

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

USING TECH TO BOOST RICE YIELD

Ministry aiming to produce between 8 and 10 tonnes per hectare

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THE Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry is targeting national padi production of between eight and 10 tonnes per hectare in the future, said its minister, Datuk Salahuddin Ayub.

He said the target could be achieved through the use of technology and deployment of manpower.

He said the boost in agricultural productivity was part of the ministry's vision

to increase the income of farmers, which would contribute to the country's gross domestic product.

"I made an observation and have no intention of denying efforts made by the previous administration (in adopting technology in agriculture).

"However, we did not go far. Our padi (production) is at three to four tonnes per hectare. In China, Taiwan and Thailand, the use of technology has improved padi production to between eight and 10 tonnes per hectare.

"If we look at Sekinchan and several padi fields managed by Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, the production has improved with the assistance of technology and efficient human resources.

"Through a strong team and the use of technology, we want our padi fields to produce the same large quantity of padi," he



DIALOGUE WITH ANALYSTS

Media Prima Bhd group managing director Datuk Kamal Khalid (second from left) with Ripple CEO Seelan Paul (left), Big Tree CEO Shukor Ariffin (third from left) and financial analysts during a dialogue session at the CJ Wow Shop studio in Glenmarie, Shah Alam, yesterday. PIC BY SYARAFIQ ABD SAMAD

said in an interview with *Malaysia Hari Ini* to promote the Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism exhibition yesterday.

He said the use of agriculture technology

would increase the self-sufficiency rate from 70 per cent to between 75 and 80 per cent by 2023 and reduce the nation's dependency on imported agriculture products.