

Company donates machinery for UPMKB's Gedong paddy project

BINTULU: Universiti Putra Malaysia Bintulu campus (UPMKB) continues to strengthen its strategic collaboration with the industrial sector through the AgriHub@Gedong Project.

Recently, Timor Enterprise Sdn Bhd contributed two units of paddy machinery to the project.

The contribution included a Kubota combined harvester and Kubota rice transplanter, aimed at supporting UPM's efforts to modernise the local paddy cultivation sector through advanced technology and more efficient farming methods.

The mock keys of the paddy machinery were handed over by Timor Enterprise deputy general manager Sharifudin Nazri to UPMKB director Prof Dr Shahrul Razid Sarbini, the head of the AgriHub@Gedong Project, with the ceremony being witnessed by Samarahan Resident Mohamad Irwan Bahari Bujang.

Others present at the event were members of the Kampung Lubok Punggor cooperative and villagers, showcasing strong community support for enhancing agricultural productivity in their area.

UPMKB, in a statement, said this paddy machinery donation was part of UPM's mission to introduce modern technology into Malaysia's agricultural sector, particularly among small-scale farmers in Sarawak.

"With the aid of this machinery, paddy planting and harvesting activities in Kampung Lubok Punggor are expected to become more efficient, reducing reliance on traditional labour-intensive



Members of the AgriHub@Gedong project gather for a group photo, with the paddy fields and harvesting machinery in the background.

methods," it said.

Sharifudin, meanwhile, hoped that the contribution would provide long-term benefits to the cooperative and farmers in Kampung Lubok Punggor, by providing access to more advanced agricultural technology.

"In addition to increasing work efficiency, the machinery is also expected to help improve crop yields and shorten the harvesting period, which has been a significant challenge for traditional farmers," he said.

The AgriHub@Gedong Project is an initiative entrusted to UPMKB by the Sarawak government, aiming to transform the paddy cultivation industry in

Lubok Punggor, Gedong.

This effort seeks to increase paddy output and productivity, in line with the state's goal to make Gedong a strategic major paddy production area in Sarawak.

Shahrul said this project was part of UPMKB's efforts to leverage on smart agricultural technology and sustainable farming practices towards improving the quality and quantity of local paddy production.

"This machinery donation will accelerate our efforts to achieve these objectives, and we are grateful to Timor Enterprise for their support," he said.

The handing-over ceremony was followed by a demonstration of paddy harvesting using the

Kubota combined harvester at the project site, giving attendees a first-hand look at the effectiveness of the technology in enhancing paddy cultivation efficiency.

Also present were Gedong District officer Tamida Da'adi, and Integrated Regional Samarahan Development Agency special administrative officer Anuar Da'an, Kampung Lubok Punggor head Zakaria Lasit.

UPMKB said the AgriHub@Gedong Project could be a catalyst for the expansion of the paddy agriculture sector in Sarawak, where collaboration between the university, industry and local community would be the cornerstone of this initiative's success.