



The participants of the lecture series.

## UMS' FSA lecture series gathers over 100 PO industry players

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SANDAKAN: Faculty of Sustainable Agriculture (FSA), Universiti Malaysia Sabah has successfully organised its first Felda Global Ventures (FGV) Chair Lecture Series Tuesday.

Dean of the Faculty Professor Dr Abdul Hamid Ahmad says, the lecture has gathered more than hundred participants mainly from the palm oil (PO) industry to discuss on better understanding of oil palm-soil microbes interaction towards a sustainable oil palm management.

"Three lectures were presented in this lecture series with the lead paper presented by the FGV Chair Holder in UMS, Dr. Chong Khim Phin on Oil Palm and Healthy Soil: The Way Forward.

"Another two lectures were delivered by the Head of Crop Protection, FGVR&D Sdn Bhd, Hamdan Ibrahim, and the Director of Nottingham Centre for Sustainable Palm Oil Dr. Christina Vimala Supramaniam," he said in a statement here Wednesday.

The lecture series held in line with one of the Chair's establishment objectives in championing research, education and engagement in sustainable oil palm management.

It was officiated by Assistant Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Marcus Jopony representing UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Taufiq Yap Yun Hin.

According to Professor Dr Hamid, many issues related to the palm oil industry especially on the stagnant of oil palm yield, soil fertility, soil microbomes and possibility of intercropping of oil palm with pineapples were thoroughly discussed in the half day lecture.

"The responses from the participants were very positive with many of them have requested to have this type of event to be more frequent, which has been successful in disseminating important information from Universities' research to the stake holders," he added.

Meanwhile, Professor Dr Hamid also mention that the Faculty to continuously work hand in hand with the industry in future to tackle the issues related to oil palm.

"We also disclosed many different collaboration work which have been on going between the faculty and industry," he said.

For the record, UMS received RM2 million endowment fund in 2016 from FGV Holdings Bhd to set up the Chair.