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Training 100 farmers annually

MEETING CHALLENGE: The first batch of 10 agricultural entrepreneurs are undergoing six-month crash course conducted by Kedah Agro Holding Bhd

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KEDAH plans to churn out 100 agricultural entrepreneurs annually.

For starters, 10 are undergoing a six-month crash course at Feida Bukit Tangga near here.

Menteri Besar Inc (Kedah) chief executive officer Datuk Shahabudin Shafie said the batch of pioneers were being trained at a 80ha vegetable and fruit farm.

He said the training, which was conducted by Kedah Agro Holding Bhd, a subsidiary of Menteri Besar Inc, covers basic aspects of agriculture and entrepreneurship.

For instance, he said, the young farmers were learning to grow brinjals, chillies and papayas.

These crops are fast growing and readily marketable and, as such, make good case study subjects.

"We are very happy with our pioneer batch," he added during a visit by the Sultan of Kedah's Council of Regency chairman Tan Sri Tunku Annuar Sultan Baldishah to the farm recently.

Also present was Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak. Shahabudin said the pioneers were selected from the villages and they were recommended by the respective district officers and village heads.

He said these youths, who have a basic education, were an enthusiastic lot and were happy to take on a challenge.

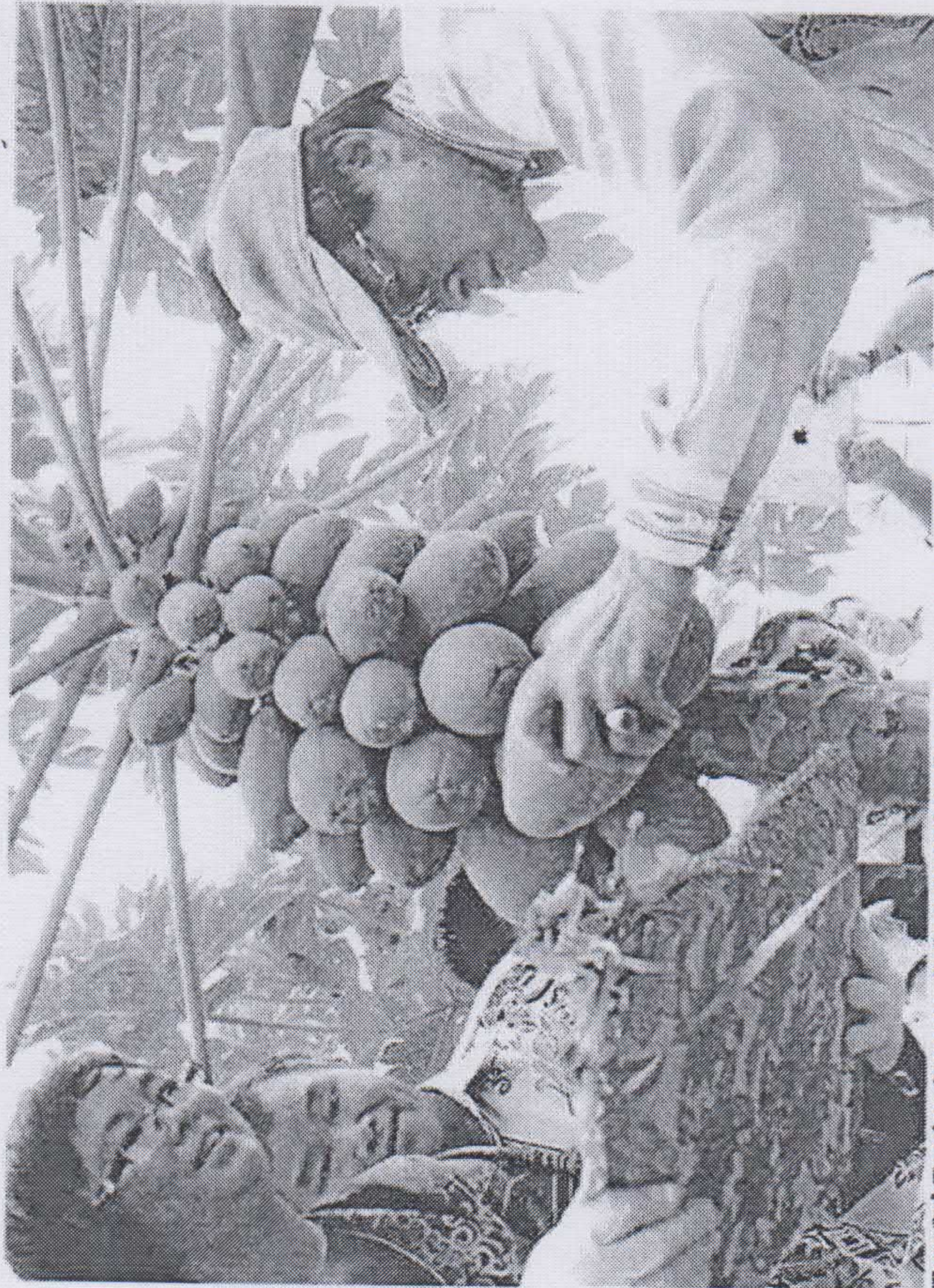
"We are still looking for youths to participate in the programme," he said.

Shahabudin said the programme was open to all, including fresh graduates.

"We are thinking of offering the programme to students of Universiti Utara Malaysia and Malaysia Agriculture College," he said.

"We are still looking for youths to participate in the programme"

Datuk Shahabudin Shafie,
Chief executive officer,
Menteri Besar Inc
(Kedah)



Tan Sri Tunku Annuar Sultan Baldishah picking a papaya. Pic by Norseha Ismail