



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

Cawangan Negeri Sembilan

ACADEMY OF LANGUAGE STUDIES

Edition: 15/2025

APB REMBAU E-BULLETIN

EDITORIAL BOARD

PATRON

Prof. Dr. Yamin Yasin

COORDINATOR

Prof. Madya Dr Norwati Hj
Roslim

CHIEF EDITOR

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Soo Kum Yoke,
Carolyn

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Khairon Nisa Shafeei
Shahrul Muhazad Shahrudin
Nadiah Yahyauddin

e-ISSN: 2682-776X

ISSUES OF ONION SUPPLY IN MALAYSIA

Written by: Syaza El Shamimi Binti Shari@Shaari, Siti Nursyahira Binti Abd Karim, Noor Hidayatul Husna Binti Sabri, Hawa Binti Ahmad Nazari and Dr Asiah Ali

Introduction

Onions are widely used in Malaysia, with most supplies imported from India, China, Pakistan, and the Netherlands. However, recent disruptions in these supply chains have led to shortages and rising prices. Factors such as climate change, trade restrictions, and global crises have significantly impacted onion production and exportation.

Factors Contributing to Onion Supply Issues

1. Climate Change and Weather Conditions, India, one of Malaysia's top suppliers, experienced heavy rains and floods that destroyed onion crops. Other than that, unstable weather patterns in China and the U.S. affected production, reducing global supply.
2. Trade Restrictions and Export Bans. India imposed an export ban in 2023 to stabilize domestic supply, leading to shortages in importing countries like

Malaysia. The COVID-19 pandemic also disrupted international trade, limiting onion exports.

3. Economic and Market Disruptions, increased demand for onions globally led to price hikes. Also, transportation and logistics challenges due to rising fuel costs affected import efficiency.

Impact of Onion Supply Shortages in Malaysia

1. Rising Prices

The price of onions fluctuated drastically, peaking at RM8 per kg in late 2020 due to supply shortages.

Government price regulations helped stabilize prices, but fluctuations remained a concern.

2. Quality Issues

Due to supply constraints, lower-quality onions entered the market, affecting consumer satisfaction.

Improper storage and delayed shipments led to spoilage.

3. Market Instability

Retailers and food industries faced difficulties in maintaining onion stock.

Consumers had to adjust cooking habits due to higher prices and lower availability.

Strategies for Managing Onion Supply in Malaysia

1. Enhancing Local Production

Government initiatives aim to reduce dependence on imports by increasing domestic onion farming.

The Ministry of Agriculture set a goal to cultivate 1,447 hectares for onion farming.

2. Supply Chain Optimization

Improved logistics and cold storage facilities can help maintain onion quality and reduce wastage.

Strengthening trade agreements with multiple supplier countries to diversify sources.

3. Market Monitoring and Price Regulations

Regular monitoring of onion prices prevents hoarding and price manipulation.

Authorities like FAMA ensure price stability by implementing regulatory mechanisms.

Conclusion

The onion supply issue in Malaysia is a significant concern, influenced by climate change, trade policies, and economic factors. A coordinated strategy involving local production, trade diversification, and market regulation is essential to ensure a stable and affordable onion supply. Government efforts and industry collaboration will be crucial in mitigating future disruptions and maintaining food security in Malaysia.

REFERENCES

- Alston, J. M., & Pardey, P. G. (2014). Agriculture in the global economy. *the Journal of Economic Perspectives/the Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 28(1), 121–146.
<https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.28.1.121>
- Pan, D., Yang, J., Zhou, G., & Kong, F. (2020). The influence of COVID-19 on agricultural economy and emergency mitigation measures in China: A text mining analysis. *PloS One*, 15(10), e0241167.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0241167>
- Amirul, A. S. M., & Saudi, N. S. B. M. (2022). The Impact of Government Responses To The Pandemic Covid-19

On Vegetable Prices In Malaysia. International Journal of Accounting, 7(39), 18-29. <http://www.ijafb.com/PDF/IJAFB-2022-39-03-03.pdf>

Gopal, J. (2014, December). Onion research and technology development: An Indian perspective. In Proceedings of the International Workshop on Onion Seed Production and Crop Husbandry. <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/JADEE-04-2021-0099/full/html>

Setiya, P., & Muthuselvan, E. R. (2018). A Report on the study of Onion Value Chain. College Of Agricultural Banking. https://cab.rbi.org.in/docs/Special_Study/A%20Report%20on%20the%20study%20of%20Onion%20Value%20Chain.pdf

Lazicki, P., Geisseler, D., & Horwath, W. R. (2016). Onion production in California. CDFA, June. https://apps1.cdfa.ca.gov/FertilizerResearch/docs/Onion_Production_CA.pdf

Online, E. (2023, December 8). India extends curbs on onion exports till

March 31, 2024 amid price spike. The Economic Times. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-extends-curbs-on-onion-exports-till-march-31-2024-amid-price-spike/articleshow/105826967.cms>

Suneja, K. (2024, March 23). India extends onion export ban till further orders. The Economic Times. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/india-extends-onion-export-ban-till-further-orders/articleshow/108730342.cms?from=mdr>

Tons, M. M. World Onion Production, 2015-2019. <https://agecoext.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Global-Market-for-Texas-Onions.pdf>

Sunil, J., Singh, A., Rajpoot, K., & M, M. (2023, May 1). Export performance and comparative analysis of onion-with reference to India. International Journal of Statistics and Applied Mathematics, 8(3), 133–140. <https://doi.org/10.22271/math.2023.v8.i3b.999>