

Malaysia's UPM promotes use of technology in the agricultural sector to strengthens food security

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Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) is actively promoting the use of modern technology in the agricultural sector to strengthen national food security. By integrating technology and involving the younger generation, UPM aims to enhance agricultural productivity and improve the quality of produce.

The initiative addresses Malaysia's reliance on imported food and the uncertainties caused by global geopolitical challenges, emphasizing the need for domestic food production capabilities to ensure a stable supply. UPM's vice-chancellor, Datuk Prof Dr Ahmad Farhan Mohd Sadullah, highlighted that technology is a critical strategy to increase output, streamline production processes, and reduce operating costs in agriculture. One of UPM's key approaches is to transform the profile of farmers in Malaysia, which currently consists largely of the older generation.

The university seeks to leverage the younger workforce, particularly its graduates, to modernize the agricultural sector. Ahmad Farhan stressed that without the adoption of technology, it would be impossible to lower production costs or improve yields and quality. This focus on technology-driven solutions aligns with UPM's broader mission to innovate and prepare the agricultural industry for future challenges.

The vice-chancellor made these remarks during a media event hosted by UPM, underscoring the institution's commitment to advancing the sector. In addition to promoting technology, UPM collaborates closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to address pressing issues and boost local food production.

This partnership aims to reduce the country's dependence on food imports by intensifying efforts to enhance domestic agricultural output. The university's role in this collaboration includes providing expertise and resources to support sustainable and efficient farming practices. By working hand-in-hand with government agencies, UPM is contributing to a more resilient food supply chain that can withstand economic and environmental pressures.

Training opportunities for farmers are another critical component of UPM's strategy. The university offers programs to enhance farmers' skills and capacity by sharing expertise and introducing new agricultural technologies. These initiatives are designed to empower farmers with the knowledge and tools needed to adopt modern practices, ultimately improving their productivity and efficiency. This focus on capacity-building reflects UPM's dedication to not only advancing research and innovation but also directly supporting those working on the ground in the agricultural sector.

As part of its strategic agenda, UPM is committed to helping Malaysia overcome economic challenges and ensure food security for its people. Through its multifaceted approach—combining technology, collaboration, and training—the university is positioning itself as a key player in shaping the future of agriculture in the country. These efforts underscore UPM's role in fostering innovation, supporting local farmers, and contributing to the well-being of the nation by ensuring a stable and sustainable food supply.