

KUCHING, March 1, 2010 (Bernama) -- The arowana breeding industry has been identified as a potential high value project to increase the income of the population, especially the poor in Sarawak.

Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Deputy Minister Datuk Rohani Abdul Karim said breeding arowana could give lucrative returns to the operators.

"Some arowana species are found only in Borneo and it has a very high potential to be developed," she said at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching here today.

She said the swiftlet industry was another high value industry in Sarawak due to the high demand for bird nests in the world market.

"Swiftlet breeding and its downstream industry also provide job opportunities for housewives. This will raise the income of the population, particularly the poor," she said.

In the state, swiftlet farm operators needed to obtain the licence to breed the bird from the Sarawak Forestry Corporation, she said.

Rohani also urged entrepreneurs in the state to invest in large-scale cattle and goat farming as well as halal products.

"Sarawak has suitable areas for large-scale cattle and goat farming," she said.

She also told farmers in the state to get into pineapple cultivation.

The Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board would start operating in Sarawak this year to develop the pineapple downstream industry, she said.

"Pineapple cultivation will bring lucrative profits to the operators because of its high demand from overseas," she added.

Source -- BERNAMA