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## MALAYSIA: Increase in rubber replanting aid will help Malaysian smallholders

Source: “Bernama” (Malaysian National News Agency), Kuala Lumpur; 26 Aug 2010

Malaysian rubber smallholders will be able to earn a monthly income of at least RM2,000 when the rubber replanting aid is increased from next year, said Rural & Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohammad Shafie Apdal.

He said next year, aid for rubber replanting would be increased from RM7,000 to RM10,000 per hectare in Peninsular Malaysia while for Sabah and Sarawak from RM10,000 to RM 14,000.

“We are confident of meeting the ministry’s Key Performance Index (KPI) in this respect and will also find more ways to help rubber smallholders earn higher income,” he said.

He told this to press reporters after attending the Malaysian Rubber Industry Smallholders Development Authority (Risda) break-of-fast function at Risda’s headquarters on 26 Aug.

He added that rubber was among the most stable commodities compared to others like oil palms and cocoa and contributed greatly to the Malaysian nation’s GDP.

*(Syed Rashid Ali, Karachi, Pakistan)*

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