

FARMERS, BREEDERS AND FISHERMEN DAY 2005 KAPIT **“AGRICULTURE AS A BUSINESS”**

The state-level Farmers', Breeders' and Fishermen's Day 2005 was held in Kapit from August 29 - 31 2005 to coincide with the state-level National Day celebration on August 31 which was also centred in Kapit town.

The three-day celebration with the theme “Agriculture as a Business” was launched by Chief Minister Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud on 29th August 2005 at the Dewan Suarah, Kapit. About 1,000 people including 800 selected representatives of farmers, livestock breeders and fishermen from all over the state and 100 guest dignitaries and officials attended the ceremony.

Sale of agro produce and processed products, competition on crops, livestock and fishery produce and quiz were held. The activities were aimed to create the awareness that agriculture can be lucrative activity rather than just farming for subsistence.



A scene at entrance to the three-day development exhibition.

Grand welcome for guests to grand launching ceremony.



Bigger than life Ikan Semah Model at Kapit Civic Centre.

judging process in a crop, livestock, fisheries and handicraft competition held at the Division, Divisional Agriculture Office, Kapit.



Datu Haji Mohd Sepuan, Director of Agriculture, with his Deputy, Encik Paul Ritom and Ag. Divisional Agriculture Officer, Encik Dominic Chunggat viewing the entries to the competition before prize giving ceremony.





↳ A view of the spruced-up Dewan Suarah Kapit, site of the exhibition.

Mr. Ng Soo Kang, owner of Poh Lian Plantation is one of five recipients of SALM accreditation certificate from Sarawak for complying to GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) in his commercial vegetable cultivation.



↳ Winner in a quiz competition to encourage popular participation by visitors to the show.



↳ Another winner in a quiz competition.



↳ Brisk participation in the quiz competition by show visitors.



MALAYSIAN FARM CERTIFICATION FOR GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE

Five enterprising farmers from Sarawak recently received the SALM (**Malaysian Farm Certification for Good Agricultural Practice**) Certificates from Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries, Y.B. Hj. Mohd. Shariff bin Hj. Omar at Kuantan, Pahang on 26th May 2005.

SALM is a national programme implemented by the DOA to recognize and certify farms which adopt good agricultural practices (GAP), operate in an environmentally friendly way and yielding products that are of high quality, safe and suitable for consumption.

There are 17 major must of certification that covers the aspects on

Environmental setting of farms

(e.g. source and quality of irrigation water, farm practices good soil conservation measures etc);

Verification of farm practices

(e.g. no GMO used as planting materials, no sewage or industrial sludge is used as fertilizer, proper farm waste disposal system etc);

Safety of farm produce

(no contamination of heavy metals like arsenic, lead, mercury and cadmium, pesticide residues in products less than MRL stipulated in Food Regulations.

The five farms that were conferred the SALM Certificates are namely,

1. **PPK Subis Miri** producing leafy vegetables
2. **Poh Lian Plantation Sdn Bhd, Serian** producing leafy vegetables
3. **Poh Lian Plantation Sdn Bhd, Sadong Jaya** producing leafy vegetables
4. **Wong Kai Ting, Bintangor** producing leafy vegetables
5. **Tiong Kai Hua, Sarikei** producing dragon fruits

Their farm products are sold locally, their compliance to the SALM stipulated conditions have enable our consumers to enjoy eating the high quality and safe vegetables and fruits.



BARIO RICE CERTIFICATION SCHEME

Consumers of Bario rice will be glad to know that a scheme to assure them of Bario rice quality standard has been initiated by the State Department of Agriculture Sarawak. The quality of the rice up to now has been high but hasn't been the most consistent with its name. The Bario Rice Certification Scheme (BRCS) seeks to certify that its production - from seed selection to end product retail and distribution - follows good agricultural practices (GAP). The scheme further seeks to assure consumers of a consistently genuine pure Bario rice quality standard as and when available on the market, whether local or global. Towards this objective BRCS has three components: seed certification, farm registration and product certification.

BRCS Component 1

Variety and Seed Certification

Genetic profiling of Bario Rice and registration with the Plant & Variety Protection Board
Selection of qualified seed producers
Certification of seed farm and its produced seed.

BRCS Component 2

Registration of Bario Rice Farms

Use of certified seeds for planting
Selection of qualified rice farmers
Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) adoption
Annual inspection by DOA

BRCS Component 3

Product Certification

Product compliance with a set Bario rice quality standard
Ensure no adulteration
Product source is a DOA registered rice farm.

VISION

To offer the availability of pure high quality Bario rice for local and global markets.

MISSION

To produce pure high quality Bario rice through transfer of seed production technology and through adoption of GAP.

To implement a certification scheme which makes it easy to monitor and influence product quality and reliability.

B R C S O B J E C T I V E S

- To help producers, millers, retailers and distributors realize the importance of maintaining a consistently high standard of Bario rice purity and quality as a commercial product.
- To recognize producers who adhere to an imposed set of standards towards producing pure high quality Bario rice.
- To raise consumer confidence in Bario rice quality standard by ensuring its consistency and safety from adulteration or mixing with inferior quality.
- To increase productivity and income of the rice growers without necessarily damaging the environment and biodiversity.
- To protect and sustain Bario rice cultivation so as to prevent its extinction.
- To recognize and promote Bario rice as a top-grade rice product.
- To upgrade its production protocol and or practices so as to qualify Bario rice as an organic product.

