PREFERENCES ON BREEDING PRACTICES AND BREEDS OF CATTLE AND GOAT IN SANDAKAN SABAH

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	BORANG PENGESAHAN	ESIS
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I hereby declare that this dissertation is based on my original work except for citations and quotations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that no part of this dissertation has been previously or concurrently submitted for a degree at this or any other university.

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ABSTRACT

Malaysia has reached in self-sufficiency in non-ruminant products such as pork, poultry and eggs. However, the self-sufficiency level in the production of ruminant products is still below 30% and this might due to the limitation of existing breeding policies in beef and goat production in Malaysia. So it is important to evaluate the farmer's opinion on breeding practices and choice of breeds of cattle and goat. Moreover, existing breeding practices should be investigated for sustainable development of beef and goat production in Malaysia. Therefore, to investigate the farmer's opinion on breeding practices and choice of breeds, data was collected from 18 beef and goat farmers in Sandakan. The data collected and evaluated revealed that all farmers in Sandakan practice only the natural mating and they are facing the problem of shortage of quality breeding males. On the other hand, farmers in Sandakan have very limited option in choosing the breeds of beef cattle and goat. Finally it can be concluded that the farmer's perceptions should be taken in consideration for choice of beef and goat breeds and by regular replacing of quality breeding males or by introducing artificial insemination (AI). Inbreeding should be prevented for sustainable development of cattle and goat production in Malaysia.



PILIHAN PENTERNAK LEMBU DAN KAMBING TERHADAP KAEDAH PEMBIAKAN DAN PILIHAN BAKA DI SANDAKAN SABAH

ABSTRAK

Malaysia telah mencapai tahap sara diri dalam produk bukan ruminan seperti daging babi, ayam dan telur. Walau bagaimanapun, tahap sara diri dalam pengeluaran produk ruminan masih di bawah 30% dan ini mungkin disebabkan oleh had dalam polisi pembiakan daging lembu dan kambing di Malaysia. Jadi, penyiasatan terhadap pendapat penternak dalam kaedah pembiakan dan pilihan baka lembu dan kambing adalah penting. Selain itu, amalan pembiakan haiwan yang sedia ada perlu disiasat untuk meningkat pengeluaran daging lembu dan kambing di Malaysia. Oleh itu, 18 orang penternak di Sandakan telah dipilih dan data telah dikumpulkan untuk menilai pendapat mereka dalam amalan pembiakan dan pilihan baka. Bukan itu sahaja, data mengenai ketersediaan haiwan pejantan untuk tujuan pembiakan telah dikumpulkan. Data yang dikumpul dan dinilai menunjukkan bahawa semua penternak di Sandakan mengamalkan cara mengawan secara semula jadi kepada penternakan mereka dan mereka menghadapi masalah kekurangan haiwan pejantan yang berkualiti. Di samping itu, penternak di Sandakan mempunyai pilihan yang sangat terhad dalam memilih baka lembu daging dan kambing. Kesimpulannya, persepsi penternak lembu dan kambing terhadap cara pembiakan dan pilihan baka perlu diambil dalam pertimbangan semasa merangka dasar dan selalu menggantikan haiwan pejantan yang kualiti atau dengan memperkenalkan permanian beradas (AI). Perkahwinan sekerabat perlu dielakkan untuk meningkatan pengeluaran daging lembu dan kambing di Malaysia.



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LIST OF SYMBOLS, UNITS AND ABBREVIATIONS

% Percentage

* Breeds at risk

> More than

< Less than

AFS Australian Friesian Sahiwal
AI Artificial Insemination
AMZ Australian Milking Zebu

ART Assistant Reproductive Technology

BBB Barbados Blackbelly
BUT British United Turkey

DVS Department of Veterinary Services

E Estimate

ECER East-Coast Economic Region

FELDA Federal Land and Development Authority

FMD Foot and Mouth Disease First Filial Generation

FSA Faculty of Sustainable Agriculture

GDP Gross Domestic Products

HF Holstein Friesian IC Identity Card

IVM Institute Veterinar Malaysia

Kg Kilogram

KK Kedah-Kelantan

KPD Rural Development Corporation

LID Local Indian Dairy

MAJUTERNAK National Livestock Development Authority MARDI Malaysian Agricultural Research and

