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MIRI: Fifteen participants took part in a two-day course on 'Conservation and Management of Aquilaria (Karas) for Agarwood' at Long Bemang, Ulu Baram recently.

The course implemented by Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) was facilitated by local entrepreneur Tinnes Malai.

FRIM's head of Forest Plantation Management Branch for Forestry Biotechnology Division, Dr Lok Eng Hai conducted the course.

"Apart from Long Bemang, participants came from various nearby areas in Ulu Baram, Mulu, Bakong, Lapok, Niah as well as Miri.

"Some of them were already involved in the cultivation of Aquilaria.

"Those planning to cultivate it learnt conservation and management techniques related to its cultivation during the course."

Dr Lok said the main objective of the course was to expose participants to Aquilaria, cultivation techniques, species conservation, inducement technology and other knowledge on the agarwood industry.

"Participants were briefed on the nursery and on field planting activities including methods to raise plant stock, identify best quality seedlings, pest and disease identifications/remedies and application of fertilisers pre and post plantings".

He planned to conduct another course in August or September this year due to the positive feedback from participants.



Participants planting Aquilaria trees during the practical training.

He thanked Long Bemang chief Cr Jok Ngau for his support during implementation of the course, which was part of the Institute's efforts to develop and share knowledge on the

agarwood industry.

Those who wish to participate in the upcoming course may enquire from Tinnes (019-8057073) or Dr Lok (016-9721313).