

**THE CHICKEN-OIL PALM INTEGRATION BY NESTLE
MALAYSIA SDN BHD IN SUKAU
SABAH: A CASE STUDY**

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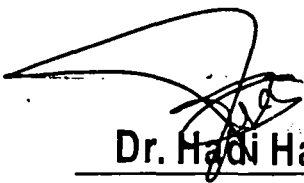
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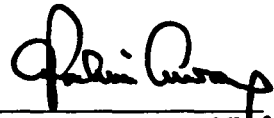
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In the name of Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful, all the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the 'Alamin, The most gracious, the most merciful. The only owner of the day of Recompense, You (Alone) we worship and You (Alone) we ask for help, Guide us to the straightway, The way of those on whom You have bestowed Your grace, Not of those who earned Your anger, Nor of those who went astray.

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ABSTRACT

This case study was conducted from April 2013 to August 2013 at Sukau, Kinabatangan, Sabah and in the laboratory of the School of Sustainable Agriculture (SSA), Universiti Malaysia Sabah Sandakan Campus. It was carried out to document the technical and socioeconomic details of a model chicken-oil palm integrated farming under Nestle Malaysia Sdn Bhd in Sabah. This study was conducted through interviewing a model farmer and laboratory works. The interview was conducted to collect the socioeconomic and farm management information while the laboratory works were done to discover the nutritional status of the chicken reared in chicken-oil palm integrated system. Interviewed data showed that integrated farming were beneficial to the small-scale oil palm farmers, specifically to increase their income for supporting the daily family need and family's animal protein consumption, and also for controlling the weeds in oil palm plantation effectively and biologically. Gross analysis of the feed resources available to the integrated chicken showed that their feed consisted of 50.91% grain, 39.65% green grasses, 0.00% kitchen wastes and 9.44% other materials. Proximate analysis of the crop and gizzard contents of the integrated chicken indicated that they suffers from serious imbalance of nutrition and receive 18.68% crude protein, 10.06% crude fibre, 13.61% ether extract, 32.01% dry matter and 67.99% moisture. Overall findings suggested that the integrated farmers might increase their productivity and profitability if all the technical limitations are eliminated or minimized effectively. Therefore, standardization of all the technical aspects of integrated farming including feeding of the chicken is recommended before disseminating this model to the farmers living in different socioeconomic situation and agro-ecological zones.

