

Agri grads urged to help produce new generation of farmers, fishermen

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KOTA KINABALU: Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Datuk Abdul Rahim Ismail wants graduates in agriculture to go down to the ground and work closely with farmers and fishermen, saying the Second Sabah Agricultural Policy (SAP2) sees a new generation of modern farmers and fishermen.

Speaking at a workshop on cooperation between his ministry and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Abdul Rahim said 70 per cent of the state's farmers, fishermen and livestock breeders are in rural areas, and SAP2 would attempt to maximise their income through optimal utilisation of resources.

One objective is to transform smallholders into a more commercial and dynamic sector, he added.

He also commended the setting up of UMS's new agriculture faculty at Sandakan (now in its second year of operation with 74 students) as being in line with the state's Halatuju, and stressed his ministry's readiness to work with UMS.

UMS could use the ministry's facilities at the 1000-acre Institut Pertanian Sabah at Timbang Menggaris, Kota Belud, he said.



Abdul Rahim (right) receiving a memento from UMS vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Noh Dalimin as UMS agriculture dean while Assoc Prof Dr Wan Mohamad Wan Othman looks on