



DAM Study trip to Keningau

From the 3rd to 5th of August 2018, students and lecturers under the Diploma in Agribusiness of the Institute of Science and Management (ISM) Tawau along with the Chairman of of the Board of Governors of ISM, paid a visit to Evergreen Livestock Dairy Farm owned by Datuk Yap Yun Fook.

Prior to their visit to the dairy farm, the group went to the Binaong Paddy Mechanization Station to learn about the agri-machines equipment used in paddy planting. The officer in charge, Mr. Mohd Junaidi briefed the group about the station's background, establishment history, machineries and the technological transfer between the station and the farmers. Apart from the briefing, the students also had the chance to ride and learn how to operate a paddy transplanting machine.

Afterwards, the group headed to the Evergreen Livestock Dairy Farm which is located in Kampung Bomboi, Keningau. The briefing was given by Datuk Yap himself in which he told the students about his humble beginning with only two cows in 1982 and currently he is owning about 5,000 cows at his farm. Every day, the farm is able to produce around 12,000 litres of milk and packed under the brand 'Eco-Yap Fresh Milk'. As a strong believer in farming sustainability, Datuk Yap has been living up to the principles of 'zero-waste' farming system. Over the years, he has perfected the dairy farming system by which all the waste from the cows has been used as compost for other cash crops such as pineapples and durians, while the water waste is to be used as fertilizer for the pastures. Eventually, the pastures will be cut and fed to the livestock such as cows and goats.

The dairy cow breed at the farm is of Friesian-Sahiwal mix which can produce an average of 20 litres of milk every day. It will be packed and delivered to shops all over Malaysia. Before ending the briefing, Datuk Yap shared his success philosophy - nothing is impossible if we work hard. Success will come with dedication and effort. The group was then given the chance to taste the fresh milk and the sweet 'Golden Diamond' pineapples planted at Datuk's farm.

In addition, the students and lecturers were given the opportunity to stay at the farm for 2 nights to experience how it was like to work at the farm. The farm activities started as early as 4.00 a.m where the milking process began. Then, they proceeded to the **pen house** to feed the calves and goats. Another interesting activity was when the group was given a chance to experience pregnancy checking procedure of cow by using rectal palpitation method. One of the students, Salina Hiew, commented that it was a different yet amazing experience. Prior to this, they only learnt theories in classes but this time they have managed to experience it in real life.

Apart from the dairy farm, the students got the chance to help harvesting pineapples at the nearby pineapple farm. According to one of the workers, the pineapple was initially brought in by Datuk Yap from Taiwan and propagated in his 1.5 hectare farm and in another 100 hectare farm located in Sook.

After a two-day stay at the dairy farm, the group went back to Tawau with valuable knowledge and unforgettable memories. It is hoped that the trip to Evergreen Livestock Dairy Farm will inspire the students to achieve greatness in the future and seek for success in the agricultural industry. ISM would also like to thank Datuk Yap Yun Fook and his staff members for the warm hospitality and generosity throughout the whole trip.