

Development Institute (Mardi) officer will be sent to New Zealand to study sheep breeding, production and wool processing. Mardi is also experimenting with a French cattle breed called limousine. Mardi is observing the growth of six limousine calves at its Serdang livestock research station currently.

### 3.1 Development

The Agriculture Ministry will soon embark on an intensive livestock rearing programme in the Felda and Felcra smallholder land development schemes. The Ministry will also expand it to the plantation sector which had been identified as another potential area for livestock. The programme, which will concentrate on livestock rearing among settlers and estate workers, has an aim to supplement their income and to help meet the increasing demand for meat in the country. (Star 17th July, 1989)

American Beef Development is setting up a M\$40 million cattle breeding project in Pahang which will make Malaysia one of the largest beef exporter in Asia. The ranch will also serve as a research institute for seed development and cattle feed. The project will be built on a 2,000ha site near Mu'adzam Shah. (Star 20th April, 1989)

The Guthrie plantation group is expanding its livestock activities, particularly sheep rearing, to cope with the rising demand for sheep including that from Islamic countries overseas who want to be sure that the sheep have been slaughtered according to Islamic riles. The group will also study possible joint-ventures in the field in future. At present, Guthrie finds it difficult to meet demand and has had to turn down supply requests. Guthrie now has about 9,000 sheep on its six farms, four in Negeri Sembilan and one each in Selangor and Johore. It is understood that there is a huge market for mutton in Saudi Arabia especially during the haj season. (Business Times 9th November, 1989)

Malaysia plans to stage its own international livestock show in 1990 in a concerted effort to improve its technology and eventually to put the country on the map of respected livestock producing countries.

In late 1988 it was announced in the press that some form of technical co-operation programme or an officers exchange programme with Canada would be looked into to further gather and update technical information. According to the Public Affairs Division of the Department of Agriculture, this programme is now underway and there has been an exchange of staff from both sides.

Mardi has submitted a proposal for a M\$500,000 joint project on sheep rearing to Institute National de la Recherche Agronomique (Inra), and expects a reply by next June or July. If approved, the funding for this formal tie will come from a European agency. According to Mardi Livestock Research Division Director, Ahmad Tajuddin Zainuddin, Malaysia currently supplies only 11% of its mutton needs. It imports about 6,000 metric tonnes of mutton a