

Scarcity of land for agricultural use is puzzling

The Star
28/9/2017
Pg. 29

I REFER to the letter "Farmers need land and subsidy" (*The Star*, Sept 19) and totally agree with all the points raised.

For decades, the need to reduce the cost of local fruits and vegetables for our consumers has remained a constant topic of public discussion. It is ridiculous that with so much sun and rainfall throughout the year, some local produce should cost more than imported ones. It is clear that the main factor is insufficient or uncertain status of available land. Nothing concrete

has been done by the powers that be to address the issue of releasing land to farmers or people who are interested in farming. Why this is so is very puzzling to many of us.

We know many farmers who are very frustrated with the near impossibility of obtaining approval from the Government to obtain agricultural land for cultivation. No farmer would want to put in a large amount of money to modernise or improve operations when the status of the land is uncertain.

Farming is not an easy occupa-

tion and does not yield very good returns. Their production is subject to the vagaries of the weather and other factors. The Government's assistance is definitely required.

The authorities need to really see the full picture and consider a generous release of suitable land for farming which will benefit all of us in the end. Please solve this long-standing problem once and for all:

TAY KIAM SENG
Kuala Lumpur



**your
opinions**

EMAIL editor@thestar.com.my
MAIL The Editor,
Menara Star, 15,
Jalan 16/11, Section 16,
46350 Petaling Jaya.

Letters must carry the sender's full name, address and telephone number. A pseudonym may be included.