Development Institute

MFW Mafriwal

MoA Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based

Industries

MOET Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer

MT Metric Tonnes

NIVB National Institute for Veterinary Biodiversity

P Provisional

PINTAR Ruminant/Tree Crop Integration Project

RM Ringgit Malaysia SSL Self-sufficiency Level

STPM Malaysian Higher School Certificate
TNAU Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

UMS University Malaysia Sabah

χ Crossbred



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Livestock is one of the very important sector in Malaysia as it supplies the largest sources of animal protein for Malaysian population and generates income for the growth of the country (Irani *et al.*, 2001). The total Gross Domestic Products (GDP) for agricultural production which comprising of agricultural, forestry and fisheries, is RM 709.3 billion in the year 2011. It is estimated that RM 11724.86 million (based on exfarm values) was contributed by the livestock sector, of which 51% were contributed by poultry meat (Irani *et al.*, 2001). In the case of Malaysia, the livestock production is still inadequate to meet the local demand, following the increasing trend of population and consumption. Malaysia has become self-sufficient in the production of poultry and pork and produced 85% of its beef requirements (Irani *et al.*, 2001). However, there are 95% of its milk and milk product requirements still depending on other countries. Production of poultry meat, eggs and pork were self-sufficient and there was a surplus. Thus, Malaysia can export these products, especially to its traditional market, Singapore (Irani *et al.*, 2001).

Despite Malaysia is able to produce pork, poultry meat and eggs, nevertheless the country still needs to import milk, beef and mutton (Loh, 2002). Imports of beef and mutton rising every year, which causes an increment in the trade balance of food products. According to statistics from Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry (MoA), data regarding the deficit of demand compare with production of livestock in Malaysia in 2010 amounted to 3,568,000 metric tonnes. The deficit is expected to increase in 2020, as it is forecasted that production will only reach 11,175,000 metric tonnes compare with demand of livestock that will reach up to 14,790,000 metric tonnes. The forecast deficit in 2020 will be amounted to 2,615,000 metric tonnes (MoA, 2012). This apparently shows that Malaysia will be highly dependent on import of

livestock products, especially beef and mutton, from various countries, such as New Zealand, Australia, India and Thailand to make sure the supply of meat meets the demand of the Malaysian population (Sahar and Chamhuri, 2016).

Policies in Malaysia depend heavily from the political panning and views. Large scale government intervention is done through national planning to reach its objectives to fulfil ethnic demands, and maintain political stability has been the essential component to development of Malaysia policy since 1957 (Sahar and Chamhuri, 2016). In order to improve livestock industry, the government has formulated various policies and strategies such as National Agricultural Policy and the National Agro Food Policy. However, the self-sufficiency level (SSL) of ruminant products still has not been reached. Since the 1960s to 2010, the development of ruminant products was much slower compared to non-ruminant products. Malaysia is still highly dependent on the import of ruminant products from other countries such as India, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand. Moreover, imports of beef, milk and mutton are rising every year (Hashim, 2013).

Livestock breeds are the result of both natural mating and human intervention by using artificial insemination (AI). In Malaysia, both natural mating and AI are practiced by the farmers (DVS, 2013a). Typically, type of breeding practice used by the farmer depends on the production system and objective of the farm. For example, most of the farmers are using natural mating of purebred local KK cattle under a traditional farming whereas both natural mating and AI are practicing under a feedlot system (DVS, 2013b). Application of livestock AI in Malaysia still lagging behind due to several factors such as limited coverage of extend services to the rural areas, problem associated with the administration of the AI service, lack of well-trained and experienced AI technicians and lack of logistical support related to production and distribution of semen and liquid nitrogen supply (Azage *et al.*, 1995).