**Integrasi Ayam-Kelapa Sawit oleh Nestle Malaysia Sdn Bhd di Sukau,
Sabah : Kajian Kes**

ABSTRAK

Kajian kes ini telah dijalankan dari April 2013 hingga Ogos 2013 bertempat di mukim Sukau, Kinabatangan, Sabah dan Makmal Sekolah Pertanian Lestari (SPL) di Universiti Malaysia Sabah Kampus Sandakan. Kajian ini dijalankan untuk didokumentasikan maklumat tentang teknik-teknik dan nilai sosio-ekonomi yang ada pada model penternakan integrasi ayam-kelapa sawit yang di ilhamkan oleh Nestle Malaysia Sdn Bhd di Sabah. Kajian ini dijalankan dengan berasaskan sesi temu ramah bersama pengusaha modul integrasi dan kerja analisa didalam makmal. Sesi temu ramah dijalankan bagi mendapatkan maklumat sosio-ekonomi petani dan pengurusan ladang yang di amalkan manakala kerja analisa didalam makmal untuk mendapatkan status nutrisi pemakanan ayam yang dipelihara dalam model integrasi ayam-kelapa sawit ini. Hasil daripada sesi temu ramah bersama petani menunjukkan bahawa model integrasi ayam-kelapa sawit ini telah memberi manfaat kepada pemilik kelapa sawit berskala kecil khususnya dalam penambahan pendapatan bulanan bagi menampung keperluan seharian keluarga dan kadar pengambilan protein haiwan dalam keluarga dan mengawal tumbuhan rumpai di dalam ladang kelapa sawit dengan berkesan secara biologi. Hasil daripada analisa kasar terhadap pemakanan ayam dalam sistem integrasi ini menunjukan bahawa ayam memperoleh sebanyak 50.91% bijirin, 39.65% rumput hijau, 0.00% sisa makanan dapur and 9.44% daripada bahan yang lain. Analisa kandungan hasil daripada kantung makanan dan pedal menunjukkan bahawa ayam yang dipelihara dibawah sistem integrasi ini mendapat kadar nutrisi yang tidak seimbang dan menerima 18.68% protein mentah, 10.06% serat mentah, 13.61% ekstrak eter, 32.01% bahan kering and 67.99% lembapan. Daripada hasil penemuan keseluruhan mencadangkan bahawa para petani yang mengamalkan sistem integrasi ayam-kelapa sawit mungkin mampu meningkatkan hasil produktiviti dan keuntungan jika mereka dapat menyelesaikan atau mengurangkan segala masalah dan kekurangan yang menjadi faktor penghalang. Oleh itu, penyeragaman aspek-aspek teknikal dalam sistem pertanian integrasi ini khususnya dalam pemakanan ayam adalah amat penting sebelum model pertanian secara integrasi ini dapat dikembangkan dan di amalkan oleh petani-petani kelapa sawit berskala kecil yang taraf hidup sosio-ekonomi dan zon ekologi pertanian yang berbeza bersesuaian dengan keadaan setempat.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENT	PAGE
DECLARATION	ii
VERIFICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
ABSTRACT	v
<i>ABKSTRAK</i>	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
LIST OF SYMBOLS, UNITS AND ABBREVIATIONS	xi
LIST OF EQUATION	xii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Justification	3
1.3 Research Objectives	3
1.4 Hypothesis	4
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEWS	5
2.1 Integrated System in Agriculture	5
2.2 Integration and Sustainable Agriculture	6
2.3 Advantages of Integrated System	6
2.4 Integration Practices in Asia	7
2.4.1 Fish – Chicken Integration	7
2.4.2 Fish – Duck Integration	8
2.5 Oil Palm Industry in Malaysia	9
2.5.1 Livestock Feed Resources n Oil Palm Plantation	11
2.6 Chicken-oil palm integration in Peninsular Malaysia	11
2.7 Research gap and the scope of present study	12
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY	14
3.1 Statement of the Study	14
3.2 Details of the study Location	14
3.3 Experimental Materials	15
3.3.1 Questionnaire	15
3.3.2 Analytical and Laboratory Facilities	15
3.4 Methodology	15
3.4.1 Questionnaire Preparation	15
3.4.2 Preparation of the Record keeping Sheets	15
3.4.3 Direct Observation on the Farmer's Practices	16
3.4.4 Crop and Gizzard Collection and Gross Observant on the Contents	16
3.4.5 Chemical Analysis of the Crop and Gizzard Contents	16
3.4.5.1 Determination of Moisture and Dry Matter	16
3.4.5.2 Determination of Total Ash	17
3.4.5.3 Determination of Crude Protein	18
3.4.5.4 Determination of Crude Fibre	18
3.4.5.5 Determination of Ether Extract	19

3.4.6 Proximate Analysis of Feces Sample	20
3.5 Statistical Analysis	20
CHAPTER 4 RESULT	21
4.1 Result From Farmers Interview	21
4.2 Farm Practices	22
4.2.1 Average Temperature	23
4.2.2 Mortality Rate	23
4.2.3 Housing System	23
4.2.4 Feeding Material	25
4.2.5 Disease Management	26
4.2.6 Harvesting and Marketing	27
4.3 Output From Laboratory Works	27
4.3.1 Feed Composition in Crop Gizzard Content	28
4.3.2 Proximate Composition of the Crop Gizzard Content Sample	30
CHAPTER 5 DISCUSSION	32
CHAPTER 6 CONCLUSION	38
REFERENCES	39
APPENDICES	42

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	PAGE
Table 2.1 Oil Palm Planted Area by Category as at December 2012 (Hectares)	10
Table 4.1 Feed content found in crop gizzard content	28
Table 4.2 Percentage of total content in CGC	29
Table 4.3 Proximate Analysis of CGC sample and Feces sample	31

