

**AWARENESS OF BIOFERTILIZER AMONG PADDY FARMERS IN
SUNGAI RAMBAI, MELAKA**

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ABSTRACT

AWARENESS OF BIOFERTILIZERS AMONG PADDY FARMERS IN SUNGAI RAMBAI, MELAKA

Biofertilizer is natural fertilizer containing microorganisms that will benefit both the plants and soil when applied. Biofertilizer will facilitate the biological Nitrogen fixation to give more advantages to the plants. Biofertilizers is one of the choice of nutrients in plantation. Due to the increasing awareness on organic farming and organic products all over the world, biofertilizer can be the best substitute for the chemical fertilizers. However, the use of biofertilizers are still limited among the farmers as the biofertilizer takes a longer time to respond compared to the chemical fertilizers. Even there are many campaigns and programmes held on biofertilizer, the chemical fertilizer are still being the first choice of the farmers. In this study, a set of questions is set up to identify the level of awareness of paddy farmers on the biofertilizer. The respondent is chosen from the paddy farmers that are registered under the *Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan*. The questionnaire is distributed to 76 farmers in Sungai Rambai out of 95 total numbers of farmers in Sungai Rambai. The total number of respondent is determined according to the Krejcie & Morgan table. When the data has been collected, the data is analyzed using the SPSS software to study the correlation of the variables and the farmers' awareness on biofertilizer. The result obtained shows that only several variables such as the attitude and barriers are contributing to the awareness level of farmers. Besides identifying the level of awareness, this study is also conducted to know if the barriers and communication factors are affecting the farmers awareness on biofertilizer.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Paddy (*Oryza sativa*) or rice is the main food source for local people and most people in the Asia. Paddy is normally planted in a well-irrigated with high rainfall area. In Malaysia, paddy is mostly planted in the North area such as Kedah and Perlis. However, Selangor, Kelantan and Terengganu also have their own paddy field but with a smaller scale. Technological advance has also affects the paddy plantation. New varieties with improved feature has regularly introduced based on the study and research done on the paddy. Shorter harvest time, high quality grains and disease-tolerance are examples of feature improvised on paddy varieties. Hybrid paddy, organic paddy and anaerobic paddy are produced based on research done on paddy to enable paddy to be planted in any suitable area.

Nowadays, the awareness of consuming healthy food has been increasing among the people and organic food has been the choice for healthy food. According to Institute of Food Science and Technology(1999), a farming system that did not practice the usage of chemical fertilizers, plant growth regulators or hormones, pesticides and additives for the livestock feed will produce the organic foods. Introduction of biological controls, cultural controls, organic fertilizers and biofertilizers helps a lot in the production of organic foods. Even there have been a lot of studies proving the advantages of organic