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Precision farming awaits state govt's nod

KUCHING: A revolutionary way of farming using high technology could be implemented in the state very soon.

Called 'precision farming', it could be realised as soon as the pilot project gets the green light from the state cabinet, said Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovations Fadillah Yusof.

"We in the ministry have to meet with the state cabinet first before

we can start this pilot project," he said at a media appreciation dinner in a restaurant here Saturday night.

Presently being developed by Mimos Berhad, the main objective of precision farming is to increase crop production through the use of integrated remote sensing, GIS, GPS and sensor technologies incorporating advanced agronomic and farming practices whilst simultaneously maintaining the quality of the environment.

Fadillah, who is also Petra Jaya

MP, said the planned rice plantations in Sarawak would be boosted by this new technology.

"The input of new technology like this will also be useful in overcoming food crisis especially in increasing the production of rice," he said.

On the ministry's other plans, he said programmes to cultivate greater public interest in science and technology such as 'Science and Technology Week' and contests for investors would be introduced this

year.

"There is a great misperception that the field of science and technology is limited to elitists. This is wrong, and my ministry headed by Datuk Dr Maximus Ongkili is going all out to change this," he said.

The dinner was held in appreciation of the contributions made by the media fraternity following Fadillah's success in retaining Petra Jaya for the second term in the general elections held in March.