Livestock in Malaysia has wide varieties of breeds and strains. There are more than 14 species of livestock that contribute to human population directly in the forms of meat, milk, egg, hide, skin, fiber and also indirectly in forms of manure, transport and investment. Of the 14 species of livestock, the most common types of livestock are chickens, pigs, cattle, goats, buffalo, sheep, horses and deer and there are 101 breeds have been identified among them. Among the 101 breeds are locally

adapted and another 65 breeds are recently introduced or continually imported (Johari, 2007).

Beef cattle (*Bos taurus/Bos indicus*) breeds available in Malaysia are Kedah-Kelantan (KK), Brahman and crosses, Brakmas, Charoke, Charolais X, Chianina X, Giriando, Droughtmaster, Limousin X, Hereford X, Boran X and Nelore and crosses. Dairy breeds are Australian Milking Zebu (AMZ), Australian Friesian Sahiwal (AFS), Holstein Friesian and crosses, Local Indian Dairy (LID), Mafriwal (MFW), Jersey and crosses, Sahiwal Friesian, Red Friesian X and Sabah Sahiwal-Friesian. The Seladang and the Bali cattle classified as Bos tarus sub-species. The LID cattle and KK cattle are considered as indigenous breeds, whereas the Bali cattle were imported from Indonesia. The Selembu is the hybrid produced by crosses the cattle and the Seladang (Johari, 2007).

Breeds of buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) available in Malaysia are the River Buffalo (Murrah) and the Swamp buffalo (Kerbau Sawah). Breeds of sheep (*Ovis aries*) available are indigenous Malin and exotic breeds and their crosses such as Dorset X, Long Tail, Barbados Blackbelly, Dorsimal, Malin, Santa Inês, Morada Nova X, Suffolk X, Sussex X, Segurena X, Sufrimal and Southdown X. Breeds of goat (*Capra hircus*) available are the local Katjang, Boer, Saanen, Jamnapari, Alphine, Anglo Nubian, Australian Feral Goat, Kambing Gurun, Jermasia, German Fawn and Toggenburg (Johari, 2007).

The most common poultry in Malaysia is chicken, duck, geese, quail and turkey. The indigenous strains of chicken (*Gallus gallus*) are the Ayam Kampong, Ayam Hutan, Ayam Serama, Ayam Sabong and Ayam Sutera (Silky). Breeds of duck (*Anas platyrhyncha*) are Itik Jawa, Belibis, Khaki Campbell, Itik Kampong, Pekin, Muscovy, and Serati. An Indigenous geese in Malaysia is the Angsa Kampong. Breeds of quail are Bob White, Japanese Quail and Puyuh IKTA. Breeds of ostrich available in this country are Blue Neck and Black Neck. Breeds of turkey available are British United Turkey (BUT) and Bronze Turkey. Breeds of pig available are Duroc, Large White, Yorkshire, Landrace, Sarawakian Bearded Pig and South China Pig. Breeds of the horse are Kuda Padi, Arabs, Bimo Siam, Polo Horses, Miniature Horses, Saddlebred, Shetland Ponies, Quarter Horses and Thoroughbred. Breeds of deer available in Malaysia are Sambar, Axis, Timorensis, Red Deer and Sika (Johari, 2007).

The choice of livestock breeds is actually depends on the farmer's perspectives. Factors affecting farmer's choice on breeds such as economic consideration, profitability, environment and animal performance. Generally, there are two categories of livestock rearing operations which are purebred and commercial. The purebred operation needs more time, record keeping and initial input whereas commercial is normally a low input, lower risk type venture (Carole and Dyer, 2003).

