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INTRODUCTION

The establishment of the Lembaga Koko Malaysia or known as Malaysian Cocoa Board was passed by Parliament in July 1988 and was gazetted as ACT 343 on 8th September, 1988. Malaysian Cocoa was officially operated on 18th July,1989.

Malaysian Cocoa Board is a federal statutory research and development agency under the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities. The objective establishment of Malaysian Cocoa Board is to be well integrated and competitive in the global market.

MAIN FUNCTION OF MALAYSIAN COCOA BOARD:

- To conduct and promote research on production, processing, storage and consumption
- To conduct and coordinate activities and policies on research
- To improve quality
- To regulate marketing activities
- To collect and disseminate information
- Supervise and coordinate cocoa related activities that cover processing, storage, regulatory and marketing.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNO- ECONOMY

To increase market share of Malaysian cocoa beans and cocoa product in the international and domestic market. The activities include international and domestic promotion. International promotion is carried out through trade and technical missions, and international expositions. Domestic promotion is undertaken through cocoa fairs, school promotion programme and exhibitions. Goodness of cocoa is the main theme for promotion. Whereas, the techno-economy program is to look at economics of production raw cocoa beans up to the final cocoa product through research and development and census.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The major activities in Malaysian Cocoa Board, research programmes and projects are carried out to address the various problems and need of cocoa planting and downstream industry. The objectives are to acquire knowhow and to develop technologies and planting materials that could lead to increase in productivity, reduction in production cost and labour requirement, improvement in the quality of cocoa beans and cocoa products, development of new range of cocoa products and new uses as well enhancement in competitive edge of Malaysian cocoa beans and cocoa product

REGULATORY AND QUALITY CONTROL

Licensing and grading is carried out to ensure the quality of Malaysian bean to meet the required Malaysian standard. Malaysian Cocoa Board under stakes license wet cocoa bean processors, cocoa traders, cocoa grinders and cocoa graders. It is also the responsibility of Malaysian Cocoa Board to set guidelines and standards for cocoa beans and cocoa products and regulatory.

TARGET GROUP DEVELOPMENT

Malaysian Cocoa Board will continue to implement the programme for target groups development which include cocoa smallholders and handmade chocolate entrepreneurs. The target groups development programme is an integrated part of the extension and development programme of Malaysian Cocoa Board. The main objective of the smallholder development programme is increasing the productivity of the cocoa smallholders from less than 0.5 tonne/ha/year to 1.5 tone/ha/year. The activities include visit, meetings, supply of planting materials and incentives, and training on planting technology and quality management. Where the objective of handmade chocolate entrepreneurs development programme is to establish Malaysian entrepreneurs that involve in handmade chocolate industry. The activities are transfer of technology, development of product and machinery, center of chocolate couverture supply, marketing and promotions and technical and advisory services

EXTENSION AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

Workshops, seminars, field visits, demonstrations and training courses on cocoa planting technology, chocolate making and product development among others are the activities for extension and transfer of technology undertaken by Malaysian Cocoa Board

TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY SERVICES

Malaysian Cocoa Board offers technical advisory services to the cocoa planting and downstream industry. The laboratory and pilot plant at the Cocoa Downstream Research Centre, Bandar Baru Bangi of Malaysian Cocoa Board are equipped to provide services on physical, chemical and microbiolgical analyses of cocoa beans and cocoa products and used for research on cocoa processing and product development respectively