



Participants engage in an informative session during the seminar. — Photo by UPMKB.

Seminar out to educate Tatau folk about aquaponics business opportunities

BINTULU: Over 100 participants in Tatau took part in the Aquaponics Entrepreneurship seminar, which was recently held at SK Sungai Bagian.

The participants comprised residents from Rumah Ulen Segaya, Rumah Banyang Rekan, Rumah Abong Medan, Rumah Josip Adam, Rumah Rundi Layau, Rumah Gundi Chunggat, Rumah Enjan Gos, Rumah Dora Lani, as well as teachers, staff and students from SK Sungai Bagian.

Organised by Universiti Putra Malaysia Bintulu Sarawak Campus (UPMKB) through the Community Empowerment Programme@UniMadani Grant from the Finance Ministry, the event aimed to educate the local community on business opportunities in aquaponics, which combines plant cultivation with fish farming.

According to programme director Dr Fatin Hana Naning, UPMKB is committed to empowering the community with useful knowledge and skills, especially in sustainable agriculture.

"The support from the Community Empowerment Programme@UniMadani Grant is crucial for realising this initiative, and we hope this seminar will open new opportunities for the residents here," she said.

The programme featured aquaponics experts who shared their experiences in the field and provided practical guidance on building a sustainable business, as well as an interactive question-and-answer session.

UPMKB senior lecturer Dr Ismawati Sharkawi also shared insights on starting an aquaponics business, effectively marketing products, and applying green technology to improve their living standards, with a focus on entrepreneurship and sustainability.

"The knowledge we gained today is very useful. With this guidance, I am confident we can try the aquaponics system in our longhouse and maybe start our own business," said Tuai Rumah Ulen Segaya, who expressed gratitude to UPMKB and everyone involved.

Meanwhile, UPMKB hoped the programme would be the first step towards cultivating sustainable entrepreneurial interest among the longhouse communities, thereby improving their living standards and socio-economic status.

"This seminar not only provided learning opportunities, but also became a platform for participants to connect and share ideas while fostering a spirit of cooperation for future projects."