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Antarctica trust fund

KUALA LUMPUR: The Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) will set up an Antarctica Trust Fund next month to encourage more local scientists and researchers to conduct research in the Antarctica.

Its director-general, Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod, said it is hoped the fund will help cover the cost of research in the South Pole.

“We want to encourage more scientists, as well as FRIM researchers, to carry out research especially on whether certain seeds unable to grow elsewhere, can grow there. High potential seeds will be planted in the South Pole and the lifespan of the plant studied - we want to see how mineral content in the Antarctica can help germination,” he said after a seminar on the “Journey to Antarctica” delivered by former FRIM director-general Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor here yesterday.

Among the seeds to be researched are *cengal*, *balak* and plants for medical and pharmaceutical purposes, as well as food. - Bernama