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Terengganu to study FRIM's application to cultivate jatropha

KEMAMAN: The Terengganu state government will consider the application by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) to plant jatropha on a large-scale to produce biodiesel in the state.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Said however, stressed that the state government would scrutinise any high-impact project before approving it for the benefit of the people and the state.

"Many aspects need to be studied, such as the cost, returns, implementation approach and whether the investment is worth it," he told reporters when asked to comment on FRIM's readiness to carry out the project in Terengganu.

It was reported in the media on Friday that FRIM would sub-

mit an application to the state government to request for land along the coast for the project. Besides maximising Terengganu's coastal areas which had been categorised as unfeasible for commercial agriculture because of the extreme heat, the project was seen to potentially generate income for the local residents.

FRIM which had successfully produced biodiesel from jatropha trees last year believed that using the raw material as fuel was a preferable environmental-friendly alternative to petroleum.

To date, 6,000 jatropha trees had been planted at FRIM's research station in Setiu, which also showed that the species could thrive well without fear of threat from animals or the weather. - Bernama