MPOB News

Launching of the Sustainable Palm Oil Cluster (SPOC)

The first Sustainable Palm Oil Cluster (SPOC) was officially launched by Tan Sri Bernard Dom-pok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, on 30 November 2009 at the Sapi Club House, PPB Oil Palms Bhd in Telupid, Sabah.

The Cluster that will be known as PPB Sustainable Oil Palm Cluster was jointly established by MPOB and PPB Oil Palms Bhd.

The establishment of the PPB SPOC is to achieve the mission of improving and increasing the productivity of the smallholders in the fresh fruit bunch market, in line with the concept of Premium Quality, Premium Price.

Also attending the launching ceremony were Datuk Seri Panglima Michael Asang, State Assemblyman of Labuk; Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, Director-General of MPOB, and Mr Goh Ing Sing, Managing Director of PPB Oil Palms Berhad.

Development of MPOB Palm Information Centre Complex

The MPOB Palm Information Centre Complex at Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park, Sabah, was officially launched by Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, on 7 December 2009.

The project that will be carried out under the Ninth Malaysia Plan will focus on the development of the MPOB Sabah Office, laboratory and pilot plant facilities for research and technological development, and a palm garden.

The first phase of complex is expected to be completed by September 2010, while the next stage of the development will be carried out using the Tenth Malaysia Plan budget.

Also attending the event were Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB and Mr M Nagarajan, Under Secretary of the Vegetable Oils, Fats and Sago Division, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

Annual Dinner

Two projects entitled Emulsion-in-Water (EW) Insecticide Formulation Based on Innovative Inert Palm Ingredients for Crop Care and of Public Health Importance led Dr Ismail Ab Raman, and NoveLin – A New Innovative Oil for Health and Cold Stability led by Dr Siew Wai Lin, were chosen to receive awards for Anugerah Emas Penyelidikan MPOB 2009, during the Annual Dinner and Award Presentation Night at the Equatorial Hotel, Bangi on 22 January 2010.

In addition, two projects were chosen to receive Anugerah Kecemerlangan Sains Piara Pusingan Ketua Pengarah 2009, namely, Life Cycle Assessment of the Production of Crude Palm Oil led by Dr Vijaya Subramaniam, and Ester Kuaterner Trietanolamina Berasaskan Oleokimia Sawit untuk Bahan Penjagaan Fabrik led by Dr Zainab Idris.

For Anugerah Kecemerlangan Pengurusan Piara Pusingan Ketua Pengarah 2009, two projects entitled Portal Palm Tariff Information led by N Balu, and MPOB Codes of Practice led by Dr Ainie Kuntom were chosen as winners.

Thirty-three publications were chosen to receive awards as best publications while the paper entitled Use of Metabolic Control Analysis to Give Quantitative Information on the Control of Lipid Biosynthesis in the Important Oil Crop, Elaeis guineensis (Oil Palm) by Dr Umi Salamah Ramli, was chosen as the overall winning publication.

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, presented the awards.

MPOB’s Schemes to Help Smallholders in Kota Marudu, Sabah

A total of 45 smallholders received aid under various schemes during the Ninth Malaysia Plan from Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, on 30 January 2010 at Kota Marudu, Sabah.

Among the schemes that were presented by the Minister were the scheme to supply good quality oil palm seedlings to poor smallholders, the scheme of integrating crops and livestock, cheques for the oil palm replanting scheme, and cheques for the 2nd Economic Stimulus Package (PRE2). The recipients of this aid came from both the plantation companies and the smallholders.

Also attending the event were Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB; Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, Director-General of MPOB, and Tuan Haji
Idris Omar, Director of Integration Research and Extension Division, MPOB.

Signing of MoU on Cantus™

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, witnessed an agreement signing ceremony between MPOB and Fancy Power Sdn Bhd for the production and marketing of the oil palm motorized cutter, Cantus™. Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, the Director-General, represented MPOB while Fancy Power Sdn Bhd was represented by the Managing Director, Mr Kam Pau Siyong.

The signing ceremony took place during the opening ceremony of the Workshop on Palm Industry Labour: Issues, Performance and Sustainability (PILIPS) 2010.

Also attending the ceremony were Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, the Chairman of MPOB and Mr M Nagarajan, Under Secretary, Vegetable Oils, Fats and Sago Division, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

Farm Mechanization Operators Course

A total of 47 candidates participated in the Sixth Farm Mechanization Operators Course, which was conducted from September 2009 until February 2010. Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, the Director-General of MPOB, presented certificates to the successful participants on 11 February 2010 at a function held in the Equatorial Hotel, Bangi.

Three participants, namely, Mohd Saiful Shafie, Juneo Sinoo and Mohd Yuan Fitrı Khan Mohd Yusof, who were voted as the best participants, also received their awards during the function.

