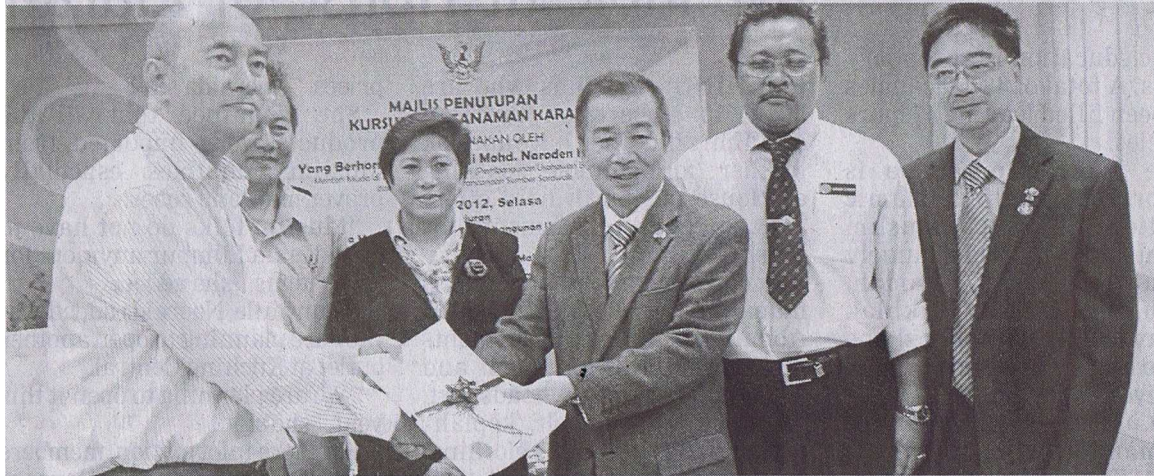


Headline	FRIM urged to help in developing gaharu industry		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (Kuching)		
Date	28 Mar 2012	Color	Black/white
Section	Home	Circulation	88,150
Page No	13	Readership	166,173
Language	English	ArticleSize	281 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,618
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 4,854



HIGH POTENTIAL: Naroden (third right) presenting certificates to participant Abg Abdul Rahim Abg Berawi. Witnessing the event are Nancy (third left), Lok (right) and Ahmad (second right).

# FRIM urged to help in developing gaharu industry

**KUCHING:** Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) has been urged to work with the state government to develop the gaharu tree industry in the state.

Assistant Minister of Resource Planning Datuk Mohd Naroden Majais yesterday urged FRIM to assist the government to look into reducing the cost of inoculation and finding suppliers for good quality seeds.

"The two main setbacks in the gaharu tree industry is the absence of the *Aquailaria malacensis* seed which is said to be the most suitable to plant in Malaysia. The other setback is the high cost of inoculation," he said in his closing speech at the 'Gaharu Tree Planting Course' at Islamic Information Centre (IIC).

Naroden, who is also Assistant Minister of Bumiputera Entrepreneur Development, said that currently there were no suppliers for seeds and inoculant products, which are approved by government agencies.

"I really hope that FRIM can work with the state government to get gaharu tree suppliers and assign good and value-for-money seeds and

inoculant product suppliers," he stated.

"Currently the trees are only planted in a few small areas of about two to five acres in Bau, Padawan, Sri Aman and Kuching," Naroden said.

Naroden also added that due to the overwhelming response for the course, the Bumiputera Entrepreneurship Development Unit (UPUB) and the Chief Minister's office will be organising more in the future.

He added that gaharu is a lucrative plant which can rake up to RM20,000 per kg for the 'Super King' or 'Double Super' wood variant.

"The wood can also be processed to extract its oil. An eight-year-old tree, which has been inoculated, can produce two 12ml bottles of gaharu essential oil.

The market price for a bottle of gaharu is from RM300 to RM500," he said.

A total of 62 participants attended the course held from March 25 to 27.

Also present were Batang Sadong MP Nancy Shukri, FRIM research officer Dr Lok Eng Hai and senior research officer Dr Ahmad Suhaidi.