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UKKMOA

UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN & INDUSTRI ASAS TANI
(UNTUK EDARAN DALAMAN MOA, JABATAN DAN AGENSI SAHAJA)

LIVELIHOOD AFFECTED

Fishermen stay onshore during monsoon, but some try their luck

KUANTAN. It has been three weeks since fisherman Zairi Zainal Abidin went out to sea. The ongoing monsoon season marked with uncertain weather and rough sea conditions has forced the 34-year-old to remain onshore and take up other jobs to support his family.

The father of one from Kampung Kempadang near here has been spending his time catching mud crabs (*ketam nipah*) using "bubu" or crab traps, and collecting lokan, a type of shellfish.

Zairi said as he did not have any skills to take up odd jobs in the village, he decided to sell crabs and lokan to support his family.

"I am left with little choice but since the monsoon season occurs every year, most of the fishermen are prepared for it... some of us will save money to spend during the rainy season. Besides buying groceries, most of us need to pay the house rent and prepare our children for school.

"Apart from selling mud crabs

and lokan, I spend my time repairing fishing nets and preparing the boats for the fishing season next year. Fishermen who live here will usually gather near the jetty to mend the fishing nets and repair their boats," he said recently.

Zairi, who quit his job as a maintenance worker eight years ago to join his father at sea, said he earned between RM40 and RM60 selling mud crabs, depending on their size.

He described the choppy waters as being too risky for fishermen as a majority of them owned small boats and strong winds, while in the middle of sea, could pose a major threat.

"Fishermen usually travel far out to sea to ensure that they secure a huge catch and during the monsoon season the weather is unpredictable. So it is best to remain onshore during the rainy season," he said.

While a majority of the fishermen at Kampung Kempadang choose to remain onshore, Zairi



Zamri Abidin (left) and a friend mending fishing nets at Pamat Kempadang near Kuantan yesterday. PIC BY FARIZUL HAFIZ AWANG

Abidin, 49, has been occasionally trying his luck by going out to sea during the monsoon season.

The father of nine, including five schoolgoing children, said he travelled about 40 nautical miles out to sea to cast his fishing net and could harvest between 20kg and 30kg of *ikan pelating* (Indian mackerel).

"It is dangerous but I have a family to feed and need to buy school uniforms for my children. Big waves and strong winds are common, and there is no such thing as calm seas during the monsoon season.

season," he said, adding that customers continued to visit the jetty area for fresh fish and some did not mind paying a little extra.

A Fisheries Department spokesman reminded boat owners without global positioning system device and safety jackets to avoid going out to sea.

He said the fishermen's associations provided updates on the sea conditions and weather so that they could plan their trips out to sea.

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Aplikasi teknologi moden dalam pertanian, penternakan

Aplikasi teknologi menjadi kegemilangan dalam meningkatkan mutu dan prestasi sesuatu proses, pada era Revolusi Industri Keempat (IR 4.0) ini.

Antara elemen popular sering dikaitkan dengan IR 4.0 adalah Internet of Things (IoT), kecerdasan buatan (AI), data raya (big data) dan robotik autonomi.

Di Malaysia, kerajaan menggalakkan penggunaan teknologi berasaskan IR 4.0 supaya negara dapat bergerak maju, seiring negara maju lain.

Bekas Pengerusi Majlis Penasihat Kerajaan, Tun Daim Zaidi, pernah berkata hasil tanaman sesebuah negara dapat dinaikkan mutu dan prosesnya dengan menggunakan teknologi moden.

Pertanian adalah proses menghasilkan makanan serat atau ruij dan banyak produk asas lain yang penting serta penternakan haiwan peliharaan. Perusahaan padi, buah sawit, nanas, dan durian mula menggunakan kaedah teknologi moden.

Sebagai contoh, sistem pengawasan satelit digunakan bagi mengawal hasil sesebuah ladang padi dan sawit, yang mana pemantauan suhu dan kelembapan, tahap kesihatan serta keselamatan ladang dilakukan dengan mudah.

Teknologi moden juga menawarkan perkhidmatan pengurusan hasil lebih cekap dan ber-sistematik, supaya proses pengurusan inventori stok dapat dilakukan dengan mudah dan ber-sistematik.

Bagi menaikkan kualiti hasil ternakan dan tanaman, teknologi moden memerlukan data yang banyak. Data paling penting bagi sesebuah teknologi, yang mana bilangan data lebih banyak akan menghasilkan keputusan tepat.

Oleh itu, tidak kira petani secara kecil-kecilan atau besar-besaran, semua mesti mengaplikasikan teknologi ini dalam kegiatan pertanian mereka, supaya tahap teknologi pertanian di negara kita bertambah maju.

Masyarakat juga perlu peka terhadap kehadiran teknologi dan merebut peluang bagi mengaplikasikan teknologi dalam aktiviti pertanian mereka.