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## Institute offers 10 courses now; 13 more coming

**KUCHING:** Sarawakians were yesterday urged to take advantage of the training programmes designed by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the Rural and Regional Development Ministry (KKLW) to develop rural entrepreneurs.

The ministry's Rural Economic Division secretary, Kamaruzaman Umar, said the programmes were aimed at increasing the knowledge and skills of rural Bumiputera entrepreneurs.

According to him, as many as 10 courses are being run in Sarawak by KKLW in collaboration with various agencies, with another 13 new courses being launched this year.

"I hope everyone here will take this opportunity to tell your friends and family who are interested in the programmes we are running," he said at the launching of the Entrepreneur Training and Guidance Programme 2009 yesterday.

The training programme,

run with the assistance of FRIM, includes courses for commercial nursery plots, landscape and the maintenance of trees, herbal technology and the development of herbal product technology, is being run for the first time in Sarawak.

Kamaruzaman pointed out that KKLW aimed to create 45,580 rural entrepreneurs from 2006 to 2010.

"We want to increase the number of quality rural entrepreneurs in accordance with the creation of the Bumiputera commercial and industrial community," he said.

Kamaruzaman pointed out that the total Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP) allocation for four training programmes under the ministry's Entrepreneur Training and Guidance Unit amounted to RM25 million, with RM5 million to be spent this year alone.

He said the unit targeted to hold 834 series of courses for a total of 22,579

participants under the 9MP. Last year, RM5.1 million was used to fund courses for some 5,121 entrepreneurs.

The majority of the participants, numbering at 3,161, were under the Entrepreneurship and Business Enhancement Training programme people. The second largest group - at 1,372 - took part in the Agriculture, Food Technology and Skills Training programme.

Besides working together with FRIM, Kamaruzaman said KKLW also had partnership with other institutions of higher learning and government agencies such as Universiti Institut Teknologi Mara, Malaysian Agriculture Research and Development Institute and Sirim.

Entrepreneurs interested to pursue and develop their rural businesses are advised to look into the Skim Pembiayaan Ekonomi Desa (SPED), Kamaruzaman added.

Interested parties should go to [www.rurallink.gov.my](http://www.rurallink.gov.my) for further information.