

## **Crops for the Future Research Centre**

### **FACTSHEET (AUGUST, 2011)**

- Crops for the Future Research Centre (CFFRC) is the first-of-its-kind global centre for research and development of underutilised plants for food and non-food uses. It will operate as the research arm of Crops for the Future (CFF) hosted in Malaysia by Bioversity International and University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC).
- Co-hosted by the Government of Malaysia and UNMC, CFFRC is a unique public/private partnership between a national government and an international research university.
- Incorporated under the Malaysia Companies Act, CFFRC is guaranteed by the Government of Malaysia and the University of Nottingham but is an independent entity with the freedom to drive innovative methods of research within the wider objectives of CFF and its stakeholders. CFFRC will operate through a Board of Directors that includes representatives from its Guarantors, CFF and an Independent Chair. An international Advisory Board will be established to help guide strategic direction and new initiatives.
- CFFRC will establish Malaysia as a global hub for research and knowledge transfer on underutilised crops. In addition to new purpose-built laboratory and field research facilities and a botanical garden of alternative crops, CFFRC will have access to facilities and expertise at the University of Nottingham in Malaysia, UK and China, national agencies such as MARDI, Malaysian universities, CFF, Bioversity International and other international and national agencies, especially in Africa and Asia.
- With its partners, CFFRC research will contribute to:
  - Improved novel food and non-food crops with nutritional and/or market potential
  - A world research centre accessible to local and international researchers and institutions
  - Promoting academic and student research programmes in higher learning institutions
  - Attracting national and international support for research on potential crops of the future
  - Helping make Malaysia a pioneer in research, development and marketing of novel crops
  - Disseminating research outputs and methodologies to a wide range of stakeholders
  - Promoting CFF and CFFRC activities at local, regional and global scale
- CFFRC will operate through a CEO supported by Research and Support Teams that will include Research Theme Leaders, Operations Managers, Administrators and Technicians.
- Research support will be provided through high quality Postdoctoral Research Fellows and Postgraduate Research Students registered both with the University of Nottingham and with national and international partners.
- Together, CFFRC and its partners will develop a 'Research Value Chain' approach on 'Exemplar' underutilised crops based on the integration of five broad research themes:
  - Research Theme 1: Nutritional, processing and end-user values.
  - Research Theme 2: Economic and marketing potential – building value chains.
  - Research Theme 3: Physiology, agronomy and agro-ecological potential
  - Research Theme 4: Biotechnology, breeding and seed systems
  - Research Theme 5: Knowledge systems and modelling
- CFFRC Staff contracts will normally be offered on scales, terms and conditions offered by the University of Nottingham in Malaysia or through Postdoctoral contracts or postgraduate studentships registered with UNMC.