

RM10m aid for flood-hit farmers

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ALOR STAR: The government has allocated about RM10 million to help the 2,782 farmers in Kedah who were affected by last month's floods.

Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shariff Omar said the financial help would be given by the end of the month.

The bulk of the assistance would go to the 2,711 padi farmers whose seedlings were damaged by the floods, caused by continuous rain for more than a week from Oct 21.

The other recipients are seven fruit orchard owners, 17 mini-estate owners and 47 vegetable growers.

A total of 3,706ha of prime agricultural land in Kota Star, Kuala Muda, Kubang Pasu, Padang Terap, Pendang and Sik districts were affected.

Mohd Shariff said the aid would be in the form of seedlings, fertilisers and agricultural tools and machinery.

"We are compiling the reports and hope that the assistance could be made available by month's end."

Meanwhile, chairman of the coordinating committee for Muda Agriculture Development Authority (Mada) Farmers' Association, Datuk Ismail Arshad, described the announcement as timely.

He said many of the padi farmers had replanted their seedlings recently to reduce further losses.