FGV Produces One Million Banana Clone Varieties To Meet Market’s Demand



FGV Innovation Centr



e
in Bandar Enstek produces banana clone varieties for market demand

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 July 2020: What began as a banana clonal research, leads to an opportunity for FGV Holdings Berhad (FGV) in generating mass production of high-quality banana clone varieties.

FGV is targeting to produce one million banana clones in 2021, an increase of 100% from the current production to cater to the niche market demand for fresh bananas and banana-based food industry. With this, FGV will be able to fulfil an estimated 30% of national consumption demand for the fruit.

FGV Group Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Haris Fadzilah Hassan said, "The high quality of our banana clonal seedlings has been proven with over six million berangan banana ramets sold between 2007 to July 2020, making FGV one of the biggest producers of banana clonal seedlings in Malaysia."

"FGV's Innovation Centre located in Bandar Enstek, Negeri Sembilan is producing banana clone varieties to fulfil the demand for intercropping during oil palm replanting and banana farmers in the country. With experienced and dedicated researchers in tissue culture production, technical advisory and nursery operation, we have the expertise to support the banana agropreneurs and smallholders with superior banana clonal seedlings, banana contract cloning and contract farming," said Haris Fadzilah.

"This is in line with FGV's strategic move to expand its Integrated Farming initiatives and at the same time increase local banana production with a target of 50% market share or equivalent to 1.7 million seedlings which will ultimately improve banana farmers' livelihood in Malaysia," Haris Fadzilah added.

Banana has been identified to have the highest demand and is the most marketable cash crop in Malaysia, which can generate additional income for oil palm plantation during the immature phase using the intercropping planting system. The most banana variety in demand by local farmers is the berangan and FGV is currently producing 850,000 ramets annually. FGV's mother plant of the berangan clone is certified by the Department of Agriculture under the Planting Material Validation Scheme.



Growth stage of banana clone

The banana clonal seedlings produced by FGV are free of disease, have uniform growth and can produce early yield as compared to sucker planting material.

FGV's banana clonal seedlings which include several varieties such as tanduk, lang, nipah, nangka, rastali, mas and lemak manis are available for bulk purchases in five nurseries and outlets located in Bandar Enstek (Negeri Sembilan), Trolak (Perak), Jerantut (Pahang), Bukit Tongkat (Johor) and Lahad Datu (Sabah). The banana clonal seedlings are also sold online through Shopee under FGV Agri Services Sdn Bhd.

Following this success, FGV is now developing clonal planting material for other high-value crops, such as pineapple, bamboo, vanilla and aquatic plant to fulfil high market demands.

FGV's banana clonal seedlings are available for bulk purchases in five nurseries and outlets located in Negeri Sembilan, Perak, Pahang, Johor and Sabah



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