

# **ORANG ASLI AQUAPONIC SYSTEM**

Location: Gombak, Selangor

Applicant: UCSI University

Project Period: March – August, 2017

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## **Objectives:**

The project aims to promote sustainable management of river and livelihood of the Orang Asli in Batu 12, Gombak.

## **Achievements:**

This project has achieved the following;

1. A customized design of an aquaponic system has been developed to suit the terrain of the Orang Asli's settlement;
2. Provided the Orang Asli with an additional income; and
3. The Orang Asli gained knowledge on how to build and maintain an Aquaponic System.

## **Background:**

Orang Asli Aquaponic System is a joint venture involving Aquatic Science Students Association from UCSI University and Orang Asli settlement in Batu 12, Gombak, Selangor. This project focuses on educating the Orang Asli to utilise the river in the area using low impact method and obtaining financial benefits from aquaponic system.

Aquaponic is a system that combines aquaculture (raising fish) and hydroponics (growing of plants without soil). The system integrates fish and plants together to provide organic food source for the plants and for the plants to naturally filter the water for the fishes. This system is anticipated to help the Orang Asli to produce a sustainable food sources and potentially earn a livelihood if they decided to sell the produce.

## **Stakeholders:**

Orang Asli at Batu 12

## **Sharing Experience:**

1. Consultations with the Orang Asli

- The Orang Asli has been involved with the project at the earliest stage through meetings and consultations. The meetings and consultations helped the Orang Asli community to understand that the project is environmentally and economically beneficial. On top of that, the student has developed interpersonal skills to work together with the Orang Asli in installing and implementing the system.
2. Customizing aquaponic system
    - Every site has different conditions and limitations that need to be considered. In this case, the students have to design and customized the aquaponic system in accordance to the terrain of the area.
  3. Project coordination and management
    - The project allows the students to coordinate and manage its plans and activities to achieve the project's goal. Having proper documentations such as project background paper and progress report is important to showcase best management practices in river management and for future reference.
  4. Knowledge transfer
    - Transferring knowledge on how to manage the system is important to sustain the project. In this case, the students taught the Orang Asli in operating and maintaining the system.