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PRIME NEWS

# 'Conduct more research'

**INNOVATIVE:** Dr M wants scientists to come up with products suitable for global use

KUALA LUMPUR

**F**ORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on scientists from tropical countries to conduct more research to produce high-technology products that were globally suitable regardless of climate differences.

He said that most of the technology used in tropical countries came from outside the region and may not necessarily suit the local requirements.

"We have to ensure what we produce here can be resilient worldwide. For example, Malaysia produces Proton cars, which have been successfully tested in a cold country like Sweden.

"On the contrary, hybrid technology used in cars from certain other countries cannot function well here," he said in his speech at the 2011 Mahathir Science Award presentation here last night.

The recipient, Professor Yuan Longping, who is acknowledged as the "Father of Hybrid Rice", went home with RM100,000, a gold medal and a certificate.

Dr Mahathir also urged Malaysian scientists to be more competitive internationally and produce products that could benefit the world.

The Mahathir Science Award was launched by Dr Mahathir in 2004 in recognition of scientists and institutions who had contributed to cutting edge tropical research that had an impact on society.



*Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (right) presenting the Mahathir Science Award to Professor Yuan Longping at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday. Pic by Syarafiq Abd Samad*

Born on Sept 7, 1930 in Beijing, Yuan was the first to develop hybrid rice varieties in the 1970s.

These have been grown in dozens of countries in Africa, America and

Asia, providing a robust food source in high famine-risk areas.

Present were Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili, Mahathir Sci-

ence Award Foundation chairman Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid and Academy of Sciences Malaysia president Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali. **Bernama**