



كمنتريين سومبرٲ اوتام دان قلنچوغن

KEMENTERIAN SUMBER-SUMBER UTAMA DAN PELANCONGAN
MINISTRY OF PRIMARY RESOURCES AND TOURISM

PRESS RELEASE

WORK VISIT TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF PRIMARY RESOURCES AND TOURISM & BRUNEI GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE (BRUNEI GAP) CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

Wednesday, 9 Rabiulakhir 1439H/ 27 December 2017

The Department of Agriculture and Agrifood has held a Work Visit To The Agricultural Development Areas By The Honourable Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and *BRUNEI Good Agricultural Practice (BRUNEI GAP)* Certificate Presentation Ceremony on Wednesday, 9th of October 1439H / 27 December 2017M. The event was held at two farms namely in the Agriculture Development Area of Lumapas, Brunei Muara and Sinaut Agriculture Development Area, Tutong.

Present as the Guest of Honor at the ceremony was The Honourable Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism. In attendance were the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Director of Agriculture and Agrifood, officers and staff from the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood.

Programs at both functions include a working visit by the Guest of Honour to look closely and be briefed on the good agricultural practices elements in the fields that attained the certification. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the *BRUNEI GAP* (Brunei Good Agricultural Practices) Certificates to two agricultural companies, namely Syarikat Bioprop

Sdn Bhd and Syarikat EcoNadi Agrobiz, which had successfully met *BRUNEI GAP* criteria and received certification from the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood since November 2017.

Syarikat Bioprop Sdn Bhd has a plot of 1.76 hectares of land in Lumapas Agriculture Development Area operated by Awang Jamarshahzuin Bin Hj Jaffar since the year 2015. The company is one of the companies that uses fertigation systems to produce various types of vegetables such as lettuce, cucumber, eggplant and herbs.

Meanwhile, Syarikat EcoNadi Agrobiz's operation is based in 4 hectares land in Sinaut Agriculture Development Zone, Tutong, which was operated by Awang Hj Mohd Ayub bin Suhaili and Khairuddin bin Mohamad since November 2016. The company also utilizes fertigation plant system for various vegetable crops, vegetables and the company's main focus is the production of chilli for the domestic market.

BRUNEI GAP is a national standard, for vegetables and fruits crops, that has been certified and introduced by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood since 2014. The standard was established to increase the potential of local farms in the production of vegetables and fruits to compete in the regional and international markets.

Brunei Good Agricultural Practice (BRUNEI GAP) refers to the integrated cultivation techniques or system where various techniques are practiced to improve farm productivity by focusing on producing high quality and safe products. GAP also sets importance to systematic, orderly and emphasizing on farming systems or farm records for traceability or detection purposes in case there will be any problem arise in relation to the products. Safe in GAP context refers to farm product that is safe from bacterial contamination such as *E.coli* and also safe from excessive chemical contamination by complying to the *Maximum Residue Limit*, MRLs.

Under the *BRUNEI GAP* certification program, the farming system of the farms are enhanced and became more systematic, emphasizing the proper use of proper and safe use of chemical pesticides, harvesting and post harvesting practices that focused more on food safety and product quality.

The efforts of these companies are highly recognized by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood and the Department hopes to set an example to other farmers to attract interest in the *BRUNEI GAP* certification program. Benefits gained through the recognition of BRUNEI GAP, apart from improving the agricultural system to produce safe and quality products, includes potential for expansion of marketing opportunities to both domestic and international markets. This GAP recognition is not only conducted and accepted by this country but it is also recognized by every ASEAN country to facilitate regional trade.

The *BRUNEI GAP* recognition period granted to Syarikat Bioprop Sdn Bhd and Syarikat EcoNadi AgroBiz is valid for 3 years with continuous monitoring from the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood to jointly ensure that GAP practices are kept up-to-date and should be improved from time to time.

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