

More farms closer to S'pore

Firm to set up facilities in Bintan to supply live chicken to Republic

Indonesia AN Indonesian agri-food company plans to set up three new farms this year in Bintan, to supply live chicken to Singapore.

Japfa Comfeed Indonesia (JCI) expects to supply live chicken to Singapore by sea by the end of this year, two sources familiar with the matter told *The Straits Times*.

JCI, whose subsidiary Indojaya Agrinusa operates a hatchery in Bintan that provides day-old chicks to the Riau Islands province, may have its first farm up and running as soon as September, said a source.

The three farms, which will be in different locations, will each have 150,000 chickens, the source added.

Another source said each farm must have at least 100,000 chickens – “the minimal figure when we talk about the feasibility”.

Shipping live chickens by sea is pricier than over land from Malaysia, but one of the sources said: “The price of the chicken will likely remain competitive in Singapore.”

Transporting live chicken by sea poses greater risks than by land, and these include weight loss and death, experts say.

Shipping from farms on nearby Bintan via ferry will lower these risks. One of the sources said it can take up to six hours to transport the chickens from Bintan to Singapore.

JCI, through its subsidiary Ciomas Adisatwa, is set to ship frozen chicken from Semarang, Central Java, to the Republic, having recently received approval from the Singapore Food Agency.

Ciomas Adisatwa, which exports chicken and its products to Japan, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea, aims to send 100 tonnes of frozen chicken within the first month of

deliveries, said director Tommy Kuncoro.

JCI will be the second Indonesian company that sells frozen chicken to Singapore.

The first company, Charoen Pokphand Indonesia, sent its first shipment of 50 tonnes, which arrived in Singapore on July 17.

Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore Suryo Pratomo recently said that he expects a total of 1,000 tonnes of frozen chicken from Indonesia to arrive in Singapore by the end of this year. — *The Straits Times/ANN*