



Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu signs a plaque to launch the 2023 Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute's Agricultural Technology and Innovation Exhibition at the Malaysia Agro Expo Park Serdang, yesterday. PIC TAKEN FROM MOHAMAD SABU'S FB PAGE

No curbs yet on seafood from Japan

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SERDANG: Malaysia has yet to decide on implementing restrictions on seafood imports from Japan following the country releasing treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean, starting Thursday.

Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu said a decision will only be made after the results of a study, carried out together with the Health Ministry, Agriculture and Food Security Ministry and environment-related entities, are obtained.

"Although Japan says (the water) has been neutralised, we will conduct a study with the other environmental parties.

"(These things happened) before we and other countries stated our position and decision about the issue of nuclear waste possibly spreading throughout the world. There are also many non-governmental organisations doing research (on this matter), and we will be on the same page as them if their research shows that this move poses a danger to

the world's population."

Despite heavy criticism and restrictions on seafood imports by China, North Korea and Hong Kong, Japan has maintained that it was safe to release treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean.

The International Atomic Energy Agency — the nuclear watchdog of the United Nations — last July said the move complied with international standards, and explained that the impact on humans and the environment would be "minor".

Earlier, Mohamad launched the 2023 Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute's (Mardi) Agricultural Technology and Innovation Exhibition at the Malaysia Agro Expo Park Serdang, here yesterday.

He also launched three varieties of Mardi red onions — BAW-1, BAW-2 and BAW-3 — which he said could help reduce Malaysia's reliance on onion imports.

He added that Mardi was currently implementing a pilot onion planting project in Perak,

which will be used as a hub after it is expanded next year.

On the issue of rice, Mohamad said the ministry was focusing on ensuring that the country's rice supply was sufficient after other countries such as India and Vietnam issued early warnings on halting exports.

"For now, our country's level of dependence on imported rice is at 35 per cent. We need to achieve a yield of seven tonnes per hectare to obtain the self-sufficiency level target.

"Kedah and Perlis achieved a record of 11.4 tonnes per hectare for rice with innovation involving machines that reduce spillage by two per cent."

Mohamad said the country was also working on completing an intergrated national database for the supply of food resources.

Page 1 pic: Protesters holding signs reading 'Don't throw radioactive contaminated water into the sea!' outside the Tokyo Electric Power Company headquarters on Thursday. AFP PIC