

**KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS AMONG SMALLHOLDERS TOWARDS
PRACTICES MANAGEMENT TO CONTROL BASAL STEM ROT DISEASE
IN BERA PAHANG**

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ABSTRACT

KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS AMONG SMALLHOLDERS TOWARDS PRACTICES MANAGEMENT TO CONTROL BASAL STEM ROT DISEASE IN BERA PAHANG

Basal Stem Rot disease (BSR) caused by fungi of *Ganoderma spp.* is the major diseases faced by the oil palm industry in Malaysia and Indonesia. Oil palm smallholders as a part of sustainable development of the oil palm industry faced many problems in dealing with this diseases. Knowledge and awareness of smallholders towards this devastating disease should lead them to implement treatments and practices to controlling the diseases from being severe infection. This study was conducted to measure the level of knowledge and awareness of smallholders towards the practices management in order to controlling BSR disease. Random sampling method was applied in the survey to collect the data and 248 respondents were participated in this study in Bera Pahang. Based on the result, many of them recognize about BSR diseases but did nothing of practices management in their fields. However, higher awareness lead farmer's to implement the practices management in their fields thus prevent the disease become more severe.

Keywords:

Basal Stem Rot disease, *Ganoderma*, smallholders, knowledge, awareness, practices management

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

1.1.1 Overview of oil palm industry

Elaeis guineensis Jacq. which is generally known as the oil palm is the most vital species in the genus *Elaeis* that belongs to the family *Palmae*. Oil palm is the most important commodity crops as compared to another crops in Malaysia and become as the backbone of Malaysia economy. Oil palm is famous as “a Malaysia’s golden crop” because it creates profitable export earnings for the country nature’s gifts for reducing poverty in Malaysia (Basiron, 2007). In 2010, Malaysia becoming the world’s largest producer and exporter of oil palm. According to Basiron in 2007, area of oil palm have increased from 54,000 hectares in 1960 to 4.05 million hectares in 2005 and production increased from 94,000 tonnes in 1960 to 15 million tonnes in 2005. Nowadays, until year of 2015, planting area of oil palm, production of crude palm oil (CPO), export and import, and closing stocks are increased, while the prices and export revenue are declined.

Oil palm is native to West Africa where the main palm belt ran from Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Ivory Coast, Ghana and Cameroon to the equatorial regions of the Republics of Congo and Zaire. (Hartley, 1988). In 1848, there were four seedlings from Amsterdam and Mauritius were planted in the Botanic Gardens in Bogor became the earlier introduction of the African oil palm as a plantation crops. Oil palm