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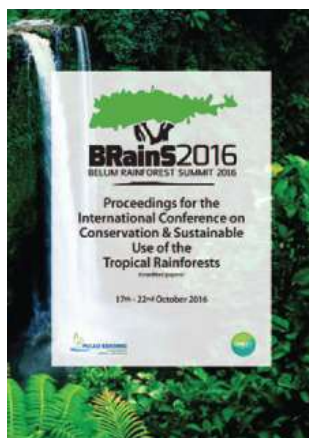
BELUM RAINFOREST SUMMIT 2016

Proceedings for the International Conference on Conservation & Sustainable Use of the Tropical Rainforests

(Unedited papers)

17th - 22nd October 2016





Preface

This Proceeding of the International Conference on Conservation & Sustainable Use of Tropical Rainforests, documents the papers presented by all speakers at the Belum Rainforest Summit 2016 held from 17th-22nd October, 2016. The papers presented cover a range of topics on current issues relating to biodiversity conservation, climate change, green funding opportunities, payment for ecosystem services and green initiatives to minimise the carbon footprint.

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POTENTIAL OF HULU PERAK DISTRICT AS NCER HERBAL HUB

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ABSTRACT

Hulu Perak is the largest district in the state of Perak, Malaysia where the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex is located. The reserve is well known with their richness in biodiversity with a huge potential for further exploration and commercialization which still have not been explored to the fullest. A recent survey conducted by FRIM on the value chain of the herbal industry covering a total of 33 respondents (20 Malay; 13 Chinese) from the district of Hulu Perak with only 1 of them were planting material supplier, 13 planters, 2 manufacturers and 19 retailers. These numbers were relatively low compared to 751 people involved in this industry in Perak alone. The survey conducted also found out only 4 species of herbs were commercially planted in Hulu Perak compared to more than 60 species in the whole Peninsular Malaysia. The number does not reflect the actual richness of germplasm in forest reserves situated in Hulu Perak. According to Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA), 4 Orang Asli tribes known as Kintaq, Lanoh, Temiar and Jahai are living in Hulu Perak. Through the survey, none of Orang Asli community involved in the five groups of value chain in the herbal industry, although it is their tradition that they commonly collect raw material for herbal products from the natural forest. To enhance the contribution of Hulu Perak District in the herbal industry, combination of the biodiversity richness, existing structure of herbal industry and local community involvement should be strengthen in order to develop the district as Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) Herbal Hub with main focus on sustainable germplasm collection and supply for Malaysian herbal industry.

Keywords: Hulu Perak, value chain, herbal industry, herbal hub, local community

INTRODUCTION

Malaysian Herbal Industry

Herbal industry has huge potential for a greater contribution towards Malaysian economic development. Few policies have been implemented by the Malaysian government to progress the industry and one of the initiatives is the Economic Transformation Program (ETP), National Key Economic Area (NKEA), Entry Point Project (EPP) 1 under the control of Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Malaysia (Farizah, Mohd Azlan, Noorasiah, & Fadzilah Adibah, 2015). The initiative aims to improve the quality of herbal products and marketing efforts to tap the global herbal products demand. Despite the initiatives that have been taken by the authorities the Malaysian herbal industry is still lagging behind. This situation have been proven through the fact that Malaysia still suffers from a huge trade deficit for herbs and herbal products (International Trade Centre, 2015) where we are importing the herbal products for local demands. Such situation greatly shows the potential and opportunity of Malaysian herbal industry to be further developed.

Malaysian Government commitment to further explore the herbal industry has been translated through the introduction of specific chapter on herbal industry development in the

National Agro-Food Policy (DAN). Malaysian herbal production is expected to reach 73,000 tonnes in 2020 compared to 17,000 tonnes in 2010. The total area of herbal cultivation is also forecasted to increase by 15% a year from 1,000 hectares in 2010 to 4,000 hectares in 2020 (Ministry of Agriculture & Agro-Based Industry Malaysia, 2011).

