



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

FACULTY OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE AND POLICY STUDIES

**PADDY CULTIVATION IN
KAMPONG SUNSURON TAMBUNAN: A DECLINING ACTIVITY**

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the study

1.1 The Rice Growing

In worldwide markets, Fairhurst & Dobermann (2012) stated that less than five percent of total rice production is traded actively compared to maize or wheat, mainly within Asian regions and from Asia to Africa and Europe. Rice, wheat, and maize are the world's three leading food crops; together they directly supply more than 42% of all calories consumed by the entire human population. Human consumption in 2009 accounted for 78% of total production for rice, compared with 64% for wheat and 14% for maize.

Of these three major crops, rice is by far the most important food crop for people in low- and lower-middle-income countries. More than 3.5 billion people depend on rice for more than 20% of their daily calories. Statistics done by Ricepedia (2009) showed that rice provided 19% of global human per capita energy and 13% of per capita protein in 2009.

Generally, rice when it is still covered by the brown hull is known as paddy. For decades, rice has been supporting and sustaining a great number of people lives than any other crop since it was start being domesticated between 8,000 to 10,000 years ago (Fairhurst & Dobermann, 2012). At present, compared to wheat, rice is the staple food for more than half of the world's population where 90 percent of total production is

cultivated and consumed in Asia. Besides, Asia accounts for 90% of global rice consumption, and total rice demand there continues to rise.

Rice is one of the grass species known as *Oryza sativa*. According to the Rice Association (2016), rice has more than 40,000 varieties of cultivated rice over the whole world however the exact figure is still uncertain to day. In the International Rice Gene Bank, there are more 90,000 samples of cultivated rice and wild species are stored. Researchers all over the world are using these samples for their continuous research where basically, the rice varieties can be divided into two basic groups namely the Long grain as well as the all purposes and specialty.

Certain rice varieties have desirable characteristics, particularly in terms of their fragrance, colors, sizes, and shapes. There are various types of paddy that was used for paddy cultivation. These qualities contribute to their popularity among the farmers and health-conscious consumers as an organic food.

Methods of growing differ greatly in different localities, but in most Asian countries the traditional hand methods of cultivating and harvesting rice are still practiced. Cultivation of paddy can be the upland rice or wet paddy. Furthermore, rice is grown under widely varying conditions of altitude and climate. Therefore, the rice growing seasons vary in different parts of the country where it is very much depending upon temperature, rainfall, water availability, soil types and other climatic conditions (Rice Association, 2016).