

# FGV Produces 49 Young Entrepreneurs for the Palm Oil Industry



Forty nine young entrepreneurs graduated from the inaugural FGV Young Entrepreneurs Programme 2018 on 7 November 2018. The programme, which was developed and implemented by FGV Holdings Berhad, was designed to equip the next generation of Felda settlers with the necessary skill sets required within the plantation industry. FGV has also carved out RM2.5 million worth of contracts from its annual procurement budget to give these young entrepreneurs a head start in the business world. FGV Chairman and Interim CEO Azhar Abdul Hamid said, "Through such programme, we hope to develop a new group of entrepreneurs who are skilled and knowledgeable about the plantation industry. With the training they have undergone, these young entrepreneurs can perform some of the tasks that are often outsourced by companies to third parties."

Other than the skills needed to work within the plantation industry, the young graduates were also taught the basics of business management at the FGV Academy. Additionally, they have also been schooled in the requirements of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and Malaysian Palm Oil Certification Council's (MPOCC) standards for Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certification.

The programme was launched in April and attracted about 300 applications nationwide. While 60 participants were selected to undergo training at FGV's plantations, 49 participants successfully completed the six-month programme.

The trainees were taught how to handle chemicals and other hazardous substances that are commonly used for weeding and fertilizing. They were also taught the processes in a well-managed estate from tending the fields to harvesting and transporting fresh fruit bunches (FFB) to the mill. Each trainee was assigned to plantation managers who served as their mentors.

The cost of the six-month programme was fully borne by FGV, during which time, each participant received a monthly allowance of RM1,150.

At the end of the programme, FGV also arranged for the participants to explore business financing opportunities from MARA, TEKUN Nasional and Agrobank. The young entrepreneurs could then set up companies in groups or individually and they could also pitch for tenders from other companies.

"We plan to make this programme part of our Corporate Responsibility (CR) commitment to provide more opportunities for local communities, especially the underprivileged. FGV is committed to producing more skilled young entrepreneurs for the plantation industry," Azhar added.

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