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURES	PAGE
FIGURE 2.1 Fish-Chicken Integration	8
FIGURE 2.2 Fish-Duck Integration in Hanoi, Vietnam	9
FIGURE 2.3 Chicken-oil palm integration	12
FIGURE 3.1 Sukau Area	14
FIGURE 4.1 Interview season with owner, Haji Awang	22
FIGURE 4.2 Housing of chicken that been use to keep chicken during night	24
FIGURE 4.3 Free range area that been fenced properly	24
FIGURE 4.4 Proper fencing with aluminium zinc at bottom of fencing to avoid predator entering the free range area	24
FIGURE 4.5 Chicken been push in into housing by using feed as bait	25
FIGURE 4.6 Using Proper Drinker and Homemade Feeder to supply water and feed to chicken	25
FIGURE 4.7 Feed was spread on the floor	26
FIGURE 4.8 Chicken cannot stand problem due to nutrient problems	27
FIGURE 4.9 A few days before harvesting period	27
FIGURE 4.10 Feed composition in Crop and Gizzard Content	29
FIGURE 4.11 Green Forage content from CGC	29
FIGURE 4.12 Grain content from CGC	30
FIGURE 4.13 Others content in CGC	30

LIST OF SYMBOLS, UNITS AND ABBREVIATIONS

%	Percent
CF	Crude Fibre
CGC	Crop Gizzard Content
CP	Crude Protein
DM	Dry Matter
EE	Ether Extract
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ft	feet
g	gram
ha	hectare
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
Kg	Kilogram
m ²	Meter squares
mg	mili gram
mm	mili meter
MPOB	Malaysia Palm Oil Board
NRM	Natural Resource Management
°C	Degree Celcius
RM	Ringgit Malaysia
SFRB	Scavengable Feed Resources Base
SSA	School of Sustainable Agriculture

LIST OF EQUATION

EQUATION		PAGE
EQUATION 3.1	$\text{Moisture per cent} = \frac{100(W1 - W2)}{W1 - W}$	17
EQUATION 3.2	$\% \text{ Ash} = \frac{100(W2 - W)}{W1 - W}$	17
EQUATION 3.3	$\% \text{ N} = \frac{(S - B) \times N \times 0.014}{\text{Weight of Sample} \times V} \times 100$ $\% \text{ Crude Protein} = 6.25 \times \% \text{ N}$	18
EQUATION 3.4	$\% \text{ Crude Fibre} = \frac{(m3 - m1 - m4 - m5)}{m2} \times 100$ $\text{Blank Value (m5)} = m6 - m7$	19
EQUATION 3.5	$\text{EE}\% = \frac{\text{Weight of Ether Extract}}{\text{Weight of Sample}} \times 100$ $\text{Crude Fat \%} = \text{Ether Extract \%} \times 2.25$	19

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Nowadays, Integration approach in the agricultural sector has been a hot issue. Integration involves various components, namely crops, animals, land and water. Integrated system refers to approaches that link the components to economic, social and ecological perspectives. The processes are holistic, dynamic, interactive, and multi-disciplinary and promote efficiency in natural resource management. The integration of various crops and animals enable synergistic interaction and results in a greater additive and total contribution than the sum of their individual effects (Edwards *et al*, 1988). Mainly expert in agriculture have been in integration agriculture has been in favour of approach due to increase productivity and profitability while decreases the diversity risks. It promotes sustainability in agriculture and it refers to agricultural production and distribution system that achieves the integration of utilization of natural feeds and natural biological cycle and control (Raman, 2006).

There has been many studies on agricultural integration. Due to land that only be used for the purpose of crop farming is potential to been integrated with livestock animal to achieve sustainable agriculture. For an example, poultry species that have been studied in integration system such as integrated between fish-duck farming that utilizes the waste of poultry and agriculture by products for fish production. About 40-50 kg of organic manure can produce 1 kg of fish (Edward, 1983). It shows good potential in China, Hungary, East German, Poland, Russia and India. Some practices of integration between chicken and fish also been practices in West Jawa Indonesia (Susanto et al., 2002). In Peninsular Malaysia, under Malaysia Palm Oil Board (MPOB), some have tried to rear free-range chicken under the oil palm plantation and shows good potential of this model (Awaludin, 2003).



There are numerous benefits of chicken-oil palm integration such as biological control of weed by chicken that can replace the labor requirement for weeding, chicken dropping are good source of organic fertilizer and chicken can utilize the natural grass and insects available in oil palm plantations that reduce the pressure on feed sources (Awaludin, 2003). This type of integration also promotes the holistic, interactive, multi-disciplinary and natural resource management. Chicken and crops integration system plays multiple roles that have socio-economic, ecological and environmental implications. In integration, low inputs are used and are associated with demonstrable sustainability and sustainable production system (Devendra, 2011). This can increase the animal production and income towards the farmers.

