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Hybrid Rice to Ensure FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

After launching TITIH as the new name for the Nation's first hybrid variety of rice (SAT-11) on Wednesday, 9 May, an agreement on "the Cooperation and Collaboration in the Development of Hybrid Rice in Brunei Darussalam" was made between the Brunei Government and Sunland Agri-Tech Pte Ltd, Singapore. Present as the Guest of Honour was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

The hybrid rice project is one of the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood's strategies to increase national rice production and achieve 60% self-sufficiency by 2015.

In light of this, the following projects will be implemented in two years' duration:

1. Technical assistance for breeding project
2. Technical assistance for technology transfer and variety
3. Consultancy services for setting up of Hybrid Rice Research Centre and Seed Production Facility
4. Consultancy services for rice variety registration protocol

The expected outcomes and benefits from this collaboration project include:

1. Increase of crop yield/rice production
2. Improvement of capacity building with competent staff and farmers
3. Improvement of infrastructure and facilities
4. Sale and purchase of trade secret and new variety

Brunei Government launches "TITIH" hybrid rice in partnership with Sunland Agri-Tech, Singapore





Paddy Harvesting CEREMONY AT WASAN

A paddy harvesting ceremony for the 2012 off-season took place on 26 May 2012, at the Kawasan Kemajuan Pertanian Projek Penanaman Padi Wasan in Kampong Wasan. Present as Guest of Honour and participating in the harvesting activity was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

In an effort to increase paddy yield especially for the Laila variety, two groups of paddy growers operating the field, namely, KOSEKA Berhad and Majlis Perundingan Mukim Pengkalan Batu, have been given training in management and practises in paddy production through the Rice Farmers Field School and lectures run by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood.

Rice cultivation in this area is done biannually and paddy yield is expected to increase with the introduction of more systematic and modern technologies. Most of the growers in the area are mechanised and producing 3–4 metric tons of paddy per hectare, compared to the field's average of 3.84 metric tons. The field has also recorded paddy production of about 3764 metric tons in 2011 for two planting seasons (main and off-season). It is hoped that with sustained efforts, the nation's paddy production target can be achieved.

“Genuine thanks to all agricultural and agrifood enterprises, particularly the paddy farmers who tirelessly work together, mobilising labour and concepts in honour of His Majesty's titah, to ensure National food security.”

YB Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya
Minister of Industry and Primary Resources



Brunei Keeps Imported Used Vehicles in Check

On 19 May 2012, the Promotion and Facilitation Services Division of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources held a briefing on Policy Updates and Implementation on Imported Used Vehicles 2012 at the Ministry's Headquarters. The briefing was chaired by Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti PJDSMDSU (Dr.) Haji Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

Objectives of the briefing:

1. To ensure Brunei Darussalam does not become a dumping ground for imported used vehicles
2. To safeguard consumer rights with regards to motor vehicles usage on the road
3. To fulfill the desired socio-economic objective

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The briefing discussed the following issues pertaining to the importation of used vehicles:

1. New regulations, such as pre-check inspections
2. Restrictions on engine displacement, condition, and specification of used vehicles
3. Responsibilities of main dealers, such as holding valid licenses and writing warranties
4. Monitoring and control of pricing of imported used vehicles
5. Introduction of a quota system based on the total number of registered new vehicles from the previous year

BRUNEI JOINS THE GREEN WAVE

On 22 May, youths from 50 participating schools of Brunei Darussalam, Forestry Department, and Petrokon Utama Sdn Bhd joined thousands of young people in creating a global “green wave”.

To celebrate the International Day for Biodiversity, the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020, a mass tree planting was held in conjunction with the World Forestry Day. Locally, 51 different locations all over Brunei were planted with trees donated by the Forestry Department.

The Green Wave is a project designed to support the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the world’s international treaty that promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from genetic resources. The project aims to help raise awareness and educate young people on the loss of biodiversity that is taking place and the need to take action.

“The Green Wave represents a fantastic chain of human solidarity around the epitome of life – trees – between the children of today and the responsible citizens of tomorrow,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD.



Fun for the Whole Family!

Brunei Darussalam recently celebrated the first-ever National Family Day last month on Sunday, 6 May 2012. Carrying the theme, “My Family, My Hope,” families throughout the country took part in the assortment of exciting programmes and activities arranged for them. Officiating the event at Zone 3, Lumut Recreational Beach, Mukim Liang was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar.

The special occasion hoped to:

1. Foster family unity by allowing families to spend quality time together
2. Highlight the importance of the family institution to future generations



MIPR Diary

MAY
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Local Fishery Products Showcased At a Sales of Fisheries Products event

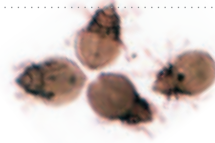


The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, organised a 'Sales of Fisheries Products' product event from 25 to 27 May 2012 at Muara Fish Landing Complex. Five operators from the aquaculture sector, eight operators from capture and 18 operators from the processing sector took part in this year's event. Part of the objectives of the event was to help local operators market and showcase their fisheries produce, as well as to promote the 'Seafood Consumption' campaign.

The three-day event ran continuously from 8.00 am till 5.00 pm, except for Friday where there was a break between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm. During the exhibition, fresh seafood including various species of fish, prawn and crabs was sold from the capture fisheries operators, while there was seabass from the aquaculture sector. In addition, operators from the processing sector were selling processed seafood products such as marinated and smoked fish, seafood crackers and shrimp paste. As precaution due to the recent red tide occurrence in Brunei waters, a public demonstration on the proper removal of the guts, gills and other internal organs of small fish before cooking was conducted.

MAY
14

Department of Agriculture and Agrifood Learns about Mites



To enhance the knowledge and expertise of officers and staff of the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood on proper mite collection and identification techniques, a training course was conducted from 14 to 23 May 2012 at Rimba Horticultural Centre, Gadong, Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. Present as the Guest of Honour to officiate the ceremony was Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti PJDSMDSU (Dr.) Haji Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

Among the topics that were covered during the training course were:

1. Introduction to mite species on morphology, biology and ecology, as well as their economic importance
2. Management and control of mite infestation and pesticide application technology in mite control
3. Fundamentals of mite collection, preservation and preparation of specimens for study on slides for identification and future reference

It is hoped the knowledge acquired on this training course be shared with various departments, farmers, and the general public so as to improve competency on the management and control of mites and pesticide application techniques nationwide.



MAY
6

Forestry Department Rakes in Football Championship

At the recent week-long 2012 MIPR 5-A-Side Football Championship running since last April, the Forestry Department rose as glorious champions, scooping home the Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar Challenge Trophy, taking the place of defending champions Ministry of Religious Affairs, by beating the Labour Department 5-2 at the MIPR Football Pitch. Present to give away the prizes was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar.

Sixteen teams participated in this exciting tournament, including the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Communications, Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, Department of Fisheries, Department of Forestry, BINA, Tourism Development Department, Customs & Excise Department, Audit Department, Labour Department and the Department of Energy.

Objectives for the tournament:

1. To strengthen inter-department and inter-ministry relationship
2. To promote camaraderie and sportsmanship
3. To encourage a healthier and more active lifestyle
4. To create an annual sports event for MIPR
5. To talent scout skilful players who can represent their Ministries in future events

“Taxonomy and correct identification are very important in developing effective management of crop pests, including mites. Proper knowledge is crucial to avoid misdiagnosing which can lead to the incorrect use of pesticides.”

YM Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr) Haji Awang Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri,
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources