DETERMINANTS OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE TOWARD RICE BLAST DISEASE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AMONG DEPENDENT FARMERS IN PASIR MAS, KELANTAN

NORHAZIMAH BINTI HANAFI

Final Year Project Report Submitted in
Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons.) Plantation Technology and management
in the Faculty of Plantation and Agrotechnology
Universiti Teknologi MARA

JULY 2016

DECLARATION

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I hereby declare that I have checked this project and in my opinion, this project is adequate in terms of scope and quality for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons.) Plantation Technology and Management, Faculty of Plantation and Agrotechnology, Universiti Teknologi MARA.

Signature: ....

Name of Supervisor: .....DR. ZAITON SAPAK.....
Pensyarah
Fakulti Perladangan dan Agroteknologi
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)

Position: ....

Date: .....29/7/2016..

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Assalamualaikum wbt.

Thanks to the Almighty Allah, the Most Gracious Most Merciful because of His blessings and still given chances, times, health and strengths to me for completing my study on the time.

Firstly, I would like to say a lot of thanks to Faculty of plantation and Agro-technology academics, UiTM Melaka, Kampus Jasin for giving me opportunity to undergo the Final Year Project (FYP) as one of the degree course requirement.

I would like to express my greatest gratitude to everyone especially to my supervisor Dr Zaiton Binti Sapak and Co-supervisor Madam Nur Aziera Binti Ruslan for their invaluable guidance, encouragements, generous assistances, patients and strong supports throughout this research study and also for their trusts on my ability to undergo and successfully complete the research study on the time. Thank you also for their motivations for me to honour my responsibility as a student to complete my study and also for facing challenging life.

High appreciation and thanks to all the lecturers Faculty of Plantation and Agro-technology for their sharing information, experiences and their amazing support to me in completing my final year project. Moreover, thanks for giving me beneficial information and teaching me throughout producing the excellent thesis of my final year project.

Besides that, I would also like to express my appreciation to all paddy's growers and staffs in Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK) Kangkong, Pasir Mas Kelantan who willing to spend most of their time in helping, managing and answering my questionnaires survey study for this time. Most thanks to Encik Zamri of his willingness and kindness helping me to distribute my research questionnaires to all the growers.

It goes without saying that producing a thesis of final year project is can be done completely and successfully without any help from my family and friends. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who helped me through thick and thin in the realization of this final year project. For my mother, Natrah Binti Ismail, most thanks for your willingness to sharing the burden and very passionate supporting my

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ABSTRACT

DETERMINANTS OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE TOWARD RICE BLAST DISEASE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AMONG DEPENDENT FARMERS IN PASIR MAS, KELANTAN.

Rice plant (*Oryzae sativa*) is the most important and primarily source of food for the world population. Currently, global rice's industry is unable to fulfill the worldwide population demand regarding the incurable rice pests and diseases. Yet in Malaysia, rice blast disease remained as an important and destructive disease that capable to give higher contribution to yield losses up to 100% under favourable conditions. Recently, approximately four hectare granny area at Kangkong, Pasir Mas, Kelantan have been infected by blast disease. This area has been selected to conduct a survey study to determine the factors that influence the technical knowledge on rice blast disease management practices among dependent farmers in Pasir Mas, Kelantan. The survey study was conducted among 50 respondents selected randomly with the structured questionnaires. A Likert scale was used to measure the respondents on the technical knowledge on rice blast disease management practices. From the descriptive analysis result, the total mean of the respondents' general knowledge toward the rice blast disease, the development factors of rice blast disease, rice blast disease symptoms and toward the rice blast disease detection are 3.52, 3.55, 3.65 and 2.09 respectively. Based on the Pearson Correlation analysis, the result showed that there was a strong relationship between technical knowledge on rice blast disease management practices and chemical control. While the relationship between technical knowledge on rice blast disease management practices with biological and cultural control was a moderate relationship. In addition to that, in the multiple regressions, it concluded that the chemical control was the major factors that influence the technical knowledge on rice blast disease management among farmers compared to the biological and cultural control.

Keywords: Rice blast disease, technical knowledge, chemical control, biological control, cultural control