

Dry season trouble for 19,300 padi farmers

NST 11/3/17

KOTA BARU: Some 19,300 padi farmers nationwide are affected by the dry season, said the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry.

Its secretary-general, Datuk Mohd Sallehuddin Hassan, said the three most affected states were Kelantan, Terengganu and Sabah.

He said water shortage affected the production of rice.

"The extreme hot weather is affecting farmers in Kelantan, Terengganu's granary areas and Sabah's Kota Belud.

"Among the problems faced by farmers who come under the supervision of the Kemubu Agricultural Development Authority (KADA) are limited water supply and padi crops which can survive only for two weeks.

"If this situation persists, it will affect the harvest and farmers will suffer losses," Sallehuddin

said after attending KADA's Excellent Service Award and Jasamu Dikenang 2018 programme here yesterday.

He said his officers had gone to the ground to learn about the problems faced by farmers.

"In Kelantan, we have provided 200 tube wells and will add another 100 units in the near future.

"We will deliver portable pumps to farmers in stages.

"I am confident all water-related problems, including the lack of water resources, will be resolved soon."

Sallehuddin urged KADA officers and employees to boost efforts to increase rice yields.

"To date, KADA has contributed eight per cent of the country's rice supply.

"I hope this can be improved."