

Flood-hit farmers get govt aid

PENDANG: A total of 764 farmers affected by floods here have received RM1.42mil from the Government.

Deputy Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister Datuk Mohamad Johari Baharum said the aid was distributed to farmers from Alor Senibong, Tajar, Titi Haji Idris, Kokbah and Pendang.

He said they suffered losses due to heavy rainfall last September.

"The affected farmers under the five Muda Agriculture Development Authority (Mada) farmers' organisations received RM1,800 per hectare as the padi grains had matured, compared with RM876 per hectare for padi in the early stages of growth.

"The money was allocated for a total of 788.934ha," he said.

He said the highest amount given to a single individual was RM11,800 while the lowest was RM48.

Mohamad Johari added that the Government had given out some RM94mil to farmers affected by floods in Kedah and Perlis since 2005.

Among the recipients yesterday was Che Ghonah Ahmad, 67, who said she was thankful for the RM3,625 compensation.

Also present were Mada manager Datuk Abdul Rahim Saleh and Pendang F-III district Farmers Organisation chairman Mohtar Taib.