

INTEGRATED PLANTING CONCEPT

- optimize land utilisation

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**DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANTATION
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Oil palm small holders are urged to engage in integrated planting concept to optimise land utilisation and improve their income.

The advice came from the Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Datuk Nasrun Datu Mansur during the launching of the ‘

Hello Commodity’ programme in Lahad Datu recently.

Nasrun is also the Member of Parliament of Lahad Datu and the chairman of the state-owned POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd.

He suggested that integrated farming can include the cultivation of cocoa and pepper alongside oil palm.

“Oil palm depends on the climate. If the weather is not good for three, four months, the productivity will be low, but we also have cocoa and pepper cultivation, this would help the smallholders as the time rotation between the crops are different,” he said.

Pepper commands high prices in the commodity, with black pepper at RM28,000 per tonne, and white pepper at RM50,000 per tonne, according to Nasrun.

“The government has introduced various incentives

and schemes to enhance the income of smallholders in the country.”

Sabah has over 1.45 million hectares of oil palm, of which 218,699 ha belong to smallholders, numbering 34,170. The state also has 37,453 rubber smallholders covering 146,884 ha, 5,602 cocoa smallholders with 6,847 ha. Pepper has just 30ha on record with 140 smallholders.