

MOA secretary-general visits Kg Bantayan's JonGrapevines & Figs Garden

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TAMPARULI: The Secretary-General of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries (MOA), Datuk Mohd Sallehuddin Hassan on Sunday led a delegation to visit the JonGrapevines & Figs Garden at Kampung Bantayan near here in conjunction with MOA's Jelajah Agropreneur Muda (Young Agropreneur Tour).

He was accompanied by the Director of the Young Entrepreneur Unit (UAM), Mohammad Ezri Shamsuddin and State FAMA Director, Robin Wahid.

Also present were UMS Agriculture Faculty Dean, Prof Dr Abdul Hamid Ahmad; and Operations Manager of UMS Investment Holdings, Francis Vincent Ariffin Jr.

They were received by the farm's Technical Advisor, Jontih Enghihon, manager Nonie Bansunin and assistant manager Jono-jan Jontih.

The visitors were later briefed and shown around the grapevines and figs garden by Jontih, who started planting grape trees as a hobby in his backyard while working in Ipoh, Perak almost 10 years ago.



Jontih (right) showing a ripe fig fruit to Sallehuddin. In the background is Ezri.

He was transferred back to Sabah five years ago and continued growing grapevines in his backyard while learning the art of fig growing as well.

Since four years ago, he started turning his orchard at Bantayan

into a mini grapevine and fig garden, and the rest is history. In 2018, JonGrapevines & Figs Garden Enterprise was officially registered and the farm started accepting visitors.

Today, it has a collection of 90

types of cultivar table grapes and 200 cultivar common figs. Among the VIPs who have visited the farm thus far was Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau who is also Tuaran MP.