



8th International Agriculture Congress (IAC) Cum 6th International Symposium for Food & Agricultural (ISFA) 2018

From 13th to 15th November 2018, the Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in collaboration with Faculty of Agriculture, Niigata University from Japan organized a joint symposium of the 8th International Agriculture Congress (IAC) 2018 and 6th International Symposium for Food & Agriculture (ISFA) 2018 which took place at the Auditorium Rashdan Baba, UPM. A total of 175 participants came from various countries such as Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Nigeria, and Malaysia whereby 62 participants were from Niigata University of Japan. The Institute of Science and Management (ISM), Tawau sent one of their agriculture lecturers to participate in the symposium.

The conference was officiated by the Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, YB Dato' Haji Salahuddin Ayub.

"I believe that this conference will benefit the agriculture sector in exploring revolutionary innovations that will shape the future of agriculture focusing on applications and technology development in agriculture to increase agricultural productions," he said.

Dato' Salahuddin hopes that the conference will provide a good platform to share knowledge and experience among researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, policy makers, innovators and practitioners of the agricultural sector.

UPM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datin Paduka Dato' Dr. Aini Ideris said the symposium themed 'Shaping the Future through Agriculture Innovation' enables participants to obtain new knowledge and research progress in agriculture.

"UPM conducts bilateral relations in research, staff and student exchange as well as developing agriculture related innovations internationally and enhances networks and reputations internationally," she said.

The conference was also attended by the Dean of Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Prof Dr. Abdul Shukor Juraimi and Dean of Faculty of Agriculture, Niigata University Japan, Prof. Dr. Kuni Sueyoshi.

Meanwhile, two innovative products by UPM researchers, *BlastBuster RS4* by Head Laboratory of Science and Technology, Institute of Plantation Studies (IKP), Prof Madya Dr. Wong Mui Yun and *The Mahseer Feed* by Deputy Dean (Graduate Studies, Research and International) Office, UPM Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Dr. Mohd Salleh Kamarudin were launched by Dato' Salahuddin at the event.

BlastBuster RS4 is a green technology innovation in the production of anti-fungal formula to prevent cholera while acting as a growth-boosting agent. The Mahseer Feed is an alternative fish food that speeds up fish growth, reduces cost and increases breeder profitability.

During the two days of conference, 2 plenary papers, 4 keynote papers and 81 research papers were presented. Among the major agriculture disciplines involved are Crop Science, Animal Science, Agribusiness, Plant Breeding, Aquaculture, Agricultural Technology and Food Technology, Agriculture Recreation and Environment, Plant Protection, Agriculture Extension, and Soil and Crop Management. Meanwhile, 74 posters from various agri-discipline were also presented during the event.

On the last day of the joint symposium, a post-congress tour was held by the organizers to the Selangor Fruit Valley and Batu Caves, Selangor. The Selangor Fruit Valley (SFV) is developed by Perbadanan Kemajuan Pertanian Selangor (PKPS), a 646-hectare fruit farm which is the latest attraction of agrotourism in Selangor. There are various attractions at SFV such as Tropical Fruits Farm, Herbs & Spices Garden, Selangor Traditional House, Deer Park, and Rabbit Park. 181 hectares of the land have been planted with non-seasonal fruit trees such as rambutan, pulasan, jackfruit, pandan coconut and the king of all fruit, the Durian.

In conclusion, this conference did not only provide a platform for researches and academicians to share their knowledge and expertise, but to also make a meaningful contribution towards wealth creation, nation building and universal human advancement especially in the national agriculture sector.