1.2 Justification

This research was conducted to determine the farmers' perceptions on breeding practices and choice of breeds in Sandakan Sabah. The target of this study was not non-ruminant but ruminant only because the non-ruminant livestock such as poultry and pig had already reached their self-sufficiency level. The self-sufficiency level in the ruminant industry has not yet been reached and remains below 30% (MoA, 2005). This indicates that the policies might not ideal for the farmers. Although it may not be possible to formulate an ideal and perfect policy within a short period due to a shortage of infrastructure and institutions to implement it. However, we should, at least, have some common understanding on which breeds should be advocated and why, which type of breeding strategy should be followed in the country, to know the advantages and disadvantages of different breeding strategies, so that the government may give farmers some kind of services or incentives with some knowledge of the result of any breeding practice for long-term stable breed development in the country. Typically, the policy was formulated on the basis of recommendations of an advisory committee under consultations with experts and might not consider the opinion of the farmers. Hence, this study was to collect opinions from the bottom level, the farmers, so that the policy makers can reconsider some of the decisions on the basis of more specific information. In order to achieve the objectives, a data collection sheet was designed to investigate the 18 farmer's preferences on cattle and goat breeding practices and choice of breeds around Faculty of Sustainable Agriculture (FSA) UMS Sandakan Campus.



1.3 Objective

The objectives of this study were:

- To investigate the existing cattle and goat breeding practices in Sandakan,
 Sabah
- ii. To investigate the choice of cattle and goat breeds in Sandakan, Sabah.

1.4 Hypothesis

i) Null hypothesis : All farmers practising the same breeding practices.

Alternative hypothesis : All farmers not practising same breeding practices.

ii) Null hypothesis : All farmers reared same breeds of livestock.

Alternative hypothesis : All farmers not reared same breeds of livestock.



CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter reviewed the current status of livestock production, consumption, trade, breeding policy development, current types of breeding practices and available livestock breeds in Malaysia.

2.1 Importance of Livestock

The Malaysian livestock industry is a vital and integral component of the agricultural sector. It provides gainful employment and producing important animal protein food for the population in Malaysia (Irani *et al.*, 2001). Of the total GDP for agricultural production which comprising of agricultural, forestry and fisheries, of RM709.3 billion in the year 2011. It is estimated that RM11724.86 million (based on ex-farm values) was contributed by the livestock sector (Table 2.1 and 2.2).

Table 2.1 Statistics GDP Malaysia 2009-2012

I QUIC Z.I		CO CD							
Gross	Domestic	2009		2010		2011		2012 ^E	
Product (a	t constant	RM bil	%p.a	RM bil	%p.a	RM bil	%p.a	RM bil	%p.a.
2005 price	5)	629.9	-1.5	674.9	7.2	709.3	5.2	743.5	4.5~5.0
Agriculture	•	50.1	0.1	51.3	2.4	54.3	5.9	54.6	0.6
and fishing Mining		66.4	-6.5	66.1	-0.4	62.3 178.3	-5.7 4.7	63.3 185.8	1.5 4.2
Manufactu Construction	_	152.2 19.3	-9.0 6.2	170.3 20.4	11.9 6.0	21.4	4.6	24.7	4.2 15.5
Services		335.0	2.9	359.2	7.2	384.3	7.0	405.5	5.5

E=Estimate

Source: Economic Planning Unit, Ministry of Finance and Bank Negara Malaysia, (2013)



Table 2.2	Malaysia: Ex	-Farm Value of	Livestock Prod	ucts (RM Millio	n), 2010-2014
Commodity	Year				
•	2010	2011	2012	2013 ^P	2014 ^E
Beef	847.11	889.47	1031.76	1141.02	1246.70
Mutton	67.66	77.8	146.12	139.64	149.93
Pork	2073.62	2047.04	1968.86	2048.89	2110.94
Poultry Meat	5776.21	5949.50	6867.61	7413.53	7603.77
Eggs	2358.62	2614.35	3274.63	3872.77	4063.53
Milk	127.29	134.68	144.82	147.98	150.54
Raw Hides &	11.45	12.02	12.26	12.36	12.39
Skins					
Total	11261.96	11724.86	13446.06	14776.19	15337.80

P=Provisional E=Estimate
Source: Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) Livestock Statistics 2013/2014

