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Kurang manis!

Thanks to MARDI, the iconic layered cake of Sarawak is less sugary

BY JAY ROSHAN

KUCHING: The popularity of Sarawak's layered cake or more adorably known as kek lapis is set to soar even higher with the infusion of a new ingredient called stevia, a natural alternative to sugar.

With the inclusion of stevia into the dough during the cake-making process, the use of sugar is eliminated by 100% - and that means less calories and healthier morsels for kek lapis lovers to relish.

This is thanks to the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) which innovated the technology to make kek lapis healthier.

MARDI's initiative themed "Healthier Kek Lapis Processing Technology" was launched at the recently hosted National Conference of Technology Transfer (Conferitech) here recently.

Besides eliminating the usage of sugar, the technology also helps to reduce the amount of eggs and butter used for baking the cake - thus creating a healthier and improved formula of Sarawak's most famous confectionary.

Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang lauded the technology as a welcome change and a boost to the kek lapis industry in the state.

According to him, kek lapis is among the top food souvenirs tourists and visitors buy from Sarawak and with this new technology, the state will be able to promote the product as a healthy snack minus the sugar content.

Jabu who is also Sarawak's Minister for Modernisation of Agriculture praised MARDI for being in the forefront to improve food quality and add value to local products through research and technology transfer.

"The sooner this technology transfer from researchers and scientists to agropreneurs is executed, the better it will be for end users," he told reporters after officiating Conferitech 2015.

The "Healthier Kek Lapis Processing Technology" was developed by principal researcher Dr Chua Hun Pin from the Food Technology Research Centre.

Meanwhile MARDI Director-General Datuk Dr Sharif Haron said the main objective of Conferitech was to provide exposure and sharing of knowledge on the various research findings and technology development related to agriculture.



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Malacca gets RM22m testing lab



Idris (in front) visiting the lab at Melaka Biotechnology Corp.

MALACCA: The MyBioScienceLab (MBSL), built at the cost of RM22 million, is expected to position the historical city of Malacca as a regional medical industrial hub in South-East Asia when it begins its operations in early 2017.

The chief executive officer of the Melaka Biotechnology Corp, Badrul Hisham Badrudin, said the lab would provide eight pre-clinical testing of medical device products involving toxicology, microbiology, histopathology and bioanalytical.

"MBSL will be a one-stop centre following regulatory practices of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation

and Development (OECD).

"All testings at the laboratory will be carried out according to the guidelines set by the requirements of international standards accepted by most enforcement bodies of medical devices in many countries," Badrul told reporters after the opening of "Kickoff MyBioScienceLab" at the Melaka International Trade Centre on March 23.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron officiated the event. According to Badrul, the testings conducted in MBSL could save almost half the cost incurred by local medical device producers who had been conducting their testing overseas.