MPOB Presented Schemes to Help Smallholders in Saratok, Sarawak

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, presented the scheme to supply good quality oil palm seedlings, the scheme for integration of crops and livestock, and the scheme to supply agricultural inputs such as fertilizer MPOB F1 to 40 smallholders at Dewan Masyarakat Saratok in Saratok, Sarawak on 1 March 2010.

The event was also attended by Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB; Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, Director-General of MPOB, and Mr Danial Supit, Saratok District Officer.

Earlier, MPOB organized a seminar to disseminate information on good agricultural practices in the oil palm plantation for the smallholders. More than 400 smallholders attended the seminar.

SERU_Ling 1MALAYSIA

Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, the Director-General of MPOB, attended the SERU_Ling 1Malaysia Programme organized by MPOB on 6 March 2010 at Dewan Serbaguna Kampung Lalang, Baling, Kedah. The programme was hosted by Senator Dato’ Dr Mashitah Ibrahim, the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office.

Among the activities organized during the event were a cooking demonstration, a colouring contest and an exhibition on the palm oil industry.

Launching of IMPAC

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, launched the operations of the Institute of Malaysia Plantations and Commodities (IMPAC) located at Keratong, Pahang in an event at MPOB Head Office, on 16 March 2010.

The objective of IMPAC is to be a one-stop centre for the various agencies under the Ministry to organize general and specific training and courses related to the plantation and commodities industry. This will produce knowledgeable personnel to work in the commodities sector.

The Minister also presented diplomas and certificates to participants who had completed training and courses organized by the various agencies under the Ministry.

Also attending the event were Datuk Wira Ismail Saleh, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC); Mr Mohd Aminuddin Hashim, Deputy Secretary-General II of MPIC; senior officers of MPIC; the Director-Generals of various agencies under MPIC, and chief executives of councils under MPIC.

PAC Meeting

The 30th Programme Advisory Committee (or PAC) meeting was held on 29 March to 2 April 2010 at MPOB Head Office. The PAC is a committee which was established by the MPOB Governing Board to advise on the research programmes that are to be conducted by MPOB.
This annual event enables the research activities of MPOB to be scrutinized to ensure that the projects are technically sound and are in line with the needs of the industry and the country. The PAC members have diverse expertise, knowledge, experience and backgrounds to help the Board in this regard.

During the 30th meeting, Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, the Chairman of MPOB, hosted a dinner for the PAC members, while on the final day, PAC members visited the SIRIM Satellite Incubation Centre at Shah Alam, Selangor.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND COURSES

PILIPS Workshop 2010

The Workshop on Palm Industry Labour: Issues, Performance and Sustainability (PILIPS) 2010 organized by MPOB was held on 8 February 2010 at the Le Meridien Hotel in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, officially opened the Workshop.

The objectives of the Workshop were to provide a forum to deliberate on and address concerns related to reducing labour requirements that would also contribute towards formulating appropriate and practical approaches in handling labour issues. Participants were also encouraged to share their experiences and knowledge, and to acquire new techniques in managing human resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Malaysian palm oil industry.

More than 120 participants from the industry and related government agencies attended the Workshop.

POSREP Seminar

The Palm Oil Small Renewable Energy Programme (POSREP) Seminar was held on 11 March 2010 at the Promenade Hotel in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, officially launched the seminar.

The Seminar was specifically organized to disseminate the latest developments from the Small Renewable Energy Programme (SREP) in the palm oil industry, and to address all the barrier concerns. This would increase awareness of the importance of SREP development to the industry and the role taken by SREP in establishing the oil palm industry as a major player in renewable energy development in Malaysia.

More than 250 people participated in the Seminar. Experts from various agencies and companies presented a total of eight papers in two different sessions entitled SREP in the Palm Oil Industry - The Status and Issues, Challenges and the Way Forward.

The opening ceremony was attended by Datuk Raymond Tan, Minister of Industrial Development Sabah; Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin, Minister of Rural Development Sabah; Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB and Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, Director-General of MPOB.

PAC Seminar

More than 300 participants attended a half-day seminar at Dewan Bactris, MPOB Head Office on 1 April 2010. The seminar was held in conjunction with the 30th PAC Meeting.

The seminar was held in five sessions, as follows:

Session 1: Genomics and Plant Breeding by Prof Dr Soh Aik Chin;

Session 2: Introducing Engineering Innovations in FELDA Palm Oil Mills by Abdul Halim Ahmad, FELDA Palm Industries Sdn Bhd;

Session 3: The World of Fatty Amines by Dr Wolfgang Rupilius;

Session 4: Will Palm Oil Lose Market Share in Europe? by Dr Ralph Timms; and

Session 5: The Impact of High Prices Upon Supply, Demand and Hence Prices by Dr James Fry, LMC International Ltd.

The seminar was held to disseminate and gain knowledge on the latest developments in the oil palm industry.