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Felda biogas plant plugs into TNB

THE biogas power generation plant at the Felda Palm Industries Sdn Bhd's (FPI) Serting Hilir palm oil mill near here has begun supplying power to the Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) national grid.

FPI is a subsidiary of Felda Holdings Bhd, an associate company of Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd, and has invested RM10 million to build the biogas plant.

FPI chief executive officer Ismail Hasan said the biogas plant has been producing up to 1.2MW of renewable energy since 2008 and will be supplying 0.5MW to the national grid.

"The plant produces about 400 to 600 cu m of biogas an hour. It was previously only used to power the mill's operations, but now TNB will distribute the power from the biogas plant to sites in Negeri Sembilan, including the Police Training Centre



at Air Hitam, Jempol at 0.318 sen/kWh.

Felda chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad said a second biogas plant in Jengka, Pahang, a RM120 million joint venture with TNB, will supply 12.5MW to the national grid when completed this year.

"We now have 15 biogas plants operating nationwide, and we plan to build biogas plants at all our 71

palm oil mills by 2018," he said, adding the biogas project is part of the government's Feed-in-Tariff scheme, which allows electricity produced from indigenous renewable energy resources to be sold to power utilities at a fixed premium price.

"Biogas power generation also has economic benefits as it reduces dependence on diesel generators in a palm

oil mill, saving RM200,000 to RM300,000 a year, and generates a side income of between RM800,000 to RM1 million a year from the use of biomass feedstock."

The Malaysian Palm Oil Board has been promoting the use of biogas power plants by palm oil mills, and FPI began studies on generating power from palm oil mill effluent in 2005. — Bernama