



MEDIA STATEMENT

IAEA RECOGNISES MALAYSIAN NUCLEAR AGENCY'S EFFORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PLANT MUTATION BREEDING

VIENNA, 20 SEPTEMBER 2021 - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the FAO has recognised Malaysian Nuclear Agency's (Nuclear Malaysia) major achievement in plant mutation breeding and associated biotechnologies to enhance food security, by using radiation to breed better crop varieties. The award presentation was held in conjunction with the 65th IAEA General Conference in Vienna, Austria. Nuclear Malaysia was named as one of the recipients of the Outstanding Achievement Award in Plant Mutation Breeding.

The Director General, Ts. Dr. Siti A'iasah Hashim received the award on behalf of Nuclear Malaysia from the IAEA's Director General, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi. The award ceremony recognised the contributions to plant mutation breeding from 28 researchers and research teams of institutions from across 20 Member States in three (3) categories; Outstanding Achievement Award, Women in Plant Mutation Breeding Award and Young Scientist Award.



“On behalf of Malaysian Nuclear Agency, I'd like to thank the FAO and IAEA for recognising our effort in applying radiation mutation breeding to increase the nation's self sufficiency level and food security. Our new breed of rice NMR 152 has significantly increased small farmer's income by at least 40% and some even by 100%”, Ts. Dr. Siti A'iasah Hashim speech after the award presentation.

In 2020, the same research team had also received Excellent Research Team Award (Mutation Breeding Project) during the 21st Forum For Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA) Ministerial Level Meeting.

Nuclear Agency is committed to achieve more success in the future under the leadership of YB Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dato' Sri Dr. Adham Baba.

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