

# Chief Minister impressed with UMS' achievements in agriculture researches

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By ROZZALIN HASHIM

SANDAKAN: Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman is impressed with the achievements made by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) following the institution's 'agriculture breakthrough which benefitted farmers, breeders and planters.

He said UMS has been stepping up its agriculture research works through its faculty based at the Sandakan campus.

"Through their excellent works, they have been able to

improve yields and this will generate better food production," he told reporters at UMS' Faculty of Agriculture Carnival held at its branch campus at Mile 10, Labuk road here on Saturday.

Musa said farmers would also be able to improve their income as it is the goal of the government to see the success of the agricultural sector.

Among others, UMS has done research works on pineapple and mushroom cultivations, fish breeding and even mangrove crab breeding.

"These will definitely bring immense benefits to farmers and breeders," he said, adding that modern methods would also be adopted.

Musa who is also the Finance Minister said the agriculture faculty in Sandakan would explore other potentials in the agricultural sector that would bring progress to Sabah.

He called on the people to support UMS and to visit the faculty to see the achievements made.

Musa also suggested that the carnival be held annually and

exhibit new discoveries made by other international universities.

Present were Assistant Local Government & Housing Minister Datuk Zakaria Mohd Edris who is also Gum-Gum Assemblyman, Libaran MP Datuk Juslie Ajirol, Sekong Assemblyman Datuk Samsudin Yahya and Sukau Assemblyman Datuk Saddi Abdul Rahman.

Others were UMS board of directors chairman Tun Zaki Tun Azmi, UMS vice chancellor Profesor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah and UMS San-

dakan agriculture faculty dean Professor Dr Wan Mohamad Wan Othman.

Earlier, Musa in his speech said the carnival was timely as the government was encouraging the growth of the agriculture sector by churning more agropreneurs.

He said graduates could venture into the sector as there are many opportunities available.

Musa also said that UMS was taking the lead in research work with its oil palm research centre.

"We need to have our food

security and it is through researches that we will be able to forge ahead," he said.

Musa who is also Sungai Sibuga Assemblyman congratulated UMS for making it to the World University Rankings by subject - agriculture and forestry. It is the second in the country and sixth in Southeast Asia.

"The achievement has brought international accolades to Sabah and this will spur academicians and staffers to work harder to improve the quality of graduates," he said.

