Overcoming Problems Faced by FEIDA and its Settlers
Capacity building will benefit settlers

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changed, to the extent that their children refuse to continue their work?

FELDA must use its resources to help the settlers become independent. This should be its ultimate aim.

A few strategies have been recommended. The most effective one would be to allow the settlers to venture into downstream activities and agribusiness to enable them to increase their income and, hence, attract the younger generations to continue their work in the sector. The best business model would be a new cooperative called “forward (and backward) integrated cooperative”, run by the farmers and for the farmers, based on the true principles of a cooperative, as discussed earlier. The cooperative should be fully run by the farmers and not political appointees or government officers.

This entails providing comprehensive training in technical and entrepreneurial skills for the settlers.

A large investment is needed to build their capacity to enable them to move up the supply chain.

FELDA should channel some funds for research and development as well as improving the socioeconomic conditions of the settlers through farm diversification, certification, knowledge of information communications and technology, Internet of Things (including blockchain), mechanisation and automation. Currently, a lot of R&D is focused on large estates.

Huge investments overseas will not change the future of the settlers, but capacity building will go a long way towards producing independent, sustainable and progressive settlers.

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