

R&D vital to boost food output: Rahim

DE 15.12.2006 P. 6

By Yuzam Yusa

KOTA KINABALU: Research and Development (R&D) are vital in the effort to produce new high-quality and competitive food products, said Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Datuk Abdul Rahim Ismail.

"Only through R&D can we achieve this goal to compete with other nations in food production," said Abdul Rahim while officiating at the National Conference on Food Science and Nutrition, organised by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), at a hotel here Wednesday.

Abdul Rahim said R&D would add value to products derived from agriculture, fisheries and breeding activities in the State, resulting in food of higher quality and safer to eat.

"This will not only bring profits to food producers but also farmers, breeders, etc. The effect is the quality of lives of farmers, breeders and fishermen will be improved and so will the rakyat's," he said.

The conference is the venue for researchers, policy makers and industrialists to study the latest development in food science and technology and nutrition in the country and internationally.

At the same time, the conference aims to identify factors that affect food and nutrition in the country and identify problems faced by the community and industry.

Abdul Rahim said R&D would also overcome all the problems faced by the food industry presently and urged institutions of higher learning to make R&D a work culture.

The Minister said a lot more efforts are needed to inculcate the culture of R&D so that new ideas can be hatched to help the sector in Sabah and the country.



Rahim (second right), Noh (right), Sanudin (left) and Mohd Ismail at the conference yesterday.

"Research ought to be made a practice at UMS so that the institution would become an organisation daring to generate knowledge through R&D to achieve a new level of thinking necessary to attain a better life quality," he said.

"UMS needs to be more daring to find ways how to innovatively expand R&D activities. It is not enough for the university to bertekad cemerlang (aspire to excel) but must intensify efforts to become a university that is gemilang and terbilang (famous)," he said.

Also present were UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Noh Dalimin, Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Sanudin Tahir and Dean of the School of Food Science and Nutrition Associate Professor Dr Mohd Ismail Abdullah.