

Commercialisation of Haruan *Channa striatus* through SDC

KOTA KINABALU: (Monday) A group, led by Professor Abdul Manan Mat Jais of the Haruan Research Group, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia had expressed their interest to promote and commercialise Haruan *Channa striatus* through the SDC. This interest was expressed to IDS Executive Director, Datuk Dr Mohd Yaakub Hj Johari at a meeting on Friday.

Professor Abdul Manan who is also the founder of the research group has initiated research on Haruan *C. striatus* since 1985. Haruan *Channa striatus*, locally known as *jalak* or *badus* is a tropical carnivorous freshwater species widely used as traditional remedy for wound healing by generations of the local communities in Malaysia, including in Sabah. The species is indigenous to Malaysia.

Scientific research carried out in Malaysia, including by the Haruan Research Group have unravelled the biomedical potential of the fish. The work carried out have indicated that the Haruan *Channa striatus* species has a good anti-pain property comparable to morphine. It also has anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial and anti-cancer properties, especially against leukaemia and colon cancer. Haruan *C. striatus* also contains good biochemical profile, with 17 essentials amino acids together with *Arichidonic* and *Docosahexanoic Acid* or DHA the omega 3 fatty acid known to reduce coronary heart diseases in human. It is also a good source of protein and candidate for health foods.

Datuk Dr Mohd Yaakub Hj Johari welcome the interest by Prof. Dr Abdul Manan Mat Jais of the Haruan Research Group at UPM to promote and commercialise Haruan *C. striatus* through the SDC initiative. Dr Mohd Yaakub explained that the initiative is in line with the vision and principles of the SDC Blueprint. The initiative can help expedite higher value-capture in agriculture sector while at the same time reduce poverty, generate greater economic activities in the rural areas and lay the foundation for a sustainable agro-based industry driven by agrobiotechnology development.

The group has identified Keningau to be the hub for the Haruan-based venture. A working committee involving related government agencies chaired by Tuan Haji Zulkifli Nasir, the District Officer and Hj Mohd Sazaki Mohd Zin as secretary, with technical advice to be provided by Professor Dr Abdul Manan of the Haruan Research Group has been established. The working committee will initiate measures and identify resources needed to expedite the implementation of the project.

The project will eventually comprise two components: the first component is basically aquaculture activities (to produce fries and feeds, farming and post-harvest handling); and the second will involve manufacturing health food, health spa, medicated and personal care products.

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