Oil palm plantation in Malaysia is a controversial agriculture sector in terms of nature degradation. Until the year 2012, Malaysia had about 5.1 million hectares of oil palm plantation distributed in Peninsular and East Malaysia. It accounts also with large companies and small holdings (MPOB, 2013). The rearing of chicken integrating with oil palm in Peninsular Malaysia is still under investigation to standardize the efficiency and productivity.

Integration of chicken in oil palm plantation is done under the free-range concept. The product of this type of integration is comparable with the organic chicken. Organic chicken that are fed with sufficient amount of organically-produced ingredients and conventional ingredients acceptable under the current and proposed organic standards is a significant issue (Lampkin, 1997). The feed ingredients to oil palm chicken are whatever they get from the environment, often offal and insects or seeds (Pandey et al. 1992). In Malaysia this integration has a good prospect if practiced by all categories of oil palm producers, because free range chicken has a good demand at local and export market for free range chicken.

This model of farming seems to benefit the oil palm farmers offering side income from poultry production. In case of world's oil palm price drop, they can still diversify their risk of income generation on chicken farming. In Sabah, the study of model chicken-oil palm integrated farming is very limited. There is no local literature on this issue. Currently, Nestle Malaysia Sdn Bhd is trying to adopt the integration of chicken farming with oil palm plantation at smallholding farmers' level under their company's "Creating Shared Values" program. This integration project is still at initial

stage in Peninsular Malaysia. However, the ins and outs characteristics of this type of integration approach in East Malaysia has not yet been studied by scientific community nor documented by any party. Meanwhile, the Agro-Sectorial Manager of Nestle Malaysia Sdn Bhd recently made a request to be furnished with an expert opinion on their current chicken-oil palm integrated farming model being undertaken by them. In time with this request, this study will be implemented.

1.2 Justification

This study hopefully will be able to provide with sufficient explanation on whether the integration model being practiced by smallholder farmers under the care of Nestle Malaysia Sdn Bhd care were logical, ideal and sustainable, or vice versa? This study would provide a detailed information on management practices adopted by the practicing farmers, apart from a sufficient look into the current issues of free-range chicken, chicken breeds for integrated system, exploitation of natural livestock feed resources, marketing system, economical profitability, sustainability, farmers perceptions and social and national impacts of this integrated system. The model which had been practiced by Nestle Malaysia Sdn Bhd would be compared with integration models suggested by Sabah Department of Veterinary Services & Animal Industry (DVSAH). Hence the shortcomings would be identified, and necessary solutions would be proposed for strengthening the chicken-oil palm integration under the Nestle Malaysia Sdn Bhd supervision satisfying the socio-economic and environmental situation in Sabah.

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of the study were the following:

- a) To document the management practices and socio-economic impacts of the of chicken-oil palm integration model being used by the Nestle Malaysia Sdn Bhd at Sukau in Sabah.
- b) To gauge the nutritional status of the integrated chicken under the Nestle Model of chicken-oil palm integration.
- c) To study the problems and prospects of this integration model.

1.4 Hypotheses

- H₀** : The chicken-oil palm intergration model by Nestle Malaysia Sdn Bhd in Sukau, Sabah is appropriate and logical.
- H_a** : The chicken-oil palm intergration model by Nestle Malaysia Sdn Bhd in Sukau, Sabah is not ideal and need standardization.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Integrated System in Agriculture

Integrated crop-livestock farming systems continue to dominate in agriculture. Integration involves various components, namely crops, animals, land and water. Integrated system refers to approaches that link the component of economic, social and ecological perspectives. These processes are holistic, dynamic, interactive, and multi-disciplinary and promote efficiency in natural resource management (NRM). The integration of various crop and animal enable synergistic interaction and resulted in a greater additive and total contribution than the sum of their individual effects (Edwards et al, 1988).

Integrated systems are especially well developed in East and South Asia. There had been overview on this integrated system on their potential, importance and relevant to small farm holder in Asia and distinctive characteristic has been reported (Devendra, 1995; 1996). Integrated system plays important role and its important features is the involvement of resources poor small family and communities through Asia. Integrated systems are involved many things between human, animal, crops and the environment.

This system makes the full utilization of land that can produce maximum productivity. The system of integrated animal with crop production must be comprehensive by taking all components into consideration (Edwards *et al*, 1988). The models of integrated agriculture are also depended on the space, climatic condition and independent of specific species that have been uses in crops and animal. Integrating livestock and crop production in conservation of agriculture means shifting from the traditional systems focusing exclusively the livestock or crop alone to a new



approach which sustainably combines both (Paulet, 2010). A good rotation in integrated system is also a key towards production that can break up cycle of weeds, pests and diseases. Integrated system also shows the concern of people towards agricultural practices.

