

Department of Agriculture (DOA), Peninsular Malaysia

The Department of Agriculture has come a long way since its formation in 1905. It has expanded tremendously to meet the rising demands of the smallholders sector and today, its main thrust is on agricultural extension.

OBJECTIVES

In consonance with the Government's New Economic Policy (NEP), and the National Agricultural Policy (NAP), the DOA addresses itself to the following objectives :

- To increase productivity of the farm through effective transfer of farm technology.
- To effect changes in the attitudes of farmers to be more willing to adopt new technology as well as to participate more actively in agricultural development.
- To increase the contribution of the agricultural sector to the national economy by encouraging and promoting the cultivation of specific crops.

STRATEGIES

In order to meet the aforementioned objectives, the following strategies have been formulated.

- Identification of the target groups in order to formulate appropriate programmes to meet their needs.
- Strengthening the extension services for effective transfer of modern technology by providing adequate facilities.
- To intensify social and institutional development activities for farmers in order to expedite changes in their attitudes to be more self reliant; and to participate actively in commercial agricultural activities.
- Implement programmes to encourage farmers to cultivate specific crops collectively (group

farming) in order to increase productivity and income.

- Provide technical support services in crop production, crop protection, soils management and agricultural mechanization.
- Conduct pre-service training programmes for future agricultural operatives; in-service training programmes for officers in all categories; and specially designed programmes for potential entrepreneurs.
- Provide services for planning, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of Department's programmes/activities, and implementing the agricultural information system.
- Enforcement of the Pesticide Act 1974, and the Plant Quarantine Act 1976.

FUTURE PLAN/PROGRAMMES

The DOA will continue to assume its role as a lead agency in agricultural development right up to year 2000. The DOA will intensify its efforts to ensure that 7,720 farmer groups embracing 488,100 farm families will be serviced by the T & V System.

The thrust of DOA's programmes will be towards inculcating in the farmers a spirit of self-help and group effort to uplift their standard of living. Towards this end, farming activities of farmers will go beyond merely subsistence level; it will take the form of a commercialized venture, through group farming.

With the launching of the NAP, and the FMP (1986-1990), all efforts at agriculture development will be concentrated towards achieving the objectives of the Policy and the Plan.

KEY PERSONNEL

Director General

Dato' Abu Bakar Mahmud

Deputy Director General

Tuan Hj. Khairi bin Hj. Mohamed

Assistant Director General (Planning & Development)

Abdul Wahid Jalil

Assistant Director General (Extension)

Tuan Hj. Harun bin Mohd. Arabee