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'POKOK CUCUR ATAP'

GOUT REMEDY FROM FRIM

Product made from wild herb found on Terengganu coast

SETIU

THE Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) has created an innovation – an anti-gout product – from the *pokok cucur atap* herb that grows wildly on the coast of Terengganu.

FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod said the plant, known by its scientific name, *baeckea frutescens*, had long been used for treating various conditions and disorders such as constipation, back pain and also used together with other herbs to control blood pressure and blood sugar levels.

He said FRIM's eight-year scientific study found that the herbs had the potential to fight gout – a disease caused by high uric acid level that caused arthritis and pain in the smaller bones of the feet.



The Forest Research Institute of Malaysia research assistant Hazlin Abd Rahim with 'Goutree' after the product's launch in Setiu on Tuesday. BERNAMA PIC

"The prototype of this herbal product launched today has been effective in preventing the production and accumulation of uric acid in the joints.

"It has also been patented and will be commercially marketed with cooperation from any interested party," said Abdul Latif after officiating the pre-launch of

anti-gout prototype product known as GouTree at the FRIM Research Station near Bari here recently.

He said it would have a positive impact on the Terengganu economy as the state had 60,000ha of sandy soils that were suitable for the cultivation of the herb.

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