2.2 Current Trend of Livestock Population

According to the report prepared by DVS (2011), the number of livestock has increased dramatically over the decades. The population of major livestock classes in Malaysia under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006 - 2010) is shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3	Population of Major Classes of Livestock under Ninth Malaysia Plan								
Class of			Year						
Livestock									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010				
	706 201	042 196	851,227	860,491	837,543				
Cattle	786,201	842,186	•		•				
Buffalo	128,938	130,775	131,229	127,152	125,175				
Goats	349,427	428,263	477,480	514,233	494,499				
Sheep	116,387	125,988	131,278	136,285	123,349				
Deer	16,033	12,659	14,894	14,612	13,862				
Swine	2,029,119	2,020,117	1,988,889	1,831,308	1,880,309				
Chicken	179,226,276	188,383,841	192,693,703	208,332,522	225,789,624				
Duck	8,640,628	8,261,647	7,120,994	7,521,819	7,927,857				

Source: Annual Livestock Statistics, Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia, 2011



2.3 Livestock Meat Production

The report prepared by the MoA (2014) had shown that the production of livestock meat was increasing each year except beef and buffalo meat production from the year 2008 to 2012. For example, the beef production was decreasing from 19,097 tonnes in 2008 to 10,593 tonnes in 2012 (Table 2.4).

Livestock Meat Production (Tonnes) in Malaysia, 2008-2012 Table 2.4 2010 2012 2008 2009 2011 Meat Indigenous (tonnes) 1,249,836 1,083,030 1,231,908 1,001,659 996,870 Chicken 235,609 231,242 206,032 200,107 195,072 Pork 125,195 128,136 124,485 123,191 123,492 Duck 6,823 10,593 14,914 9,141 19,097 Beef

4,082

3,991

4,074 Source: FAOSTAT Agricultural Production, February 2014

2.4 **Self-sufficiency Level**

Buffalo

In the previous study by Fatimah Mohamed Arshad et al. (2007), the livestock industry in Malaysia is divided into two main sectors which are the ruminant and nonruminant sectors. The non-ruminant sector consists of poultry and swine which are well developed and heavy commercialized with modern technology and involvement of the private sector. However, the ruminant sector which composed of beef cattle, dairy cattle, beef buffaloes, dairy buffaloes, sheep, and goats are less developed as compared to the non-ruminant sector in term of technology and production. In spite of the encouraging progress made by the government in the recent years, it is still unable to produce adequate for domestic consumption. Table 2.5 shows the self-sufficiency levels (%) in livestock products (2000-2010).

Self-sufficiency Levels (%) in Livestock Products, 2000-2010 Table 2.5

Commodity	2000	2005	2010
Beef	15	23	28
Mutton	6	8	10
Poultry	113	121	122
Eggs	6	113	115
Pork	100	107	132
Milk	3	5	5
1.11117			

Source: Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), 2005



3,991

3,991

2.5 Livestock Consumption

Kaur (2010) had reported that livestock meat consumption in Malaysia has shown an increasing trend, and it is predicted to be increased at the rate of 2.4% annually (Table 2.6). In the year of 2014, the consumption of mutton has the most significant changes compared to the other meats which have increased 22.3%. This trend can also be observed in the per capita consumption (Table 2.7). The per capita consumption of mutton remained low at below one kg per annum before 2010. According to the study by Kaur in 2010, this situation is due to the misconception of that mutton is high in cholesterol and saturated fats.

Nor Amna Aliah and Mohamad Hifzan (2016) were found that the per capita consumption has increased to more than one kilogram per person in 2014. This phenomenon has shown that the Malaysian has begun to change their perception and started to consume mutton as part of their daily diet.

Table 2.6 Consumption of Beef, Mutton, Pork and Poultry in Peninsular Malaysia,

	1	960-2 <u>014</u> _							
Year	Beef		Mutton		Po	Pork		Poultry	
	MT	%	MT	%	MT	%	MT	%	
	* * *	changes		changes		changes		changes	
1960	14,030		3,380	-	30,170	•	23,636	-	
1970	14,935	6.45	4,147	22.69	59,760	98.08	61,080	158.42	
1980	20,479	37.12	6,607	59.32	122,808	105.50	119,200	95.15	
1990	50,874	148.42	7,283	10.32	150,093	22.22	296,327	148.60	
2000	99,611	95.80	16,700	129.30	144,200	-3.93	948,500	220.09	
2010	145,412	45.98	19,054	14.10	202,681	40.56	1,104,570	16.45	
2011	158,111	8.73	19,042	-0.06	180,037	-11.17	1,102,210	-0.21	
2012	168,192	6.38	23,239	22.04	178,824	-0.67	1,182,990	7.33	
2013	184,202	9.52	27,299	17.47	178,444	-0.21	1,254,240	6.02	
2014	190,201	3.26	33,390	22.31	181,880	1.93	1,286,260	2.55	

