

# IPT should go down to field to help local community resolve issues: Mohamed Khaled

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Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin visits the exhibition area during the launch of UPM's Agricultural Entrepreneur Community Development and Social Innovation programme in Kota Tinggi. - BERNAMA PIC

**KOTA TINGGI:** The Higher Education (KPT) Ministry proposes that institutions of higher learning (IPTs) always go down to the field to help the community resolve local issues.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, said IPTs must be proactive in implementing initiatives, thus strengthening their role and contribution by imparting available knowledge, expertise and technology to the community.

"It is something that the ministry hopes for, that every university in the country, including Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), will continue engaging with the community through outreach programmes.

"(This is because) the knowledge and expertise obtained from researchers should be applied by the community," he said at the launch of UPM's Agricultural Entrepreneur Community Development and Social Innovation programme today.

Also present were the state Education, Information and Communication Committee chairman Norlizah Noh and UPM deputy vice-chancellor (Academic and International) Prof Dr Ismi Arif Ismail.

The Kota Tinggi member of Parliament also said that food security is currently receiving attention, which requires IPT's expertise and research to resolve it, namely in agriculture and plantations.

He also hoped that the Kota Tinggi district would become a field laboratory or one of UPM's agricultural development and food security stations to sustain the efforts.

"I feel that we must connect with the community of Kota Tinggi, which is involved mainly in agricultural and animal husbandry activities. It is the best approach to developing and advancing the Kota Tinggi community.

"(In fact), by solving these issues, it can increase production and generate more income for the (local) community," he said.

At the same time, Mohamed Khaled wants continuous knowledge and expertise, organised in a way that is suitable and easy to practice, in addition to programmes which benefit the community.— BERNAMA