar lagi di Sungai Ara, Pulau Pinang," katanya.

Turut berlangsung pada majlis itu, perasmian Pusat Kccemerlangan Guarana Ritz NIBM yang memfokuskan kepada aktiviti kajian, pembangunan, inovasi dan pengkomersialan (RDIC) tanaman herba terbabit.



ROZAIRI (dua dari kiri) dan Ibrahim berjabat tangan selepas menandatangani perjanjian sama di pejabat Dr. Abu Bakar.

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (NEWS) : MUKA SURAT 23
TARIKH: 2 FEBRUARI 2018 (JUMAAT)

FORECAST

Brace for strong winds in South China Sea

JOHOR BARU: A class-three category warning for strong wind and rough sea condition has been issued by the Malaysian Meteorological Department (Met).

It is expected to hit several areas in the Condore waters and northwest of Reef North in the South China Sea, with wind speed of up to 60km per hour.

The Johor Met Department said occurrences of a strong wind pattern coming from the northeast was expected to last

until Monday. The strong winds are expected to generate big waves measuring 4.5m in height in the two areas.

"The condition is dangerous for coastal activities and shipping, including posing a safety risk to oil-rig workers," the department said.

During the same period, strong winds with a speed of between 50 and 60km per hour are expected to pass through Pulau Tioman and several areas, including Layang-layang, Reef South and Palawan.

Climate change calamity

CLIMATE in a narrow sense is usually defined as the "average weather" or, more rigorously, as the statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands or millions of years. The classical period is 30 years, as defined by the World Meteorological Organisation. According to the Malaysian Meteorological Department, the characteristic features of the climate of Malaysia are uniform temperature, high humidity and copious rainfall. Winds are generally light. Climate, change is a change in Earth's overall climate which means it could be a change in Earth's average temperature or a change in Earth's precipitation patterns.

The Earth's climate has changed throughout history. Just in the last 650,000 years there have been seven cycles of glacial advance and retreat, with the abrupt end of the last ice age about 7,000 years ago marking the beginning of the modern climate era and of human civilisation. The average temperature has risen a little more than one degree Fahrenheit during the past 100 years or so. However, a small change in Earth's average temperature can lead to big impacts.

The Earth is currently facing the impact of climate change. The melting of ice, the rise of sea level, the extreme weather, drought, massive floods, the changing of rainfall patterns and growing seasons are the impacts of climate change. Climate change has disrupted the fruit seasons in Malaysia, according to the Malaysian Nature Society. Fruiting seasons in both local fruit trees like durians and in wild trees in the forest have changed due to the changes in rain and heat patterns. According to INC (Initial National Communication) 2000, Malaysia's temperature and rainfall are rapidly increasing between +0.6% and 3.4C and -1% and +32% in 60 years repetitively and the rise of sea level is about 13cm to 94cm within 100 years respectively.

The warmer Earth has caused the massive ice fields, monstrous glaciers and sea ice from the Arctic to Peru, from Switzerland to the equatorial glaciers of Man Jaya in Indonesia to disappear fast. The melting of ice leads to the rise of sea levels. According to The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the oceans might rise



Worrying: The Sultan Abdul Halim Hospital parking lot was flooded during the downpour in Sungai Petani.

between 28cm and 98cm by 2100, which is enough to swamp many of the cities along the US. Then, with a complete meltdown of the Greenland ice sheet, sea level will rise to seven metres, enough to submerge London.

Climate change has also caused other catastrophic events such as massive floods due to heavy or prolonged downpours, snow melt, thunderstorms, and storm surges from hurricanes, and ice or debris jams. For instance, heavy monsoon rains have caused disastrous floods and left Nepal, Bangladesh and India with almost 1,200 dead and affected tens of millions more. South-East Asia has also been threatened with severe flooding. In 2017, the north eastern states of Penang and Kedah were hit by one of the worst floods in its history due to the abnormal downpour. Meanwhile in the UK, November 2015 and January 2016 were the wettest period, causing some of the most extreme and severe floods in 100 years.

Climate scientists have been predicting for years that climate change would lead to more

frequent and more extreme weather events. The scientists were right. Climate change has caused many devastating events recently in many parts of the world including Malaysia. However, a study has been conducted on awareness of climate change. Surprisingly, the study shows that throughout much of Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia, majorities said they hadn't heard of climate change.

Therefore, to curtail the climate change effect, the first thing is to raise awareness among the people on the impacts of climate change. They should have a better understanding of climate change and how climate change affects us in terms of public health, environment, weather and economics. Public education on climate change should be taken in order to promote awareness as well as to educate people on how they can help to tackle climate change.

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