Malaysia has a long history of herbal product consumption by the locals. The survey conducted by FRIM in 2014 – 2015 has identified the earliest retail activity of herbal product recorded in the year 1904 by a traditional Chinese medicine shop in Perak (Rohana, et al., 2015).

Hulu Perak District

Hulu Perak is one out of ten administrative district in the state of Perak, Malaysia. The total population of Hulu Perak is 89,926 consisting of 72% Malay, 13% Other Bumiputera, 9% Chinese and 2% Indians (Department of Statistics, Malaysia, 2011). Four Orang Asli tribes known as Kintaq, Lanoh, Temiar and Jahai are living in Hulu Perak district (Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA), 2016) while Temiar and Jahai tribes can be found in the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex (BTFC) itself (Zainon & Baskaran, 2014).

The BTFC is located in Hulu Perak district with an area of almost 300,000 ha (Kurt, Richard, J. R., Matthew, Ashley, & Jeffrey, 2015). The reserve is the second largest forested block in Peninsular Malaysia after Taman Negara National Park (Or & Tang, 2011) and well known with their richness in biodiversity with a huge potential for further exploration and commercialization that still have not been explored to the fullest.

METHODOLOGY

Study on Value Chain of Herbal Industry in Peninsular Malaysia

Through the study, a census/survey on herbal value chain actors including planting material suppliers, planters, processors/manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers were surveyed based on preliminary information from various agencies. The research team has to ensure and verify each street available on ground to track the respondents.

Data Analysis

A descriptive analysis was used to explain the distribution of respondents by their business location, business activities and social backgrounds.

RESULT

The survey conducted on the value chain of the herbal industry covering a total of 33 respondents (20 Malay; 13 Chinese) from the district of Hulu Perak with only one of them were planting material supplier, 13 planters, two manufacturers and 19 retailers (Table 1). These numbers were relatively low compared to 751 people involved in this industry in the state of Perak alone.

Table 1: Distribution of Perak's herbal chain actors by district, 2015

| District | Planting Material Supplier | Planter | Processor/ Manufacturer | Wholesaler | Retailer |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Batang Padang | 10 | 13 | 6 | 4 | 39 |
| Manjung | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 52 |
| Kinta | 9 | 7 | 25 | 17 | 336 |
| Kerian | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 24 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Kuala Kangsar | 0 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 29 |
| LarutdanMatang | 0 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 53 |
| Hilir Perak | 0 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 58 |
| Hulu Perak | 1 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 19 |
| Perak Tengah | 0 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 14 |
| Kampar | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| TOTAL | 24 | 67 | 55 | 38 | 627 |

*The total number of actors were relatively higher than number of respondent. A respondent may involve for more than one role.

The survey conducted also discovered only four species of herbs were recorded commercially planted in Hulu Perak known as *Hibiscus sabdariffa*, *Phaleriamacrocarpa*, *Citrus aurantifolia* and *Aquilaria spp* compared to more than 60 herbal species planted in the whole Peninsular Malaysia.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The survey provides us with the knowledge on the structure of Hulu Perak herbal industry. The total numbers of industrial player were relatively low compared to other districts in the state of Perak. The low number of herbal species planted in Hulu Perak also does not reflect the actual richness of germplasm in forest reserves situated in Hulu Perak. Through the survey, none of Orang Asli community were involved in the five groups of value chain in the herbal industry, although it is their tradition that they commonly collect raw material for herbal products from the natural forest.

Marzalina, *et al.* (2015) highlighted the important of the country to have a strategic plan which focusing on the aim to develop a herbal hub uniquely for Malaysia. Strategic and effective plan to actively involve the community as one of the players in herbal industry is strictly needs to be done. To enhance the contribution of Hulu Perak District in the herbal industry, combination of the biodiversity richness, existing structure of herbal industry and local community involvement should be strengthen in order to develop the district as Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) Herbal Hub with its main focus on sustainable germplasm collection and supply for Malaysian herbal industry.

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