

Headline **Bird nest farming has high income potential**  
Date **10 Dec 2009**  
MediaTitle **Eastern Times**  
Section **News**  
Journalist **N/A**  
Frequency **Daily**  
Circ / Read **46,471 / 164,773**

Language **English**  
Page No **8**  
Article Size **87 cm<sup>2</sup>**  
Color **Black/white**  
ADValue **235**  
PRValue **704**



## Bird nest farming has high income potential

**BINTULU:** Businessmen here have been urged to involve themselves in the bird nest farming industry which can yield a high potential income.

Over 100 participants attended a one-day workshop organised by Unit Pembangunan Usahawan Bumiputera, Chief Minister Office in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Pusat Pembangunan Kemahiran Sarawak (PPKS) at the New World Suites here on Tuesday.

Nationwide, the bird nests' industry is estimated at RM 1.1 billion with Malaysia producing only about 8% of the global needs. Indonesia is the biggest producer.

The industry is becoming a "high demand" food product, especially for the European and Middle East countries. In China, the price of bird nest can reach between RM15,000 to RM26,000 per kilogramme.

Bird nest is in "high demand" because of its special nutritional qualities. It

contains high glycoprotein and carbohydrate and other minerals such as 10.3% of nitrogen, 17.4% carbohydrate, phosphorus, including B1 vitamin. It's also contains calcium and iron.

The product is much sought after in Hong Kong where it is believed to be able to cure AIDS. It is also greatly sought after in the cosmetic industry.

For those who are interested to start the industries, the capital layout is very low and the only investment is to build a bird house and equip it with some equipment. After it is done, there are no other expenses including labour.

Through the workshop, it is hoped a lot of people here will be involved in this industry.

The government is also willing to assist those are interested to start the business with the required capital and skill.

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