Source: Department of Veterinary Services, Malaysia, 2015

Fatimah Mohamed Arshad *et al.* (2007) were found that the Malaysian has higher purchasing power as the country continues to develop and thus stimulate the consumption of beef, mutton and poultry meat. For instance, the per capita consumption of beef has increased from 3.65 kg in 1993 to 7.73 kg in 2013. 0.48 kg to 1.38 kg for mutton and 28.06 kg to 53.35 kg for poultry. However, the consumption of pork has declined from 10.19 kg in 1993 to 7.54 kg in 2014 (Table 2.7). The increase is due to the lower price of imported beef affiliated with the higher per capita income which has affected the household demand for beef.

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Table 2.7 The Per Capita Consumption of Meat in Peninsular Malaysia (kg), 1993-2013

Beef 3.65 5.06 6.42 6.83 7.15 7.73 7.89 Mutton 0.48 0.75 0.82 0.82 0.99 1.15 1.38 Pork 10.19 7.83 8.87 8.63 7.6 7.49 7.54	Product	1993	2003	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Pork 10.19 7.83 8.87 8.63 7.6 7.49 7.54	Beef	-	=				· · · · -	7.89
1017 10119 7100 10 71 10 20 144 4 172 172 172 172 172 172 172 172 172 172			* · · ·					1.38 7.54
Today 20100 S710	Poultry	28.06	37.8	48.75	49.36			53.35
All 42.38 51.34 64.86 65.64 60.14 69 70.1 meats		42.38	51.34	64.86	65.64	60.14	69	70.16

Source: Department of Veterinary Services, Malaysia, 2015

2.6 Livestock Trade

In the previous study by Fatimah Mohamed Arshad *et al.* (2007), the import of livestock is still high if compared to the total exports in Malaysia. In, 2007, import of beef was around 1,395.2 metric tons, swine was 307.7 metric tons and poultry was 6,438.2 metric tons (Table 2.8). In term of self-sufficiency level, Malaysia has reached its self-sufficiency level in poultry meat production and is able to export to other countries such as Singapore. However, Malaysia is still importing poultry from another country in the form of day-old chicks or parent stocks for breeding purposes.

Nor Amna Aliah and Mohamad Hifzan (2016) had claimed that Malaysia depends heavily on the importation of beef and mutton in order to meet the local demand in term of the ruminant sector (Table 2.9). In 2003, Malaysia imported 85,277.0 MT of beef and increased to 102,304.0 MT in 2007. The most imported meat is beef if compared to other meats. This is because the price of imported beef is cheaper than the local beef and there is a high demand from the Malaysian consumers. In 2003, the number of imported mutton has also increased from 10,707.0 MT to 16,303.4 MT in 2007.

Table 2.8 Export of Livestock Products in Peninsular Malaysia (Metric Tonnes), 2003-2007

Livestock products	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Beef	1,302.0	1,594.0	1,496.6	1,568.1	1,395.2
Mutton	, -	11.1	33.6	18.1	-
Pork	56.6	170.7	212.1	2,091.7	307.7
Poultry Meat	14,135.4	10,264.0	4,321.6	5,122.1	6,438.2
(Processed)	<u> </u>				·

Source: Department of Veterinary Services, Malaysia, 2007



Table 2.9 Import of Livestock Products in Peninsular Malaysia (Metric Tonnes), 2003-2007

