



For the environment: Asmawi (second from right) taking a closer look at the worms used in the vermicomposting project. With him are UPM Faculty of Science lecturer Nor Azwady Abd Aziz (left) and Sufari (right).

Market the first to recycle organic waste into compost

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Photo by **KIMBERLY YEO**

THE Seri Serdang Market in Seri Kembangan will be the first to recycle organic waste into compost and biogas.

The vermicomposting and biogas anaerobic digestion projects are part of the Serdang Green Town programme by the Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) and its synergy partner Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

Biodegradable waste from the market, such as vegetables, fruits and coconut fibre, can be thrown in vermicomposting bins while bread, newspaper, meat, bones and oil can be used in the biogas anaerobic digestion system.

Both facilities have been set up within the market compound.

MPSJ president Datuk Asmawi Kasbi said the vermicomposting project was funded by the Higher Education Ministry at a cost of RM140,000 while the National Solid Waste Management

Department under the Housing and Local Government Ministry provided RM200,000 for the biogas anaerobic digestion project.

"By processing the market waste into compost and biogas, we're reducing the garbage while benefiting the environment," he said.

About 150kg of compost could be yielded from 180kg of organic waste in 20 to 30 days, and they would be given free to the market traders and used to fertilise landscape within the municipality.

The biogas produced could generate electricity for the project site.

Asmawi said the projects might be expanded to other markets if the pilot project was successful.

The public can also contribute organic waste for the projects.

Also present at the launch on Monday were MPSJ councillor Sufari Tinnin and UPM Faculty of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences dean Prof Dr Mohd Ali Hassan.