



DAM Study Trip to QL Poultry Farm, Tawau

On 10th August 2018, students and lecturers of Diploma in Agribusiness Management (DAM) of the Institute of Science and Management (ISM), Tawau along with the Chief Operation Officer (COO) of ISM, paid a visit to QL Integrated Poultry Farms Sdn. Bhd., Tawau.

The objectives of the visit were to expose the DAM students to the management of an intensive poultry farming system and its production as well as to let them learn about egg incubation, proper feed and waste management. Besides, the trip aimed to raise awareness of the importance of biosecurity in poultry farming. It also allowed students to observe the application of the technologies used within the farm.

The General Manager of QL Poultry Farm, Dr. Koh Kim Sing, first led the group to visit the egg grading processing warehouse which was located at Apas Parit. The group was shown how the eggs are graded after collection from the chicken layer houses. The warehouse has two egg grading machines to help grading the eggs in various grades from grade AAA to grade F. According to the staff, approximately 14,000 eggs can be processed per day to fulfil the demand. Then, the eggs are brought to the cold room where they are kept at 25°C before being distributed to local markets in the state.

Next, they were led to the Nada Poultry Slaughtering and Processing Plant at Mile 8, Apas Road. The visit and briefing was conducted by the Operation Manager, Mr. Lim Yong Hion and his staff. As a start, the group were asked to wear protective suits to ensure minimal external contamination. The plant itself is divided into three sections which are clean, semi-clean and unclean area. The clean area is where the finished meat products are packed. The semi-clean area is the place where the chicken meats are cut into parts according to the market requirements. Lastly, the group was taken to the unclean area where the broiler chickens are slaughtered by slaughterers certified halal by Jabatan Agama Islam.

They also had the chance to visit the QL Tawau Feed mill processing plant, at Mile 8, Apas Road where they were welcomed by Mr. Francis Sylvester and Ms. Raslinaty Djamal. There, students were briefed on how the raw materials such as corns, soybeans, crude palm oil (CPO) and other food supplements are processed to mash, crumble or pellet forms for various farm animals like chickens, ducks and pigs. The nutrition value of the feed differs based on the animal species, age, farm needs, and other special requirement of the livestock. According to Ms. Raslinaty, nutrition and food safety play a big role in animal production as feed amounts up to 70% of the whole production cost. Besides, it can also affect the whole production chain if the nutrient percentage is not maintained correctly for each animal.

After a hearty lunch, a further briefing was delivered by Dr. Koh and Mr. Lim. They explained about the integrated operations of QL Poultry Farms, starting from the reared chickens, its feed, the production of eggs and meat, as well as the processing of the chicken dung as fertilizer. Dr. Koh addressed several issues about farm biosecurity, marketing of perishable products, feed cost and the effects to the environment. As a side note, Dr. Koh encouraged more young people to venture into the business as he believes that it will not only benefit the industry but also build their characters and soft skills.

After the briefing, Mdm Christy Wong, as the representative of ISM, handed a souvenir to Dr. Koh as a token of appreciation and group photos were taken. ISM expressed their gratitude to QL Poultry Farm Sdn. Bhd. for their endless cooperation and generosity throughout the whole trip. As a matter of fact, two final year students of DAM will be undertaking their internship at QL Poultry Farm Sdn. Bhd. It is hoped that the industrial collaboration will provide more opportunities for young people especially the DAM students to gain knowledge, experience, as well as hopefully, securing a great career with QL Poultry Farm Sdn. Bhd.