

Boost for agriculture

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia in Serdang began humbly as a School of Agriculture in 1931 before graduating to a College of Agriculture in 1947.

In 1969, the late Tun Abdul Razak suggested the setting up of an agricultural university and in 1971 Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) was set up — the result of the merger between the College of Agriculture

and University of Malaya's Faculty of Agriculture.

By July 1973, UPM has already established three faculties — veterinary medicine and animal sciences, agriculture and forestry — and in the early 80s, the university expanded its scope to include science and technology in its area of studies.

In 1994, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia changed its name to Uni-

versiti Putra Malaysia, in line with its aspirations to become a more versatile and dynamic tertiary institution in the country.

Currently, the university has 14 residential colleges, 16 faculties, 12 research centres and institutes of excellence and more than 25,000 undergraduates and postgraduates.

The university also has the most

number of PhD holders in its academic fraternity compared with other universities in Malaysia. It has more than 2,400 academic staff, including 150 professors, 335 associate professors and close to 900 lecturers.

Under the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Malaysia Plan, the university received the highest allocation (around RM205 million) from the Ministry of Science, Technology and

Innovation's Intensification of Research in Priority Areas programme.

It is also requesting another RM258 million (under the Ninth Malaysia Plan) to boost agriculture research and education by establishing eight institutes of excellence at the campus. — **By ARNI ABDUL RAZAK**