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Tajuk : *ANGKASA, IFFCO sign MoU to empower agricultural sector*

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KUALA LUMPUR (June 19): Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia Bhd (Angkasa) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO).

The MoU is aimed at opening more business opportunities to the co-operative movements in Malaysia and India in the agriculture, agro-based and plantation industries.

Through the MoU, co-operatives involved in the plantation, agriculture and agro-based industries would obtain a supply of the nano urea — an environmentally friendly, safe and nutrient-boosting fertiliser — at a reasonable price.

The collaboration would also offer Malaysian co-operatives products and services in the sectors concerned to reciprocate IFFCO's cooperation.

Entrepreneur Development and Co-operatives Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar said that the collaboration would help in the government's effort to empower the agricultural sector.

He said the cooperation would also help entrepreneurs, especially co-operatives, to ensure the quality and yield of the country's agricultural products were in line with the 2021-2030 Agro-food Policy.

"Through the agreement which had been signed, Angkasa has in principle agreed to import the nano fertiliser and hold preliminary tests on its use on agricultural land which has been identified.

"This effort is a step forward especially in ensuring environmental sustainability because no chemical component is used in the manufacture of the nano fertiliser," he said in a statement issued by Angkasa on Sunday.

Noh said that the role of the co-operatives should be expanded from involvement not only in the credit and education services but also in other high-impact sectors such as agro-food which would benefit the people and economy.

He said this was in keeping with the 100th year of the establishment of the co-operative movement in Malaysia.

The MoU was signed as one of the agendas of Noh's working visit as the head of a Malaysian Co-operative delegation to the International Co-operative Alliance General Assembly, ICA Elective General Assembly and the "Co-operatives: The Moment Is Now!" conference in Seville, Spain from June 19-22.

Noh witnessed the signings of the MoU by Angkasa president Datuk Seri Dr Abdul Fattah Abdullah and IFFCO marketing director Yogendra Kumar.

Angkasa acted as a facilitator in keeping with its role as the apex body of the national co-operative movement that unites and represents the co-operatives at the national and international levels.

The MoU would be in force for two years effective on Sunday (June 19) and the collaboration could be extended based on discussions and agreement between both parties.

IFFCO was crowned as the best co-operative in the world in the Top 300 World Co-operative Monitor 2021. It is fully owned by the Co-operative Societies of India and is the biggest fertiliser manufacturer in the country.