

Due to limited funding and fierce competition, 2011 has been a tough year to secure research grant, particularly from the two major national government funding providers – MOSTI and MOHE. Nonetheless, year 2011 has been a fruitful year for SSMP because three (3) brand-new FRGS grants and two (2) ERGS grants were successfully secured, which contributed to a total of RM 422,000.

The most fascinating news was brought about by Dr. Patricia Matanjun in November 2011 when she managed to persuade the reviewers of UMS Seaweed Project 2011-2013 to grant her and her research team (five SSMP sub-project leaders and one SST sub-project leader) RM 630,200 for researching into downstream processing of seaweed. This made up the total research funding for year 2011 in SSMP exceeded RM 1.2 million – the highest ever research funding obtained since the establishment of the school in 1997!

Table 1. List of SSMP research grant in 2011.

No	Project Title	Project leader	Duration	Amount (RM)
FRGS (MOHE)				
1.	Structural-functionality of starches induced by gamma irradiation.	Lee Jau Shya	2010-2012	40,800
2.	Characterization of bacteriosin produced by lactic acid bacteria isolated from indigenous fermented fruit.	Chye Fook Yee	2010-2012	59,680
3.	Effect of Sabah seaweeds mixture intake on plasma lipid and antioxidant profiles in hypercholesterolaemic rats	Patricia Matanjun	2010-2012	79,000
4.	Proteomic analysis of selected Sabah edible seaweeds	Mohd Rosni Sulaiman	2011-2013	89,000
5.	Effects of extraction methods on chemical composition & flavour compound of Sabah indigenous Durian; Durian Dalit (<i>Durio graveolens Becc</i>) and Durian Pulo (<i>DuriodulcisBecc</i>)	Hasmadi Mamat	2011-2013	40,000
6.	Sensory acceptance of chocolate incorporated with <i>Garciana hombronian</i> essential oil	Shalawati @ Salwa Ibrahim	2011-2013	30,000
ERGS (MOHE)				
7.	The anti-obesity potential of Sabah tropical seaweeds using in vitro and in vivo animal model	Patricia Matanjun	2011-2013	175,000
8.	Utilization of Sabah tarap fruits as a potential source of ingredients in food products	Hasmadi Mamat	2011-2013	88,000
UMS seaweed project 2011-2013 (EPP3 Downstream Processing)				
9.	UMS seaweed project 2011-2013 (Downstream Processing)	Patricia Matanjun	2011-2013	630,200
Grand Total				1,235,680

A big applaud and congratulations to all successful research project leaders. It is hope that the success in 2011 will help to inspire the faculty members to remain motivated and gear towards a lot more hard work and perseverance to continue struggling for more research grants despite all the frustration and disappointments along the journey. The time and effort will definitely be paid off by repeated trials and immense determination.