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SOIL SCIENCES EXPERT

FRIM researcher bags 'Outstanding Woman Researcher' award

KUALA LUMPUR: A researcher from the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) bagged the "Outstanding Woman Researcher" award in the Venus International Women Awards (VIWA) in India recently.

Dr V. Jeyanny, a senior research officer with 19 years of experience in soil sciences, was one of 33 researchers selected to receive the award from 974 nominees in March.

Jeyanny said she was honoured to receive the award for her work in the field of soil fertility.

"I have been actively studying soil sciences since 2003. My research covers soil conservation, rehabilitation, soil and plant chemistry, as well as the role of soils in climate change.

"I am also the vice-president of

the Malaysian Society of Soil Science.

"I am honoured to be bestowed the award as it shows that women are able to excel in this field, which is generally male-dominated."

Jeyanny said she delivered a keynote address during the awards, in which she spoke about the challenges she faced as a woman scientist and how she overcame it.

VIWA aims to recognise women for their achievements and contributions in the fields of science.

Jeyanny said FRIM studies were increasingly important for the conservation of soil resources as rapid development, increasing population and food demands posed a threat to the



Senior research officer Dr V. Jeyanny conducting an experiment at a laboratory at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur recently. BERNAMA PIC

fragile ecosystems.

"It is important to understand the ecosystems and learn how to manage our soil resources sustainably.

"We have to ensure that the use of soil does not harm our

environment and lead to problems such as erosion, flooding and the degradation of coastlines."

She said FRIM, through its Soil Management branch, provided advisory services on soil manage-

ment, recommendations based on laboratory and field analyses, soil surveys, as well as rehabilitation and conservation that required innovative soil amendment techniques and site-species suitability. **Bernama**