

Evolva to develop Malaysia's natural products

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Singapore: Mr Murali Muthuswamy Panchapagesa, managing director of Evolva Holdings said that the firm is partnering with two Malaysian organizations, to develop sustainable production methods for Malaysian natural products.

Mr Murali said that Evolva would collaborate with Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and establish a scientific center of excellence for manufacturing of natural products as part of the Flavor and Fragrance Cluster in the state of Pahang. This team would focus on the development of natural compounds using Evolva's yeast fermentation production platform.

With the partnership, Evolva Holdings expects to establish a link between science and business. The abundant natural resources of Malaysia can be developed into high purity ingredients which can be used in cosmetics, pharmaceutical and other industries, added Mr Murali.

The first program to be focused is production of agarwood fragrances via yeast fermentation, and this is believed to allow Malaysians to widen the use of agarwood which is a highly priced product, used by incense and perfume makers worldwide. Agarwood has recently fallen into the endangered species list, updated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

UMP vice chancellor, Prof Nasir Ibrahim said that, the partnership is thoroughly exciting and an interesting venture and that the scientific facilities and growing talents in UMP would be instrumental in adding value to the research.

Chief Executive Officer of Evolva, Mr Neil Goldsmith said, "We are looking at generating positive economic and environmental benefits for all, and are delighted to participate in this venture in Malaysia. We are keen at working with young

talented scientists in UMP and culminating our research into a benefit for the society."