

# UMS, Maha Sawit to research paddy planting

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Maha Sawit Sdn Bhd to research the planting of paddy and other plants here.

Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Yusof Apdal congratulated the two parties in implementing research in the field of agriculture with the aim of further increasing the productivity and quality of the country's agricultural products.

Yusof hopes both parties are in constant communication so the five-year collaboration can be carried out successfully, and he emphasised that in every research conducted, the university must ensure that it also benefits its main function of producing quality students.

"Therefore, it is also hoped that the research carried out through this collaboration will not only be able to achieve its main objective, but will also provide opportunities for students to complete their studies at the postgraduate level.

"In addition, it is the ministry's hope that the results of the study can be published in a high-impact journal and publicized to the public for the purpose of expanding knowledge and



Kasim (third left) representing UMS for the MoU signing alongside Maha Sawit Sdn Bhd director Tew Kuan Cheong (fifth left) while Yusof (fourth left) looks on.

further increasing the visibility of UMS in order to raise the image of the quality of education in this country," he said when witnessing the signing ceremony at UMS Chancellery Building here on Friday.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor in his speech said agriculture is a rapidly developing field and it is very important to the country's economy and food security.

Kasim said this industry not only provides many job opportunities, but also

contributes to the country's food and revenue sources through the commercial crop industry such as palm oil.

In the economic context, he said agriculture is very important for trade balance, which is to reduce the outflow of national money through agricultural imports.

"UMS is always open to collaborate with the industry to achieve the objectives of the National Agro-Food Policy through research and development activities.

"This is also in line with the university's vision to produce high-quality graduates in the field of agriculture to meet the country's manpower needs.

"Hence, it the university's hope that this cooperation can be implemented well until we can achieve the set objective," he said.

From Maha Sawit Sdn Bhd's side, it will be providing the necessary funding for the five-year research on the planting of paddy and other plants.