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Malaysian Standards Crop Commodities in Agricultural for Sustainable Living

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Abstract

Environmental sustainability is important to protect and to ensure a high quality of life. Therefore, the Malaysian government had put an effort by establishing a Malaysia Standard for good practices in agriculture. However, some guidelines in Malaysia Standard need to be improved. Therefore, the proposed of this study is to identify and improve Good Agriculture Practice in Malaysia Standard. Method used was by reviewing the past research and selecting the sustainable agriculture practices from existing study and international guidelines. As a result, there were six guidelines in Good Agriculture Practice need to be improved to achieve a better quality of life.

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1. Introduction

In past, traditional agriculture practices were believed to be sustainable. However, for today most farmers prefer to choose conventional practices without considering of long-term impacts on land and how it might affect the future generations. It is noted that conventional farming cause an environmental degradation, resource depletion, water deterioration, biodiversity loss and social disruption (Amsalu and De Graaff, 2007; Bayard and Jolly ; Shiferaw et al., 2009). Therefore, due to the environmental degradation and effect to the human health, concerned with sustainable agriculture practices had been widely promoted and implemented at the international level including Malaysia. Sustainable agriculture is “the successful management of resources for agriculture to satisfy changing human needs while maintaining or enhancing the natural resources-based and avoiding environmental degradation as defined by TAC-CGIAR, 1988. Sustainable agriculture includes common practices such as conservation tillage, contour farming, crop rotation, inter-cropping, cover cropping, and integrated pest management (Tey et al., 2012). Sustainable agriculture has three components where it is environmentally protective, economically sound and socially acceptable. Organic foods are now highly demanding and have marketing value as people concerned about their health. Moreover, sustainable agricultural practices also help to ensure the well-being of the present generation is not met at the expense of future generation (Shamsuddin and Wang, 2007). In a simple words, major aims of sustainable agriculture is to produce the farm income with compromising the protection of natural biological, health, wildlife, water and environment, reduce the use of non-renewable sources, and optimize the management of farm input which is to produce no waste.

2. The needs of sustainable agriculture practices in Malaysia

Due to the worldwide concerned about human health and environmental protection, sustainable development comes out to play. Moreover, most of the agriculture development in the recent year was disturbing the natural environment and ecosystem. The use of chemical fertilizer and pesticide, land clearing, deforestation, and used of nonrenewable sources had caused bad implementation towards the environment. Sustainable agriculture practices use the principle of ecology to balance the environment with the organism.

As international concerned about environmental degradation, Malaysian government also tried to have an effort in promoting and publishing sustainable in agriculture by publishing Malaysian Standard in Good Agriculture Practices in year 2005 which had been done by the Department of Agriculture (DOA). Referring to the Malaysia Standards, DOA was also undertaking the positive ways in reducing the dependence of chemical fertilizer for crop production by promoting Practices of Integrated Farming System (IFS), Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Organic Farming (OP). Most of the Malaysian farmer especially in the small scale farm had given a good acceptance towards this effort.

However, after reviewing the Malaysian standard in Good Agriculture Practices, there are certain area needs to be improved to optimize the sustainable practices for a good quality in life. Therefore, this study is to improve the Malaysian Standard guideline in Good Agriculture Practice to meet the environmental sustainability effort in Malaysia plus giving a quality life for human, animals and environment. This study had been done by identifying and selecting existing standard of Good Agriculture Practice in Malaysia Standard that need to be improved. This study was also screening and selecting the suitable sustainable agriculture practices that had been done in the past research and from international organization guideline to apply in Malaysia Standard for Good Agriculture Practices.

This study is expected to highlight the potential of the sustainable agriculture practices in the recent time to improve the human health as well as on the environment. It is also to accentuate the sustainable agricultural practices as a potential activity in creating the potential marketing opportunity for agricultural producers while at the same time preserving the natural resources and reducing the global warming effect.

3. Methods

The main method used in this study was the qualitative method by reviewing the web and documentary review, and also from the previous research and study. In order to develop the guidelines for Malaysia Standard of Crop

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