

Cell AgriTech to set up pioneering cultivated meat production facility in Penang

KUALA LUMPUR: Bio-based Accelerator (BBA) firm Cell AgriTech Sdn Bhd will set up its first main cultivated meat production facility in Penang by the end of the fourth quarter in 2024, with a total investment of RM20 million.

This pioneering facility for cultivated meat production will be the first of its kind to be established in Malaysia.

The company, which announced this yesterday at the First Malaysia Cultivated Meat conference, expects to launch its first cultivated meat product in May 2025.

Deputy Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) Minister Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup who officiated the event said cultivated meat is one of the emerging solutions for sustainable source of meat that promises to revolutionise the food industry in

Malaysia by reducing environmental impact and improving animal welfare, while also potentially providing a healthier and safer alternative to conventionally produced meat.

“Research and Markets estimates that the cultivated meat market, currently valued at RM791.87 million in 2022, will increase to RM1.443 billion in 2027, with a CAGR of 12.76%. The development of cultivated meat technology in Malaysia promises to create job opportunities and revenue while addressing national challenges such as food security, health management, and climate change,” he added.

He said that Mosti, through Bioeconomy Corporation will support efforts like cultivated meat to strengthen the nation’s food security as cultivated meat is a vital part of Malaysia’s

National Biotechnology Policy 2.0, specifically under Flagship Project 2, which aims to develop a food ecosystem for future high-value products using advanced technologies such as cellular agriculture for artificial meat, marine, and aquaculture products.

Bioeconomy Corporation’s CEO Mohd Khairul Fidzal Abdul Razak said, “As the global population surpassed eight billion in November 2022 and with limited resources to produce enough food for everyone sustainably, the cultivated meat industry is poised to grow substantially.”

According to a recent study by the Good Food Institute, he added, the alternative protein industry has attracted RM63.7 billion in global investments during the last ten years and that these investments have doubled year

over year.

Recognising the massive potential of this industry, he said, Bioeconomy Corporation will continue to collaborate with companies such as Cell AgriTech, Mosti, other ministries, and regulatory bodies to develop policies, regulations, and frameworks that will benefit the entire future food industry.

Cell AgriTech Group of Companies founder and manufacturing vice-president Jason Ng stated, “We are proud to be the first cultivated meat company in the country, bringing a sustainable and delicious alternative to traditional meat products. We believe that the future of meat is cultivated. We are committed to bringing this innovative and sustainable solution to the meat industry as our focus in the field of cellular agriculture.”