

Visit to Northwest Selangor Integrated Agriculture Development Project, Sabak Bernam



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A visit to the Northwest Selangor Integrated Agriculture Development Project (IADP) was successfully conducted by the Water Resources Engineering Technical Division on Tuesday, 11 July 2006 with a total of 29 participants. The group departed from the IEM building at 9.00 a.m. and reached Projek Barat Laut Selangor, Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani Malaysia at 10.45 a.m. The group was welcomed by the Jurutera Projek, Engr. Hj Shahrudin Ibrahim who then invited us for refreshment before presented the briefing on the Project. Subsequently site visit was carried out to Sawah Sempadan (one of eight paddy compartments) for the recently completed upgrading of 17.3 km long tertiary canal.

After lunch, the visit proceeded to other areas before it ended at Bagan Terap Pump House at 5.30 p.m. Some members were observed touching the paddy plant for the first time. The trip to Bernam River Headworks was cancelled as it was already late. A detour to Bukit Belimbing was made after dinner to watch the twinkling fireflies before came back to IEM building at 11.00 p.m.

NORTHWEST SELANGOR IADP (TANJUNG KARANG IRRIGATION SCHEME)

The Project started as Tanjung Karang Irrigation Scheme in 1936 before the commencement of the IADP in 6 June 1978. It covers an irrigation area of 19,700ha for paddy cultivation and drainage area of 80,000ha for other crops in the district of Kuala Selangor and Sabak Bernam. The paddy area is irrigated mainly by gravity flow and augmented by pumping in some areas.

The infrastructure consists of the Bernam River Headworks, Bagan Terap

Pump House, feeder canal (14.5 km), Sungai Tenggi (24.5 km), spillway (2 nos), water regulator (2 nos), main canal (40.2 km), secondary canal (24.5 km), tertiary canal (493.0 km), agricultural drain (663.0 km), farm road (1178 km), control structures (710 nos) and other auxiliary structures such as field offtake and field drainage outlet. Up to year 2000, the accumulated project cost was RM320.85 million and the area is being upgraded for better management and production. Paddy is nearly double cropped and the irrigation is staggered into three schedules for better water management. The current paddy yield is 7.1 tonne per hectare per season which is the highest among the eight (8) national rice bowls. Project Barat Laut Selangor is tasked to ensure the irrigation supply is effective and efficient by various means to achieve a yield of 10 tonnes per hectare per season for full double cropping by 2010.

FIREFLY AT KAMPUNG KUANTAN

Firefly is not a fly but is in fact a tiny 6mm beetle which belong to Lampyridae species. It does not produce fire but a cool green glow in the lower abdomen. It is known as kelip-kelip in Bahasa which means twinkling and twinkling is what it does. Fireflies live in big colonies and each colony inhabits only at Berembang trees (*Sonneratia caseolaris*), a mangrove species which are still abundant along Sungai Selangor banks around here. The fireflies species are mainly *Pteroptyx tener* along with *P. valida* and *P. malacca*.

The fireflies produce a synchronised flashing pattern just like twinkling lights of a decorated Christmas tree. The illuminations by the male fireflies are brighter than the female species as the males have 3 light organs compare with 2 light organs at the females. When the males find a mate, they begin to blink in unison and this is called synchronicity. The writer has been informed that the



best time for firefly watching is after raining in the late afternoon as the wet leaves give added reflection to the flickering lights by the magnificent beetles. The wonderful firefly watching can be done either at Kampung Kuantan or Bukit Belimbing. ■

