

UMS presents avocado research collaboration

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KOTA KINABALU: Research collaboration between the agricultural industry and higher education institutions will benefit many parties, especially the agricultural industry players in Malaysia in general, and in Sabah in particular.

University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Faculty of Sustainable Agriculture (FPL) recently presented research results jointly conducted with the Sabah Durian and Tropical Fruit Growers Association (MaSDa) on avocados in a series of seminars that took place at the Ibis Hotel, Inanam.

FPL senior lecturer Dr Salumiah Mijin said the research carried out and funded by Intan Sawit Enterprise amounted RM30,000 was to identify and examine the development and maturity of the QAV1 variety avocado.

“The results of this shared research will enable the country to produce and maximise profit and improve the agricultural industry in Malaysia.

“In addition, through this research, there will be clues to determine the best time to harvest avocados for marketing purposes,” she said.

Salumiah added the knowledge shared at the seminar will be able to help farmers improve the quality of the avocado farming industry, thereby increasing the country’s income through large-scale production.

“Until now, no study has been conducted to determine the optimal time to harvest avocados. So this study is very important to farmers, and it is in line with the aspirations of the National Agro-Food Policy 2021-2030.

“The people’s economy will grow through sales and the rural population will be able to overcome the poverty line.

“Thank you to the chairman of the Sabah Durian and Tropical Fruits Association (MaSDa), Duane Evans and the members of the association who are also involved in ensuring that this research successfully achieves its objectives,” she said.

The research was also joined by Associate Professor Dr Suzan Benedict, Jason Fong (Sabacado Farm), Lee Khee Sheng (Intan Sawit Enterprise), Lee Kee Shez (Baja Harapan Group Sdn Bhd) and FPL postgraduate program student Nur Isam Mohd Ranzi.