

Malaysian govt to study aphrodisiac claims of durians

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Studies have shown that the durian has anti-ageing properties and contributed to the body's production of serotonin.

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"There have been studies conducted on claims that durians have aphrodisiac value and are said to be good for men. We will ask the relevant people to conduct more research into this matter," Agriculture and Agro-based Resources Minister Ahmad Shabery Cheek was quoted as saying in Parliament.

Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery said previous research had showed that the durian "is one of the smelliest yet most nutritious fruits in the world".

"For instance, research done in Thailand showed that the durian has higher antioxidants than other tropical fruits, and has polysaccharide gel that helps stimulate the immune systems to reduce cholesterol," he said.

"A study from China showed that the durian skin has analgesic and antibiotic properties that helps to relieve coughs, while a study from Singapore said durian has high levels of potassium which helps to reduce high blood pressure," he added.

Meanwhile, the rising popularity of the fruit among the Chinese in recent years has led Malaysian producers to export most of their harvest to China.