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## Understanding helps keep environment

KANGAR: Understanding the environmental science issues collectively will help researchers seek ways to lessen the hazards affecting mankind, wildlife and the environment.

Natural Resources and Environment Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Dr James Dawos Mamit said, besides knowing how to tackle the issue, researchers must also take into consideration how their research on soil contributed to the nation.

“The national target is on improving crop productivity and sustaining the ecosystem quality. We must take note that inappropriate management may lead to reducing soil fertility, poor crop productivity and loss of profitability,” he said.

He said this when officiating the four-day Soil Science Conference of Malaysia 2014 here Tuesday

The conference, which started yesterday, is organised by University Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) and was attended by 129 participants nationwide, mostly from universities, Forest Research Institute (FRIM), Felcra and Mardi.

Dawos said erosion, landslide, loss of organanic soil layer, soil compaction

and contamination were common phenomena in Malaysia, leading to soil degradation which affected the people’s livelihood, ecosystem, economy and social system. He said major flood destroying large hectarage of padi fields and farm land in the country had caused ephemeral increase in food commodities while demand and price increased.

“Aggressive research on soil plant productivity aimed at further improving yield per hectare should be of priority,” added Dawos. – Bernama