

OPENING ADDRESS

Yang Berhormat
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Minister of Food Industry, Commodity, and Regional
Development, Sarawak

**1st International Conference on Biotechnology,
Smart Farming, and Entrepreneurship for Food
Security (BioSFE 2023)**

Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak

25 September 2023

Yang Berbahagia

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Yang Berusaha

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Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen

Salutations

**(To be confirmed by the organiser on the day of the
event)**

Salam Sejahtera dan Salam Malaysia Madani. Good morning, everyone.

1. I am pleased and honoured to be here today to grace the Opening Ceremony of the **1st International Conference on Biotechnology, Smart Farming, and Entrepreneurship for Food Security (BioSFE 2023)**.
2. My heartfelt thanks to everyone for attending this significant event which is jointly organised by **Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sarawak Branch, the Ministry of Food Industry, Commodity, and Regional Development of Sarawak (M-FICORD), and the National Chung Cheng University of Taiwan**.
3. I would like to also express my most profound appreciation to all the organising committees as well as state agencies, media representatives, institutional partners, and our invited guest speakers for investing your time and effort in making **BioSFE 2023** a success.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. In addressing the challenges faced by our agricultural sector, we must first emphasise the importance of changing people's mindsets, particularly among the youth.
5. It is crucial to overcome the perception that agriculture is associated with low wages, labour-intensive work, limited use of technology, traditional practices, lack of capital investment, disorganised farming communities, and rural poverty.
6. We need to break free from these misconceptions and recognise the immense potential and opportunities that lie within agriculture.
7. Hence, by fostering a new perspective and understanding the transformative power of modern agricultural practices, we can encourage innovation,

attract talented individuals to the field, and build a sustainable and prosperous future in agriculture for our nation.

8. We need to embrace this mindset change, and together, we can head towards a thriving agricultural sector that plays a vital role in our society and economy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. Modern management practices, which are aimed at reviewing the progress and updates on policies, strategies, and relevant matters in the agriculture sector, have transformed the agricultural landscape, making it a **capital-intensive endeavour** with **far-reaching market access**.
10. Therefore, we must recognise the immense potential and opportunities this transformed agricultural sector offers.

11. Fortunately, we are presented with a conference such as **BioSFE** which provides a platform to exchange knowledge and experiences concerning new technologies and applications to foster greater engagement and collaboration among stakeholders in their collective endeavours.
12. Ultimately, the goal is to advance and develop the agricultural sector.
13. The theme for **BioSFE 2023** is "**Bridging Technologists and Entrepreneurs towards Agriculture Revolution 4.0**", and this reflects our commitment to exploring the intersection of technology and entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector.
14. By bringing together experts and innovators in these related fields, we aim to stimulate transformative advancements that will shape the future of agriculture via **three (3) key pillars** namely **Biotechnology, Smart Farming, and**

Entrepreneurship that are integral to achieving food security in the face of these challenges.

15. Furthermore, it should be noted that these pillars align closely with **Sarawak's Post-COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030) objectives.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

16. This conference is in conjunction with the **Sarawak Agrofest 2023** – our most prominent agricultural expo.
17. Participants of the conference will get the opportunity to see the wonderful prospects and potentials in today's agriculture and its related fields.
18. Thus, I encourage all stakeholders to continue engaging and collaborating, building solid

partnerships that drive positive change in the agricultural landscape.

19. Together, we can create a more resilient, efficient, and equitable agri-food ecosystem for Sarawak and the world.
20. On that note, congratulations to all participants and everyone taking part in the **1st International Conference on Biotechnology, Smart Farming, and Entrepreneurship for Food Security.**
21. Thank you for your interest and commitment to enhancing knowledge in these fields. I wish you all a fruitful and enjoyable experience at this conference.

Thank you.