

Headline	Forest plantations urged to invest in R&D on pests, diseases		
MediaTitle	New Sarawak Tribune		
Date	27 Jul 2017	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	46,471
Page No	8	Readership	164,773
Language	English	ArticleSize	492 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 2,875
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 8,625



## Forest plantations urged to invest in R&D on pests, diseases

**KUCHING:** Globally, pests and diseases have caused many forest plantations to fail, calling for greater investment in new technologies and capacity building in planted forest R&D to forestall the devastations that can be

brought by these threats.

This was the central message delivered to participants at the "Pest and Disease" workshop held here on Monday. Driving home this point was world-renowned tree health

expert and president of IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organisations), Professor Michael J. Wingfield.

The workshop was part of the Planted Forest Research Programme (PFRP) imple-

mented by Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) to facilitate the establishment of planted forests in Sarawak.

Wingfield, in his keynote address at the workshop, elaborated on the need to develop

tolerant planting materials and research expertise to ensure the viability and sustainability of forest plantations.

Also presenting the papers at the SFC workshop were researchers from Forest Research Institute

of Malaysia (FRIM), major timber companies and government agencies from Sabah and Sarawak.

The Pest and Disease workshop was attended by 50 participants.

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THE participants of the "Pest and Disease" workshop posing with president of IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organisations), Professor Michael J. Wingfield (seated fourth left) and Sarawak Forestry Corporation's CEO, Wong Ting Chung (seated third right).