

18/07/2004

Dr M: Science can benefit agricultural industry

SERDANG, Sat. - Malaysia's agricultural industry must work with the scientific community to continuously improve and be competitive, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Agriculture can never be separated from science," he said after receiving an honorary doctorate in science from Universiti Putra Malaysia.

"With the increase in the world's population, traditional farming, fishing and livestock rearing will not be enough to fulfil the global demand.

"It is by embracing techniques such as cloning and using genetically modified crops that we can move forward."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had a good track record in agricultural research. For example, rubber trees now yield 10 times more latex than in the 1940s. "Even our oil palms yield more kernels and bloom earlier. This shows that continuous development improves the industry."

Dr Mahathir was conferred his doctorate by UPM Chancellor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah of Selangor at the university's 28th convocation today. The ceremony saw 710 students receiving their PhD, master's and bachelor's degrees.

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