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EFFECT OF KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND SKILL OF GOOD AGRICULTURE PRACTICES (GAP) ON OIL PALM PRODUCTION IN MALAYSIA

Sheilyza Mohd Ishak¹ and Zulkifli Abd Manaf¹

¹Malaysian Palm Oil Board, 6 Persiaran Institusi, Bandar Baru Bangi, 43000 Kajang, Selangor, Malaysia
E-mail: sheilyza@mpob.gov.my

ABSTRACT

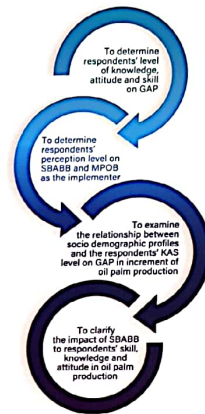
Oil palm industry has contributed significantly to the Malaysian economy. In both Malaysia and Indonesia, about 40% of oil palm are being planted by the smallholders which produced an average of 33% from the total production of crude palm oil. Under the 9th Malaysian Plan (2006-2010), a grant amounted to RM37.6 million in the form of good quality of oil palm seedlings have been allocated to 5,697 smallholders through Oil Palm Seeding Assistance Scheme (SBABB) implemented by Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB). Previous study showed that only 10% of SBABB participants produced up to 10t/ha/year of fresh fruit bunch (FFB) towards GAP among the SBABB participants. This study was carried out in the states of Sabah and Sarawak whereby data were collected from a total of 180 respondents selected through Simple Random Sampling Method. They have been interviewed using five section structured questionnaires. Most smallholders are between 48-59 years old and they have medium knowledge and skill in operating their farms. Majority of them owned between 1-7ha of farm. In term of yield, majority of the respondents produced FFB between 10-20t/ha/year, lower than the average production of 20t/ha/yr. The results also showed that 65% variation of FFB production caused by seven factors and five of them have a positive relationship to yield production. The five factors are farm size, followed by knowledge in farm management, skills in farm operation, perception towards SBABB itself and perception toward MPOB as the implementer agency. These factors are important determinants to enhance the farmers to increase their FFB yield. The study indicated that beside farm size, knowledge and skill are important determinants affecting the implementation of GAP among the participants of SBABB.

INTRODUCTION

In the 9th Malaysian Plan (2006-2010), RM37.6 million grants have been allocated for the implementation of Oil Palm Seeding Assistance Scheme (SBABB) and MPOB as the implementer:

- It has benefit about 5697 independent smallholders.
- Scheme components comprised of oil palm seedling with the age 12-14 months & 1 bag of 50kg of phosphate fertilizers for each hectares approved.
- Starting from September 2008, the component of scheme has been added with 0.5t/ha of MPOB F1's compound fertilizers.
- Extension services were also given to the smallholders as continuous effort to ensure the success of the scheme.

OBJECTIVES



MATERIAL AND METHOD

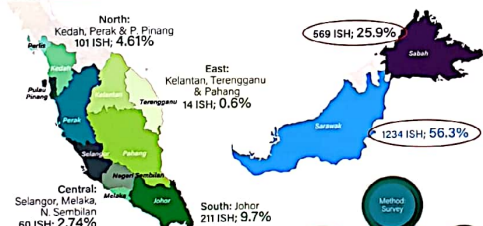


Figure 1. Distribution of Respondents



One of the SBABB's Participant in Sabah (second from left) Good Quality Oil Palm Seedlings Given to the Participants



Figure 2. Research Design

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Items	Profile
1. Race	Malay (17%), Chinese (3%), Bumiputera Sabah & Sarawak (80%)
2. Age	24-35yrs (5.6%), 36-47yrs (18.3%), 48-59yrs (27.2%), 60-71yrs (20.6%), 72-83 (6.7%), 84 above (21.7%)
3. Education Level	No Formal Education (17.2%), Primary (42.8%), Secondary (35.6%), College/University (4.4%)
4. Farm Management	Own (95%), Contract-out (1%), Both (4%)
5. Farm Size	1-6.99ha (88.3%), 7-11.99ha (6.7%), 12-16.99ha (17%), 17-21.99 (1.1%), 22-26.99ha (1.1%), 27-31.99ha (0.6%), 32-36.99ha (0.6%)

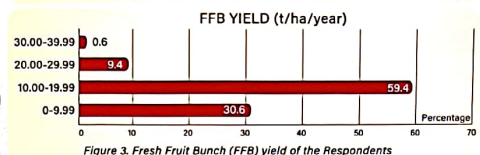


Figure 3. Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB) yield of the Respondents



Figure 4. Acceptance Level of Independent Smallholders Towards Scheme, MPOB and Knowledge, Attitude and Skills of Good Agriculture Practices (GAP)

CONCLUSION

- Yield: all respondents produce lower than the average production of 20t/ha/year ranging between 10-20t/ha/year.
- In term of perception on knowledge, attitude and skill, it was found that level of farmer's knowledge, skills and attitude in oil palm farming were moderate.
- From the seven (7) variables tested, one of the variables showed no correlation towards yield produced in the year 2015. Attitude

of farmers did not correlate with the yield. Six variables have correlation at $p < 0.01$. 65% variation of FFB production caused by seven (7) factors and five (5) of them have positive relationship to the yield. Factors: farm size, knowledge in farm management, skills when operating their farm, perception towards MPOB and perception towards SBABB itself. Farm size shows the strongest relationship with the output and followed by skill in operating their farms. All the significant factors have positive relationship with FFB yield.

FACTORS EFFECTING FFB YIELD

Variables	Significant	Standardized beta value	VIF values
(Constant)	.000		1.203
Age	0.427	0.038	1.055
Farm size	.000	0.658	2.209
SBABB	0.184	0.087	2.382
MPOB	0.823	-0.015	2.449
Knowledge	0.003	0.210	1.245
Attitude	.000	0.199	1.855
Skill	.000	0.322	

Adjusted $R^2 = 0.65$
Durbin Watson = 0.97