

IKP Newsletter

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Insight into Current Activities of Institute of Plantation Studies (IKP)



current topics >>>

Visit to MPOB to Explore Potential Research Collaboration

About us

INSTITUTE OF PLANTATION STUDIES

IKP is an institute that brings together researchers of different expertise in UPM to focus on assisting the Malaysian plantation sector. The contribution of UPM through research activities and professional services will be enhanced while strengthening the collaboration with the government and private agencies in the plantation sector.

Website: <http://www.ikp.upm.edu.my>

3 August 2018, Researchers from the Institute of Plantation Studies (IKP), UPM visited Malaysia Palm Oil Board (MPOB) to explore potential research collaboration. The visit was headed by IKP's Director, Prof Datin Dr Siti Nor Akmar Abdullah. Meanwhile, Dr. Parveez Hj. Ghulam Kadir led the MPOB representatives consisting of Divisional Directors and Heads of Units.

The objectives of the establishment of the IKP in UPM as an institute which focuses on plantation research especially palm oil research were elaborated. This includes the importance of establishing research collaborations with MPOB to carry out impactful research that would benefit Malaysian palm oil industry and for economic generation. Postgraduate studies offered at IKP were also discussed, where IKP can provide opportunities for researchers from MPOB to further their post-graduate education. The discussion resulted in both parties agreeing to carry out two types of research collaboration (i) To maximize benefits from the oil germplasm collection where seven in-house IKP

This collaboration involves researchers from the Advanced Biotechnology and Breeding Centre and the Biological Research Division of MPOB

researchers will be involved. A research proposal on "Functional Characterization of Genes with Potential Role in Nutrient Uptake and Defense Response to Ganoderma Infection using MPOB's Oil Palm Germplasm Collection as a Resource for Sequence Variants" prepared by IKP was submitted to MPOB. (ii) Collaboration on repository of DNA sequence data where UPM proposed to store sequence data in the MPOB database for the benefits of both parties.



On the stage >>>

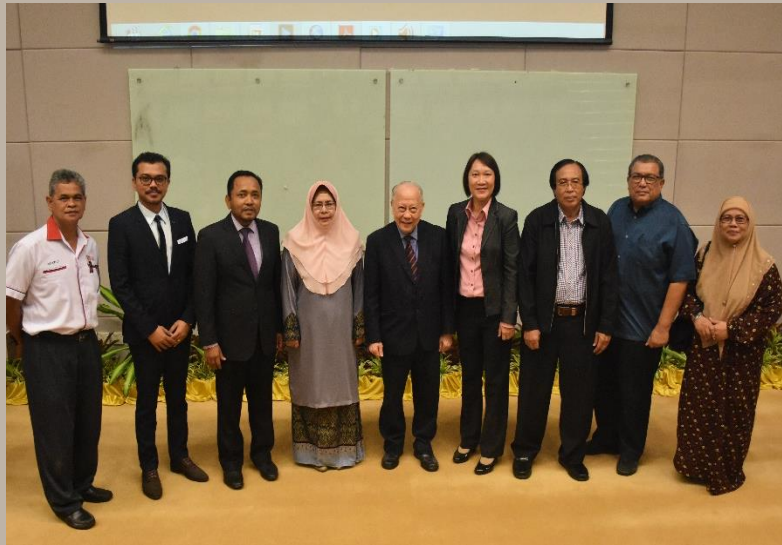
Putra Plantation Forum Series 8: Latest Advances on the Nutrition of Palm Oil



Tan Sri Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr
Augustine S.H. Ong

On Location! >>>

The Putra Plantation Forum is a platform provided by the Institute of Plantation Studies, UPM for the dissemination of knowledge related to plantation crops.



Carotene is an anti-oxidant which helps to strengthen the immunity of the body and has the potential to reduce the risk of contracting cancer, heart disease and cataract.



Vitamin E is another anti-oxidant which slows down the aging process. Palm oil is also free from cholesterol and trans-unsaturated fatty acids which are bad for health. Tan Sri Augustine has led research initiatives since 1981 to prove that the Malaysian palm oil is as good as virgin olive oil which has been considered to be the best cooking oil in terms of health and has successfully convinced the cooking oil industry in USA, EU and related countries to halt their anti-palm oil campaigns.

Visit to FGV (R&D) Sdn. Bhd. For Potential Research Collaboration

7 June 2018. Delegates from IKP led by Prof. Datin Dr. Siti Nor Akmar Abdullah successfully initiated a collaboration with FGV R & D Sdn. Bhd. The IKP researchers were welcomed by FGV R & D Sdn. Bhd. CEO, Dr. Sharifah Shahrul Rabiah Syed Alwee when they visited FGV Innovation Centre.



The visit aimed to establish research collaboration, especially in oil palm related research. The IKP team shared some of their research ideas with the FGV counterpart. Both parties agreed to initiate joint research to improve the quality and productivity of oil palm based on dynamic plant management system.

This can be achieved through matching grant between IKP and FGV, where FGV will provide cooperation in terms of research materials and facilities. Among the proposed projects are screening for high vitamin E palms from the field, functional analysis of non-ribosomal peptide synthetase (NRPS) in *G. boninense*, identification of *G. boninense* candidate genes for application of RNA interference (RNAi), effect of treated palm oil mill sludge catalysed by lipase producing bacteria and identification & validation of differentially expressed genes from *G. boninense* infected palms for potential biomarkers.

Highlight! >>>

Q: What are the Academic Programs offered by IKP?

A: IKP offers both Master degree with thesis and Doctoral degree in the respective fields of study based on the two laboratories:

1. Laboratory of Plantation Science and Technology
2. Laboratory of Plantation Policy and Economy



Institute Of Plantation Studies (IKP)
Universiti Putra Malaysia
43400 UPM Serdang
Tel: +603-8947 1044
Fax: +603-8946 4166
Email ikpupm@gmail.com