PGM-MARDI Plant Breeding Award

Dr. Mohd Noor Bin A. Ghani

Work experience:
Research Officer at Malaysian Rubber Board, 1974 - 1989.
Senior Research Officer at Golden Hope Research Station, 1990 - 2005
Consultant, Golden Hope, 2006
Lecturer Professor UniSZA, 2007 – 2015
Head, Research Cluster Breeding of Ubi Gadong, UniSZA, 2010-2015
Head, Department of Biotechnology, UniSZA, 2013-2014
Coordinator, Bachelor of Agronomy with Honours, UniSZA, 2013-2015

Impact to rubber industry:
Income of rubber growers had increased from utlilization of improved rubber clones.
Improvement in rubber clones had taken place for 122 years since 1900

Contribution in rubber breeding
For 16 years working at LGM, Dr. Mohd Noor has produced a number of rubber clones namely Series 900, 1000, 2000 and 3000, with a total of 550 clones. The clones were produced via hand pollination at annual production of 130,000. The last clone that he selected was RRIM3001, which was tested at Kota Tinggi Station. After he moved to Prang Besar Station, Kajang, he produced rubber clones PB Series 200, 300 and 400. Rubber clones Series RRIM and PB were field tested at a private estate, the government and smallholdings. His other contribution at LGM was on rubber germplasm collection in the Amazon, Brazil in 1981. A total number of 160,000 genotypes had been collected. 1/3 of the collection have been planted at Ivory Coast, West Africa. As a follow up, he went to collect the remaining genotypes. Upon arriving in Malaysia, the germplasm were treated with mercuric chloride for prevention against the fungal disease, South American Leaf Blight. The germplasm were then planted at Sungai Buloh Station, Selangor. He took measurements of the trunk girth of the genotypes and found that some genotypes were the size of timber even after only 3-4 years of planting. The objective of the Amazon Collection was to widen the genetic base of rubber, which subsequently led to high latex and timber production. When he was in Prang Besar Station, he took the effort to transfer all PB materials to Bukit Pilah Estate, Gemas, Negeri Sembilan when Prang Besar Station was about to be taken over by Putrajaya.

Contribution:
Development of Timber - latex clones (PB350, PB400 Series).