

Headline	Ministry holds workshop to promote commercial planting of herbs		
MediaTitle	The Star (Kuching)		
Date	01 Feb 2013	Color	Black/white
Section	NEWS	Circulation	293,375
Page No	S12	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	109 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 604
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 1,811



Ministry holds workshop to promote commercial planting of herbs

KUCHING: Natural Resources and Environment Ministry will launch the two-day "Herbal Interactive Workshop" tomorrow at Dewan Mesra Simunjan.

"Jointly organised by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Sarawak Biodiversity Centre and other state agencies, the workshop aims to promote herbal species as commercial crops that can be cultivated by local communities," said a statement from FRIM yesterday.

The workshop, one of FRIM's outreach programmes, is designed to increase public awareness and understanding on the herbal indus-

try and its economic potential. Organisers are hoping for about 200 participants.

"Five FRIM researchers, led by Dr Mastura Mohtar, who heads the FRIM Herbal Excellence Centre, and an SBC representative will share their knowledge on medicinal aromatic plants, herbal planting material productions, among other subjects."

The statement added that other areas of the workshop would include essential oil processing technology, herbal processing technology, quality control of herbal products and

their regulatory requirements.

"There will be various activities organised in conjunction with the workshop including dialogues, exhibitions and demonstrations by local entrepreneurs. We'll also organise herbal craft activities for children."

Expected to be present at the launching ceremony are the Malaysian Forestry Research and Development Board chairman Nancy Shukri, FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod and SBC chief executive Dr Rita Manurung.

For more information, call 013-287 8831 or 013-880 8669.