2.2 Integration and Sustainable Agriculture

The concept of sustainability in agriculture has initially been focused on environmental aspects, but now has been expanded to include socio-economic and political elements. In ecology, it has seem focused more on environmental protection to enhance ecosystem resources and preservation of biodiversity. In socio-economic aspects, it is concerned with the value and management of the resources, their enhancement, socially acceptable technology towards the farmers and cooperative organizations to improve the farmers' lives (Devendra, 2011).

Sustainable agriculture refers to an agricultural system that is ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially just. The central objective of both organic and integrated farming systems is the attainment of sustainability. These sustainable farming systems are striving to make the environment an integral part of the production process so as to give priority to issues regarding the proper use of natural resources and to offer assurances for the quality of produced foodstuffs (Thocharopoulos *et al*, 2012)

To achieve sustainability in agriculture, farmers should be aware of the short, mid and long-term consequences of management decisions. Organic agriculture is a sustainable way of farming without chemical inputs during cultivation whereas integrated farming system is a sustainable way of farming which falls somewhere in between the conventional and the organic farming system. Organic and integrated agriculture are the sustainable farming systems that have been developing noticeably during the last decade (Thocharopoulos *et al*, 2012).

2.3 Advantages of Integrated System

Integrated farming system had been proven to have some advantages in their performance. The advantages of integrated system are:

- i. Diversified and integrated use of the production resources, mainly crop and animal.
- ii. Animal and crop play multi purpose roles in integrated system.
- iii. The process are holistic, interactive, multi disciplinary and promote Natural Resources Management
- iv. Crop – animal – soil interactions are varied and have socio-economic, ecological and environment implications.
- v. Low inputs are used by traditional method.
- vi. Related to demonstrable sustainability and sustainable production system.
- vii. Biological control of weeds
- viii. Animal can replace labour costs for weeding and can save 100% cost for weeding
- ix. Chicken droppings can be used as organic fertilizer to the crops
- x. Opportunities as side income to the farmer
- xi. Increase family's nutritional consumption
- xii. Production of meat are at level as the organic meat
- xiii. Save cost on feeding the animal

2.4 Integration Practices in Asia

Asian agriculture is characterised by mixed farming activities. Farming in Malaysia is characterised by small farm system, small farmers and poor people. Mixed farming in Asia is synonymous with crop animal system, varied and integrated in various ways. With the increasing demand for food, this type of farming is seemed likely to be important in Asia and would continue to be dominant in the region (Devendra, 2011).

2.4.1 Fish – Chicken Integration

Integrated farming systems are probably as old as farming itself if the broadest definition of integrated farming is accepted. According to this, integration occurs when outputs (usually by-products) of one production sub-system are used as inputs by another, within the farm unit. Theoreticians used to differentiate it from mixed farming, in which production subsystems of a farm are not mutually supportive and do not depend on each other (Csavas, 1991).



Figure 2.1: Fish-chicken integration

Source: (Anon, 2013).

The integrated farming of chickens and fish is only practiced in a few countries in Asia (Philippines, China, Indonesia, and Thailand). Trials of chicken integrated with fish farming have also been conducted in Africa (Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon and Madagascar), in Latin America (Ecuador, Panama) and in the USA. Not all the results of these experiments have been published (Vincke, 1991).

Chicken (broilers or layers) are reared in pens beside or over the ponds. In Indonesia, in monoculture of *Puntius gonionotus* in a 400 m² pond integrated with 6,000 layers/ha during a culture period of 3 months, the extrapolated yield was 5.1 ton of fish/ha/year (Widayati, 2002).

2.4.2 Fish – Duck Integration

Integrated fish farming is generally considered particularly relevant to benefit the rural poor. In Asia, fish farming has been a part-time activity of peasant farmers, who developed it as an efficient means of utilizing farm resources to the maximum capacity (Vincke, 1991). As presently practiced, the combination of duck and fish farming is

considered as a means of reducing the cost of feed for ducks and a convenient and inexpensive way of fertilizing ponds for the production of fish (Pillay, 1980). In this integrated system, ponds provide living and foraging areas for the ducks and fish.



