

The Eco-Enzyme Soap Initiative:

A Cross-Border Collaboration between UiTM Malaysia and UIN Indonesia for Environmental Sustainability

By: Dr. Siti Alwani Ariffin & Dr. Gurmeet Kaur Surindar Singh



In an era focused on environmental sustainability, efforts to introduce eco-friendly products have gained increased significance. One such example is the Eco-Enzyme soap, an innovative product derived from the fermentation of plant and fruit waste resulting from the collaboration between Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Malaysia and Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati (UIN SGD), Indonesia. This collaboration between UiTM's Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Plantation and Agrotechnology, and Faculty of Applied Sciences and Indonesia forms part of the UiTM Living Lab@Sabak Bernam initiative under the Research & Innovation Division, UiTM Selangor Branch.

The UiTM Living Lab aims to empower the quality of life, socioeconomics, education, agriculture, agro-technology, and the welfare of the Sabak Bernam community through UiTM's research, innovation, and commercialisation efforts. It encompasses knowledge and technology exchange in producing Eco-Enzyme soap, engaging students and researchers from both countries and creating a platform for cultural and knowledge exchange. Through this partnership, the innovation in Eco-Enzyme soap production can be refined and further extended to local communities.

This 1-day programme, held on May 10, 2024, was inaugurated by Mr. Mohd Azreen Bin Ariffin, Deputy President of Sabak Bernam District Council. This programme not only supports environmental sustainability but also positively impacts the community of Sungai Panjang, Sabak Bernam, Selangor, Malaysia. It has the potential to create job opportunities and additional income for the local community through the production and sale of Eco-Enzyme soap. This second series of courses was organised in collaboration with the Sabak Bernam Area Development Initiative (SABDA) and Nazbell Cottage Worldwide, Sabak Bernam. This programme aims to promote sustainable practices by using locally sourced organic materials.

The collaboration between UiTM and UIN Indonesia in producing Eco-Enzyme soap exemplifies how partnerships can create a positive impact on the community and contribute to environmental preservation. It is anticipated that such collaborations will continue and set a precedent for other educational institutions and industries to champion environmental sustainability and community well-being.

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