

UMS in organic rice project

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah is set to produce tastier, healthier organic rice through its latest Systemic Rice Intensification (SRI) project.

"This is part of making the world greener. And we the community of UMS, realise that the biggest obstacle is to change the people's mentality on environment awareness," said Dean of Sustainable Agriculture School, Professor Madya Dr. Mahmud Sudin on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Kamaruzaman Hj. Ampon.

He was speaking at the official opening of Sabah's first Model Organic Farm at the backyard of the UMS campus here.

The project is organised by Student-in-Free Enterprise (SIFE) UMS in collaboration with Waynetech Holdings Sdn Bhd.

The joint venture established in 2010, has hosted the project to few identified communities by educating them on Systemic Rice

Intensification (SRI) and organic composting system to create a more sustainable and higher standard of living.

The aim of SRI is to reduce usage of water by 50 per cent and increase food supply by 50 per cent.

About 100 SIFE UMS students are involved in the project.

"We want to produce active students who will and can serve the community wholeheartedly," Dr Mahmud said.

Also present during the opening ceremony were Waynetech Holding CEO, Datuk CK Tan and his Chief Operations Officer, Wayne John Fauser, Director of Student Entrepreneurship Development UMS, Mat Salleh Ayub, SIFE UMS Project Coordinator, Rohani Abdullah, 27 nursing students from the School of Medicine and the finalists of Miss Earth 2011.

The Miss Earth 2011 finalists were there to support and promote the green movement in order to create awareness on the importance of environment sustainability.



Dr. Mahmud (right), Datuk Tan (centre) and Mat Salleh Ayub.