Figure 2.2: Duck-Fish integration in Hanoi, Vietnam

Source: FFTC Annual Report 2007, page 38 (2007)

The aim of integrated farming is the recycling of animal wastes (faeces, urine and spoiled feeds) to serve as fertilizers, and sometimes as food for fish raised in ponds, enclosures and cages. According to Pillay (1980), the basic principles involved in integrated farming are the utilization of the synergetic effects of inter-related farm activities, and the conservation, including the full utilization, of farm wastes. It is based on the concept that "there is no waste", and "waste is only a misplaced resource which can become a valuable material for another product.

The fish – duck integration has been practiced in classical Chinese systems and it is widely practiced within its original geographical range to China, Hong Kong, Philippines and Taiwan (Csavas, 1991).

2.5 Oil Palm Industry in Malaysia

Oil palm plantation in Malaysia is a controversial agriculture sectors in terms of nature degradation. Until the year 2012 (refers to Table 2.1), Malaysia had about 5.1 million hectare of oil palm plantation distributed in Peninsular and East Malaysia. It also consists of large plantation and small holdings (MPOB, 2013). The oil palm industry has

transformed Malaysia into a commercial powerhouse in tropical agribusiness. The industry continues to be an important pillar in the economy and remains a pivotal aspect in socio-political landscape of the country. Going forward, the industry has been identified as one of the key drivers towards achieving the national key economic aspiration. Many key challenges continue to confront the oil palm commodity industry such as rising cost of production, pest and diseases, constraints in human resource, talent management and managing socio-environmental issues (Joseph, 2012).

Table 2.1: Oil Palm Planted Area by Category as in December 2012 (Hectares)

Category	Hectares	%
Private Estates	3,126,990	61.6
FELDA	706,069	13.9
FELCRA	167,361	3.3
RISDA	78,634	1.5
GOVT./STATE AGENCIES	306,187	6.0
Independent Smallholders	691,688	13.6
MALAYSIA	5,076,929	100.0

Source: Malaysia Palm Oil Board, MPOB, (2013)

The oil palm plantation keeps widely distributed and achieving towards national economic key. When a plantation is opened, many diversity and natural habitat need to be scarified. There is some evidence that both landscape and local complexity can have positive impacts on biodiversity in the oil palm habitat. We urgently need to carry out rigorous experimental research that will establish whether maintaining diversity supports economically and ecologically important processes in oil palm, without at the same time compromising yield. By intelligent manipulation of habitat complexity, it could be possible to enhance not only the number of species that can live in oil palm plantations, but also their contribution to the healthy functioning of this exceptionally productive and widespread landscape (William *et al*, 2012).

2.5.1 Livestock Feed Resources in Oil Palm Plantation

Scavenging chickens start roaming the fields in the morning to search for feeds such as earthworms, beetles, spiders and scorpion, grasshoppers, centipedes, lizards, grass and legume seeds, berries, green leaves and others. According to Sonaiya (2004), the Scavengable Feed Resources Base (SFRB) includes:

- i. Household cooking waste
- ii. Cereal and cereal by-products
- iii. Roots and tubers
- iv. Oilseeds
- v. Trees, shrubs (including *Leucaena*, *Calliandra* and *Sasbenia*) and fruits
- vi. Animal proteins
- vii. Aquatic plants (*Lemna*, *Azolla* and *Ipomoea aquatica*)
- viii. Commercially prepared feed

The feed ingredients to oil palm chicken are whatever they get from the environment such as often offal and insects, forage, weeds, insect, earth worm, fruit from oil palm, insect and others in the oil palm plantation (Pandey et al. 1992).

2.6 Chicken-Oil Palm Integration in Peninsular Malaysia

In Peninsular Malaysia, the Malaysia Palm Oil Board (MPOB) has been running the chicken – oil palm integration since 2003. In this integration system, free ranged chicken or village chicken has been used to be integrated with oil palm plantation. The village poultry would probably enjoy more freedom of movement. They are owned by individual households and maintained under a scavenging system, with little or no inputs for housing, feeding and health care. Therefore, the concept of free range chickens integrated with oil palm has been recommended.

Such a project has been proven suitable for mature oil palm above five years old, where the excessive undergrowth cover in oil palm area had been cleared and the locations for the construction of coops were marked. Paddocks and fencing were strategically constructed. Strong and cheap materials had been chosen for fencing.

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