REMOTE SENSING AND GIS TECHNOLOGY FOR TEA PLANTATION AND YIELD IN CAMERON HIGHLANDS

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Thesis submitted to the Universiti Teknologi MARA Malaysia in partial fulfillment for the award of the degree of the Bachelor of Surveying Science and Geomatics (Honours)

OCTOBER 2009

DECLARATION

I declare that the work on this project/dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. The project/dissertation is original and it is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work.

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Abstract

Remote sensing and GIS technologies have been efficiently used for monitoring several annual crops like rice, wheat, etc. Therefore, developing an approach for monitoring tea plantations using remote sensing and GIS has become a pressing need. The lack of previous studies in monitoring tea using remote sensing provided the idea to develop an approach that can aid in monitoring the growth of plantations and help in taking effective measures when the need arises. Productivity is very important in tea plantation. So, from the early detection, the farmer can detect which area are healthy and ready to pluck the leaves and which area have the stress condition using the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI). Remote sensing is the most cost-effective source of information for updating a GIS and it is a valuable source of current land use/land cover data. Remote sensing techniques has been utilized successfully in certain areas of application, including agriculture and related fields, especially in the developed countries were agricultural patterns are well defined and methodologies developed. Some cost benefit studies agree that satellite remote sensing can provide cheaper and faster information. The proper action can be taken if the problem occur during the plantation monitoring. Economic efficiency of remote sensing data applications can be expressed both directly as reduction of the cost and indirectly by an increase in the quality, reliability, and details of information. Malaysian agriculture should attempt to operationalize remote sensing and geographic information techniques (GIS) intensively for future planning and control of the sustainable agriculture development. Remotely sensed data, when complemented by existing and supporting GIS, could improve management decision in Malaysian agriculture for the next millenium.

i

Acknowledgement

In the name Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. Peace for Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. Thanks to Allah because His bless, I have to completed my thesis by the time. InsyaAllah. The completion of this paper has come through the overwhelming help that came from many people whom mentioning each one may not be exhaustive. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all the people who offered their kind help and guidance throughout my project period.

First of all, I would like to thanks a lot and acknowledgement for my supervisor Prof Dr Sayed Jamaludin bin Sayed Ali for his valuable giving, ideas, patient and guidance and also encouragement throughout this project. I would also to convey my appreciation to my coordinator, Assoc. Prof Mohamad Zamani bin Zainal Abiden for his guidance, advice, and supportive during the period of time to complete this thesis.

For my beloved family that has always support, loving, understand and support my financial through the end of my study. My special gratitude also goes to Cik Suziyanna and Encik Syariman Samsudin from the Agensi Remote Sensing Malaysia for their cooperation by giving the satellite images for my project. Without their kindness, the projects cannot be proceeding. To all my friends that always help me to improve my designed for this project.

Lastly for all staff of Department of Surveying, Science and Geomatics and also for people which helped directly or indirectly.

Thank you.

Noor Azira Binti Mohd Azman

Table of Content

Abstract

Acknowledgement

Table of Content

List of Figures

List of Tables

Intoduction		Page	
1.1.	Background of BOH Tea	1	
	1.1.1 Climatic Factor	2	
	1.1.2 Remote Sensing Applied For Monitoring	4	
	1.1.3 Yield Forecasting	5	
	1.1.4 Impact of Remote Sensing in Tea sector	6	
1.2	Aim	7	
1.3	Objectives	7	
1.4	Problem Statement	7	
1.5	Scope and Limitation		
*	1.5.1 Study area	8	
	1.5.2 Satellite data	10	
	1.5.3 Software	10	

2.0 Literature Review

2.1	Optical Remote Sensing for Vegetation Monitoring	12
2.2	Normalized Difference Vegetation Index	13
2.3	Chlorophyll in Green Leaf	15
2.4	Remote Sensing applied to Vegetation Classification	17
2.5	Vegetation Stress	18
2.6	Vegetation Application	19
2.7	How NDVI is produce	25