

# Floods destroy padi seedlings worth RM7m

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**ALOR STAR:** Farmers lost about RM7 million worth of padi seedlings during the recent floods in Kedah.

Chairman of the co-ordinating committee for Muda Agriculture Development Authority (Mada) Farmers' Association, Datuk Ismail Arshad, said about 7,700ha of padi fields in Pendang, Kota Star and Kubang Pasu districts were affected.

He said about 7,300ha were in Mada irrigated areas, and the rest in villages outside the authority's jurisdiction.

The losses would have been worse had the crop been ready for harvest. "Most of the farmers had just started planting. So they lost seedlings, fertilisers and their efforts to prepare the fields."

State Farmers' Organisations chair-

man Datuk Badri Yunus said the farmers would now have to wait till next April to plant again.

"Most of the areas damaged are located along the rivers and Mada waterways. Mada and the state government should improve the drainage system to prevent a recurrence," he said. He praised the government's decision to financially assist the farmers.