



The participants pose for a group photo after completing the course.

Second batch completes UPMKB poultry management course

BINTULU: The second batch of 24 participants from Bintulu, Kuching, Sibul, Belaga, Sri Aman, Lawas, Limbang, Mukah, Dalat and Bario completed their poultry management course here recently.

The course was organised by the Putra Agriculture Centre (PPP) of Universiti Putra Malaysia Bintulu Campus (UPMKB).

PPP senior agricultural officer Dr Carlina Freddie Simol conducted the course.

Jalong Imut, a retired headmaster, and his wife Fesilia Kuweng were among the participants who expressed their hope to venture into poultry farming in the future.

Jalong, who just retired at the beginning of January this year, brought his wife along to learn about chicken farming together.

"This course is an eye opener for me and my wife to start

chicken farming. We have gained a lot of information and knowledge from the experienced speaker during this course.

"For the next plan, we will try to raise chickens on a small scale and if we are successful at the trial stage, I will increase the number of poultry until we are able to market chickens in the surrounding area," he said.

Retiree Malarn Meria, his wife and siblings also took the opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills.

Hailing from Bario, Malarn said he was currently trying to learn as much as he could in the field before getting into the chicken farming business.

"I need to know more about chicken farming, especially broiler and layer hens. In this course, I also learnt how to improve chicken farming according to the appropriate period," he said.

A participant from Pakistan, Muhammad Waqas Butt, said he came after hearing about the course from a business partner.

"The difference in language used during the course was not an obstacle because the speaker used two languages – Malay and English. I'm quite fluent in Malay having lived in Malaysia for several years," he said.

He added that with a clear and thorough explanation and the examples given, it was easy for him to engage in both theoretical and practical learning.

Sufri Akbar Sukarno, a crop production graduate from Universiti Malaysia Sabah, became interested in farming after the country experienced a supply crisis in chicken production in recent years.

"The most important knowledge I have learned is the strength of each type of chicken I want to breed. I also learnt the

techniques, costs of farming, agricultural practices, related laws and also how to record the data required in poultry farming," he said.

Sufri said he will try small-scale farming to experience the risks or problems he will face and also calculate the costs involved in working on chicken farming.

Mohamad Irfan Auzan Mohamad Farishan, a biotechnology graduate, is also keen to venture into chicken farming.

He used to grow vegetables using the fertigation method in his hometown of Mukah.

Now he wants to try farming on a small scale first to see the business potential in his area, apart from producing alternative feeds for ruminants and non-ruminants in line with the demand for livestock feed, which has been increasing every year.

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