FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON THE COMMERCIAL BREEDING AND GROWING LAND SNAIL IN MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Land snail *Achantina fulica* as a food source at present is under utilized in Malaysia. This report investigates the feasibility of establishing an economically viable snail farming and industry in Malaysia. The focus of this feasibility study is directed towards the commercial production and management for the development of a small and large-scale commercial snail farm. The report also includes information on growing and breeding snails on a commercial level, detailing appropriate husbandry and stock control. Studies on the nutritive value and trial processing of land snail into canned and frozen products were conducted. This report also covers religious issue regarding breeding land snail.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

It was found that the European and few Asian countries already started a land snail rearing farm food industry. Mostly known as the escargot, the land snail of French cuisine comes from the cultivated land snail. Humans have eaten escargots (Land snails) for thousands of years. Today they are consumed by millions of people world-wide. The escargot or known as the edible land snails is such as the *Helix pomatia* or known as Burgundy that is well known as exotic food for the Frenchmen. It is a land snail found in mainland Europe. Other escargot is such the Petit Gris or *Helix* aspersa is the generally eaten by rural people. The latter is currently successfully bred in Australia (Murphy, 2001).

The type of land snail available in Malaysia is also known as the "Giant African snail" from the family of Achantinidae. This specie is known as a source of protein in some West African countries. African land snails for human consumption come almost exclusively from the wild during rainy season. However, the seasonal limit of African countries limit their use throughout the years and so an attempt has