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## Sabah, private sector team up to boost agriculture

KUALA LUMPUR: Sabah government agencies have teamed up with private sector companies to boost the state's agriculture industry.

The ministry of science, technology and innovation (Mosti), via its agencies, signed five partnership agreements yesterday with the state government under its agricultural technology development programme for technology development, innovation and research programmes.

Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Yahya Hussin, also the state minister of agriculture and food industry, said agriculture, the backbone of the state's economy, contributed 30% of the state's gross domestic product and

offers 33% of the jobs.

He said RM81 million had been allocated to Sabah in terms of research and development funds for the 7th-9th Malaysia Plans.

The first agreement signed yesterday was between Mimos Bhd, a Mosti agency, and the Sabah agriculture department (JPS) for a "precision agriculture" development programme.

JPS will be the technology recipient of the wireless sensor network (WSN) developed by Mimos with Universiti Putra Malaysia, Kontron Design Manufacturing Services Sdn Bhd and Intel Technology Sdn Bhd.

The agriculture research centre in Tuaran will handle the pilot

project for WSN technology for precision agriculture.

Upon completion of the pilot project, a commercial entity will commercialise the WSN technology in Sabah and other parts of Malaysia.

Under the second partnership, Mimos will provide its semantic technology to develop a knowledge management platform for the Sabah Development Authority's herbal medicine knowledge repository project.

The third collaboration, between All Cosmos Industries Sdn Bhd and Sabah Softwoods Bhd, will set up a RM50 million bio-organic fertiliser manufacturing plant in Lahad Datu. — *Bernama*