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Research studies must give returns to country – FRIM chief

SHAH ALAM: Grants given for research studies must result in returns and bring value to the country as it is not welfare aid, an agriculture funding seminar was told yesterday.

Director-general of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod said the studies should help the government's transformation agenda to meet the needs of society and not for personal interest.

"Researchers must ask themselves what the studies can

contribute to the continuity and sustainability of society in this uncertain economic times," he said when opening Agri-Fund seminar 2013 organised by FRIM and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources here.

Researchers in Malaysia should be thankful that the government could still give research grants unlike some countries which have to rely on outside research.

Between 2007 and 2010, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry allocated

RM6.6 million for 58 research projects of which RM5.45 million or 83 per cent was spent.

The research studies produced 24 technologies, 18 new processes, eight prototypes and seven products.

Two software were developed, five copyright and 25 scientific publications were produced.

Dr Abd Latif said some organisations in China had been known to terminate the services of researchers who did not produce results in three years.

— Bernama