

Complete agro database crucial

By Jacob Achoi

Statistics would enable govt to formulate policies pertaining to food production planning: Dr Chan

KUCHING: Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Dr George Chan says a more comprehensive database for agricultural statistics is crucial in view of the current global food crisis.



LOCAL PRODUCT: Dr Chan taking a closer look at a bottle of locally made cooking oil, while Ramlah (on his right) and Dr Jairo (left) look on.

He said the database was necessary to enable the government to formulate policies pertaining to planning of food production.

“With the current global issues on the increase in food prices and other challenges in food supply, the compilation of a comprehensive and up-to-date agricultural statistical data has become a priority,” Dr Chan, who is also Minister of Modernisation of Agriculture said.

He was representing Chief Minister Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud in officiating at the 22nd Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) at Crowne Plaza Hotel, here

yesterday.

He was glad to note that the country was in the process of developing a comprehensive database for agricultural statistics through the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, and Department of Statistics.

According to Dr Chan, who is also Industrial Development Minister, a complete and harmonised statistical system had to be made available to policy makers primarily as inputs for planning, monitoring and evaluation of development activities.

“A strong statistical data system is fundamental for the formulation of macro economic policies,” he said.

The minister said the government had taken various measures to revitalise and modernise the agriculture sector as the third engine of growth as spelt out in the Third National Agricultural Policy (NAP). The NAP, among others, is aimed at increasing agricultural production, strengthening marketing and global networking.

The country’s chief statistician Wan Ramlah Wan Abd Raof, and APCAS secretary Dr Jairo Castano were among those present.