

Ministry to promote use of biofertilisers, tech solutions to boost crop yield

KUALA LUMPUR: The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti) will promote the use of biofertilisers and various technologies to improve nutrient absorption and soil conservation to increase crop yield.

The ministry, in a statement yesterday, said these products were able to shield farmers from the rising cost of fertilisers due to a global supply shortage of raw materials.

“These products are suitable for large-scale use to increase the size of fertile land for farming in a short period.

“Based on field studies conducted by the Malaysian Nuclear Agency, biofertilisers can potentially cut expenditure on fertilisers by up to 50 per cent and step up crop yield up by eight per cent. This, therefore, will reduce our reliance on fertilisers, and subsidies for fertilisers can also be gradually decreased.”

The ministry said it was prepared to roll out 27 out of 46 technology solutions for large-scale use as short-term solutions to the ongoing food security crisis.

These solutions, it said, were divided into clusters, including seeds, biofertilisers and booster fertilisers, drones and robotics, testing and the Internet of Things (IoT) application, aquaculture, as well as animal feed.

One vital solution, the ministry said, was to combine automated fertigation systems, vertical farming and aquaponic with artificial intelligence applications to operate in isolated areas.

It said the operating costs could also be scaled down by using solar power as the primary energy source through the Nano Light Energy Panel (NLEP) technology.

“The NLEP technology can be used for green plants based on the suitability of location and market demand.

“IoT and blockchain technologies will be incorporated together with other technological solutions to boost our agro-industry.

“All these technological solutions are produced through local research and development initiatives funded by the government.”

Mosti said it would continue to engage the Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry to ensure that the solutions were implemented at the right localities based on demand from the economic sectors.

By Dhesegaan Bala Krishnan