

UMS agri faculty to receive pioneer batch in July

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SERDANG: The Agriculture Faculty of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is expected to receive the pioneer batch of students in July, Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said yesterday.

He said the new faculty was set up with the far-sighted goal of turning agriculture into a more competitive economic sector.

"We are working to ensure courses offered by UMS and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) do not duplicate with each other," he told reporters after launching two commercial agriculture products produced by UPM.

Mustapa said the faculty would also

accommodate students from Sabah and Sarawak. The minister also said efforts would be stepped up to do research in various fields at public universities with the status of research university beginning this year.

"Yesterday, I held discussions with the four research universities and informed them of the challenges we have to overcome.

"Hence, we will step up research programmes in these universities this year," he added.

The four public universities accorded research university status are Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia and UPM. - Bernama