

## EXCELLENT INSTITUTE AWARD 2018 (MYRA II)

**Institute of Tropical Agriculture and Food Security (ITAFoS)** has received the Excellent Institute Award in the MyRA II 2017 from UPM. The award was presented by the Vice Chancellor, YBhg. Prof. Datin Paduka Dato' Dr. Aini Ideris during the UPM Research Appreciation Ceremony on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018.



Director of ITAFoS receiving Excellent Institute Award from Vice Chancellor of UPM witnessed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation of UPM

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, MALAYSIA (MOE) RESEARCH GRANTS



MRUN Food Security Project Workshop on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

UPM has successfully received RM 1,870,000 research grant under the Malaysian Research University Network (MRUN) Collaboration Research Program (Phase 1) on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018. ITAFoS is the leading institution for Food Security research program under MOE. This 3-year program involves collaboration with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Malaya.

## UPM HIGH IMPACT INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY NETWORKING AWARD 2018

Prof. Dr. Mohd Rafii Yusop has won the High Impact Industry Networking Project Award 2018 from UPM for the project entitled "FAO / International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - Evaluation and Selection of Rice Mutants / Varieties for Utilization to Increase Yield and Production, and for Quality Fodder" with Agency Nuclear Malaysia and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).



## FOOD SAFETY POSTGRADUATE STUDENT MOBILITY PROGRAM (4<sup>TH</sup> FOSMOB, 2018)



FOSMOB participants at the PT Amerta Indah Otsuka (isotonic drink factory)

The 4<sup>th</sup> Food Safety Postgraduate Student Mobility Program (4<sup>th</sup> FOSMOB) has taken place at the Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Indonesia from 29<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018. A total of 16 postgraduate students have participated in this program, and they were accompanied by three senior lecturers and a researcher. Five postgraduate students from the group also underwent student attachment at the Food-Safety Laboratory, Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, IPB from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

## SELANGOR SMART EDUCATION CARNIVAL 2018

The Selangor State Government has organized the Selangor Smart Education Carnival 2018 from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at the Shah Alam Conventional Center (SACC) during which ITAFoS set up an exhibition booth. The carnival provided public exposure to the role of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and its importance for career development of the Nation's children and future.



Preparation of the exhibition booth by ITAFoS's staff

## SMART-COLLABORATION OF KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT

The programme was first initiated in January 2017 at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Melor, Kota Bharu, Kelantan and was still on-going in 2018. The programme was carried out with the aim of implementing technology transfer in food crop fertigation system to secondary school students. This programme also provides long-term agricultural training so that students would be able to cultivate crops using this method as a source of their income in the future.



Students cultivating the rock melon seed



Setting up fertigation system for rock melon seedlings

## FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (FSCC) SUMMER SCHOOL 2018



Participants of Food Security and Climate Change (FSCC) Summer School 2018

Institute of Tropical Agriculture and Food Security has organized the Food Security and Climate Change (FSCC) Summer School 2018. The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria and Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia were the event's co-organizers. This event was held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018. A total of 45 participants from eight countries participated in this 2-week event. This year, the FSCC was focused on oil palm production and cattle integration as a potential sustainability transition strategy.

## ITAFoS PUBLIC LECTURE 2018

Modern Analytical Tools to Tackle an Old Problem: Mycotoxins in Food and Feed

Associate Professor Dr. Franz Berthiller from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria has been the invited speaker for a public lecture entitled "Modern Analytical Tools to Tackle an Old Problem: Mycotoxins in Food and Feed" which was held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018. He is an expert on liquid chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry, and his main research interests are the detection of novel fungal metabolites as well as the determination of mycotoxins.



Associate Professor Dr. Franz Berthiller presenting his public lecture on mycotoxins

## 4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL PLANT BREEDING CONFERENCE 2018



Overwhelmed participation at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Plant Breeding Conference 2018

A total of 180 researchers representing 18 countries from various government agencies, private organizations and public universities have gathered at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Plant Breeding Conference 2018 from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The conference discussed on the latest issues in plant breeding, genetics and biotechnology.

## THE 4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN DAIRY GOAT CONFERENCE (AADGC2018)

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Asian-Australasian Dairy Goat Conference (AADGC2018) jointly organized by Tra Vinh University, Universiti Putra Malaysia and FAO was successfully held in Tra Vinh University, Vietnam from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Approximately 200 participants from 18 countries attended the conference consisting of scientific presentations and technical field visit.



Post-conference farm visit by representatives from ITAFoS

## LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY MASS SPECTROMETRY WORKSHOP



Demonstration of mycotoxin analysis by Associate Professor Dr. Franz Berthiller

A 3-day LCMS/MS workshop has been jointly organized from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 by ITAFoS and the Faculty of Food Science and Technology, UPM. Associate Professor Dr. Franz Berthiller from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria was the trainer for this workshop. The workshop covered on the importance and the detail procedures of analyzing mycotoxins in food and feedstuffs using an advance method called Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (LCMS/MS).

## BASIC BACTERIOLOGICAL WORKSHOP

A Basic Bacteriological Workshop has been held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at the Central Laboratory, ITAFoS. The trainers of the workshop were Dr. Noor Azira Abd Mutalib (Research Associate of ITAFoS) and industry representative, Ms. Nurizren Nazri (Era Bumi Sains Sdn. Bhd.). This workshop was held with the aim of exploring the basic principles related to the analysis of food pathogenic bacteria as they are extensively used in determining the quality and safety of food products.



Dr. Noor Azira Abd Mutalib explaining the bacterial growth on media

## DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-BASED INDUSTRY, YB TUAN SIM TZE TZIN VISITED PADI U PUTRA BOOTH OF INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

YB Tuan Sim Tze Tzin, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, has visited the PadiU Putra booth on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The event was organized by ITAFoS at UPM on the technology developed by ITAFoS to increase rice production through blast resistant rice variety, use of fertilizer and integrated management of pest, to overcome rice farmers' pest problems.



Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry being briefed on ITAFoS PadiU technology by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Norida Mazlan

## PADIU PUTRA PACKAGE RECEIVED ATTENTION BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION MALAYSIA YB. DR. MASZLEE MALIK AT THE 'MAJLIS AMANAT MENTERI PENDIDIKAN 2019'



Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry being briefed on ITAFoS PadiU technology by Prof. Dr. Mohd Rafii Yusop

The PadiU Putra technology has received the attention of the Malaysian Minister of Education, YB Dr. Maszlee Malik, during the Majlis Amanat Menteri Pendidikan 2019 at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Arts and Cultural Centre, UPM on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019. During the event, Minister of Education has commended UPM and ITAFoS' role in championing the efforts to help improve the economy and income of farmers.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**PUBLIC LECTURE: QUORUM QUENCHING QUANDARY: BACTERIAL ADAPTATION TO QUORUM SENSING INHIBITORS BY ASSOC. PROF. DR. TOSHINARI MAEDA FROM KYUSHU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, JAPAN (13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE HALL, UPM)**

**STATISTICAL ANALYSIS WORKSHOP FOR BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENT (3<sup>RD</sup> - 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019)**

**3<sup>RD</sup> REALTIME PCR WORKSHOP, CENTRAL LABORATORY, ITAFoS, UPM (17-18 APRIL 2019)**

**NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PADDY FARMERS 2019 (PERSIDANGAN PESAWAH PADI KEBANGSAAN 2019) (6<sup>TH</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019)**

**7<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL AGRICULTURE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (SAADC 2019), POKHARA, NEPAL (8<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019)**