

Closer look:
Chong checking out a drone used in agriculture at an exhibition booth during his visit to the Agriculture Faculty at UPM in Serdang.



Get involved in urban farming, MCA Youth chief urges city folk

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KUALA LUMPUR: City dwellers, who are grappling with the high cost of living and pollution, have been urged to explore urban farming to supplement their incomes while helping to green up the city.

MCA Youth chairman Chong Sin Woon said growing one's own food was an easy and cheap way to ensure food quality and safety.

He added that it could also help reduce the import of vegetables and fruits, thus reducing the outflow of the ringgit.

"We are importing too many products," Chong, who is also Deputy Education Minister, said during his visit to Universiti Putra Malaysia's Agriculture Faculty yesterday.

Chong, who heads the MCA Youth's Koperasi Petani Muda Malaysia, said urban farming

was a booming trend in European countries.

He hoped Malaysians could explore this field to contribute to sustainability.

Chong said the public would usually look up to Japan, Taiwan and other developed countries for modern farming and agricultural technology.

"Many people have forgotten that we have an institution that has successfully produced good quality products through its research.

"Here at UPM, we have invented new farming methods and carried out research with good results, but these are not widely known due to the lack of commercialisation support."

He said the young farmers' cooperative would play its part to help researchers promote their products to local companies.

During his visit, Chong also had a dialogue with the faculty's deputy vice-chancellors as well as dozens of researchers in agriculture.