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
85,277.0 10,707.0 1,368.9 20,654.5	116,944.0 13,365.0 1,819.2 2,163.0	113,797.0 13,922.7 2,359.7 3,583.2	105,786.3 15,094.5 3,087.9 2,262.8	102,304.0 16,303.4 3,139.3 17,528.7
	85,277.0 10,707.0 1,368.9	85,277.0 116,944.0 10,707.0 13,365.0 1,368.9 1,819.2	85,277.0 116,944.0 113,797.0 10,707.0 13,365.0 13,922.7 1,368.9 1,819.2 2,359.7	85,277.0 116,944.0 113,797.0 105,786.3 10,707.0 13,365.0 13,922.7 15,094.5 1,368.9 1,819.2 2,359.7 3,087.9

Source: Department of Veterinary Services, Malaysia, 2007

2.7 Breeding Policy Development

DVS (2013b) had reported that the DVS had organized the First Meeting of the Committee on Cattle Breeding Policy in Port Dickson in April 1980. This meeting was participated by experts from the University of Malaya, University Pertanian Malaysia, MARDI (Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute), MAJUTERNAK and the Department of Veterinary Services. During that time, the committee had come up with recommendations on the breeding of dairy cattle, beef cattle, and buffaloes. In July 1986, there was a second meeting attended by the same committee. At that time, this committee acted as an instrumental role in addressing issues on the breeding of cattle and buffaloes. However, the solutions proposed could not be fully implemented during that time because of the limited resources which did not support a comprehensive policy.

2.8 Breeding Policy

The breeding policy is outlined for dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, goats, sheep, and deer.

2.8.1 Dairy Cattle

From the report prepared by DVS (2003), it had shown that, in the early part of the twentieth century, the dairy industry in Malaysia was initiated using Local Indian Dairy (LID) animals. These animals were found to produce good quality milk in terms of solids non-fat (SNF %) and fat % but were poor in terms of milk volume. In the 1950's, Sindhi and later Sahiwal sires from India and Pakistan were used to crossbreed with the LID to increase the productivity. The lactational performance of crossbreds was a little better than the LID. In early 1970's, crossbreeding LID with European dairy

breeds was bred and this produced crossbreds show considerable hybrid vigor. The government thus wanted to organize breeding of cattle by disseminate relatively superior crossbred bulls and by giving artificial insemination service. Since 1978, the government also imported large numbers of crossbred Sahiwal x *Bos taurus* cattle from Australia and New Zealand with the aim of providing farmers with dairy-type animals in the shortest possible time and increasing the crossbred breeding population. The recommended way to increase the performance of dairy animals was to crossbreed Zebu with *Bos taurus*, the way ahead was still not clear especially in terms of:

- Breed or breeds of Bos taurus to use in the crossbreeding.
- Mating program to follow to maximize dairy animal performance

The first meeting of the committee for the development of policy and systems of breeding for cattle was held at Port Dickson in April 1980. The committee made the following resolutions:

- At least 70% of available animals for crossbreeding should be bred to Friesian.
- Inter se mating of F1 animals to be undertaken at the smallholder level to maintain 50% temperate blood level and criss-cross breeding in government farms and selected smallholder areas where breeding can be controlled to have animals at 62.5% temperate blood level.
- A parallel breeding plan for LID's a pure LID line to be kept by governmental institutions or agencies for long-term selection and as a future base for crossbreeding where necessary.

DVS (2003) also stated that there have been some refinements to these 1980 breeding proposals. Firstly, the aim of the breeding program for dairy animals was documented at the second meeting of the National Cattle Breeding Committee in 1986. The aim is to develop animals which produce milk and meat economically in a hot and humid tropical environment. Secondly, the reduction in lactation performance, 39.0% drop in milk yield from the F1 to the F2 animals (Sivarajasingam and Kumar, 1989) and the failure of 60-70% of F2 animals to milk on the machine, led policy makers to recommend a higher proportion of Friesian inheritance in dairy crossbreds. The recommended proportion of Friesian inheritance in dairy crossbreds is 60-75%. Imported semen used only in the early part of the breeding program included Holstein, Red Holstein, AFS (Australian Friesian Sahiwal), AMZ (Australian Milking Zebu), Kenyan

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