



Field visit and discussion with researchers from UMS (Faculty of Sustainable Agriculture) led by Professor Dr Abdul Hamid Ahmad (former dean) and Ts Dr Januarius Gobilik at a paddy field in Gana.

Agricultural innovation projects for Gana re-settlement

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KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) and University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on agricultural innovation projects for the Gana re-settlement.

The MoU was signed by Datuk Frederick Kugan, the Chief Conservator of Forests, and Professor Datuk ChM Ts Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin, the Vice-Chancellor of UMS.

The main aim of the two-year long MoU is to produce and commercialise upland rice and other agricultural products, such as, stingless bee and mushroom products, as part of the sustainability plan beyond of the various community

development programmes funded under the EU-REDD-Plus Project which officially ended on the Nov 30, 2021.

The Faculty of Sustainable Agriculture will be assisting the Gana community through customised production modules to produce 95 tonnes of rice per harvest within 4-5 months rotation and to produce soap from a stingless bee project or mushroom from a mushroom project.

Through this collaboration, the local communities in the Gana Resettlement Scheme could develop their very own local brand of upland rice and also stingless bee or mushroom products.

One of the objectives of

the MoU is to further unlock the potential of agricultural innovation to the local communities in Gana, in order to improve their livelihood, hence achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The collaboration is to further explore how and why agricultural innovation can benefit the communities.

It is envisioned that the Agricultural Innovation Projects will be able to sustainably increase the Gana communities' agricultural productivity and incomes by the promotion and dissemination of modern technologies and practices through research and outreach activities by both UMS and SFD.