

# UMS Biotech Institute to hold seminar on GMOs

KOTA KINABALU: The Biotechnology Research Institute at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will be holding a one-day seminar entitled "*Current Issues on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)*" on Aug. 11 at the UMS Library Auditorium.

The event is being co-sponsored by UMS and the Sabah Science and Technology Unit.

Organising chairman Dr Michael Wong said there is a lot of misleading information regarding GMOs which, unfortunately, results in controversies surrounding the safety of food products derived from GMOs.

This issue has been debated by scientists, administrators, enforcement agencies and NGOs for many years. Although there are numerous views, the general consensus is that sound regulations and legislations on food safety issues need to be in place and must not be ignored.

The issue of GMOs and the controversies surrounding them are relatively new to Malaysians.

The Biotechnology Research Institute at UMS is taking a proactive role to convey accurate information to the public on GMOs. The seminar aims to generate interest and promote greater awareness on one aspect of biotechnology.

According to Dr Wong, scientists from Malaysia and the US have been invited to share their views on GMOs.

A half-day workshop on the science behind genetic modification and transgenic crops will be conducted on Aug. 12 at UMS. Participation in the workshop is limited to 30 people and is on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Those interested to attend the seminar can contact Dr Vijay Kumar at vijay@ums.edu.my or 088-320000 (ext. 5687/5599).

