

Excellent Swiftlet

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Universiti Putra Malaysia is given recognition as the National Center of Excellence (CoE) for Swiftlet Industry in 2011 under NKEA Agriculture (EPP#2). One of its important roles is to coordinate research studies on Malaysian edible-nest swiftlets and edible birdnests (EBNs) among higher learning institutions and research institutes in the country and to collaborate with industry players as partners in R&D. There are seven main research clusters, namely nutrition, production, and structural functions; economics and products; health; genetics; ecology; standards and quality and marketing and promotion. To date there are more than 25 research projects involving UPM, UKM, UTM, UTAR, UMP, UNIMAP, UMK, MARDI, SIRIM, IMR, and DVS and the industries with funding provided by NKEA Research Grant Scheme (NRGS) worth about RM6 million. The research projects include, among others, studying the geographical distributions and ecology niche, genetic make-up, health and disease status, sustainable and economic aspects of ranching edible-nest swiftlets as well the nutritional composition, anticancer, anti-ageing, antimicrobial and medicinal properties, effects on brain and cognitive functions and development of downstream products of EBNs. From these research works, it is hope that it can further enhance the edible-nest swiftlet industry in the country and increase the production of EBNs because as it is now Malaysia is one of the largest producers of EBNs in Southeast Asia.

