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Strategic coordination set to unlock Bulatok's economic potential

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Nancy Lai

KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah Bulatok Growers Association (PPBS) and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) recently signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to conduct research into the potential of Bulatok (Paullinia Cupana) cultivation in the state.

PPBS president Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Mojilip Bumburing said the collaboration as a historic milestone for the association and an important step towards developing the crop based on scientific research and a clearer economic direction.

"We are very grateful that today has become a historic day for the Sabah Bulatok Growers Association as the LOI with UMS has been realised.

"This research is crucial to understand the potential of Bulatok cultivation in Sabah from the perspectives of agriculture, the economy and downstream industry development," he said.

Wilfred said the research findings could provide new economic opportunities and alternative sources of income for Bulatok growers, particularly rural communities interested in

cultivating the crop.

He stressed that the findings could also serve as a key basis for the Sabah government in determining the direction and policies for the development of the Bulatok industry.

The research is expected to assess the crop's suitability, production potential, economic value and opportunities for downstream industry development, while taking into account environmental sustainability.

"We hope the findings of this research will help the state government view Bulatok as a crop with economic potential and subsequently facilitate the government in determining the direction of Sabah's agricultural development, in line with the State's current economic development priorities, including the Blue Economy agenda," he said.

Wilfred noted that the initiative was not merely about introducing another crop, but aimed to lay the foundation for an economic ecosystem involving farmers, growers, researchers, processing industries and

markets.

UMS is expected to conduct the comprehensive research over six months before preparing a report on Bulatok cultivation in Sabah.

The findings will provide useful data and information for PPBS, growers and the Government in planning the industry's development in a more organised and viable manner.

PPBS is also inviting Bulatok growers throughout Sabah to collaborate by allowing their cultivation areas to be included in the research.

Wilfred said growers' participation would be essential in providing actual data and information on the development of Bulatok cultivation in the State.

He said PPBS hoped the partnership with UMS would mark the beginning of a new phase for Sabah's Bulatok industry and create wider economic opportunities for growers in the future.



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Wilfred (second right) exchanges document with UMS deputy vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor.



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SUMMARIES

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