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# The Impact of Agriculture Land Development Programme (ALDP) of Orang Asli Resettlement Plan Scheme (RPS) in Pahang, Malaysia

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## ABSTRACT

In the 1960s, Malaysia like other newly independent nations used modernisation of agriculture systems as a priority for its rural development plan. Orang Asli, as one of the target groups were e xposed to commercial and cash crops to replace their traditional ways of farming. The government believed the best way to improve the economic conditions of rural people was to introduce the oil palm, rubber, temperate crops and other commercial plants. The Agriculture Land Development Programme(ALDP) is one of the programmes under the Economic Development Programme implemented by Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA) to address the high incidence of poverty among Orang Asli population. The objectives of this study are (1) to identify the level of impact of ALDP and (2) to determine the relationship between selected demographic factor and the impact of ALDP. This study only focuses on Orang Asli who were involved in ALDP oil palm plantation scheme in all RPS in Pahang. This is a descriptive study using the quantitative method of a questionnaire as a tool to collect data from the respondents. This study involved 170 respondents who received monthly dividends between RM400 until RM800. The results of the study revealed that the level of impact is moderate in all aspects discussed. Meanwhile, the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation result showed that income category and land size have significant positive relationship with level of ALDP impact. Some recommendation was made due to results of study for future improvements of ALDP.

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## INTRODUCTION

Orang Asli are the indigenous inhabitants of Peninsular Malaysia. There are three main Orang Asli tribes left in Peninsular Malaysia; Negrito, Senoi and Proto-Malay who are further sub-divided into eighteen sub-ethnic groups. Under Senoi, there are six sub-ethnic groups namely the Temiar, Semai, Jahut, Che Wong, Semoq Beri and Mahmeri. As for the Negrito, there are six-ethnic sub groups - Kensiu, Kintaq, Jahai, Mendriq, Bateq and Lanoh. The Proto-Malay group consists of six-ethnic sub groups - Temuan, Jakun, Semelai, Orang Kuala, Orang Seletar and Orang Kanaq.

They constitute a minority community making up approximately 0.58% of the total population of Malaysia or only 149,723 members who can be further divided into 3.2 % Negrito, 54.2 % of Senoi and 42.6 % of Proto-Malay (JAKOA, 2004; Johannes Ridu, 2009). Almost all of Orang Asli have no religion or are *animists whose* lives are influenced by nature-based superstitions, such as the hills, rivers, stones and caves and thus natural forests still have a big influence in their daily life. Only small portion of them have converted to Islam, Christianity or other religions due to inter-marriage.

Malaysia is working hard to become a fully developed country by the year 2020. In order to achieve this goal, many community development strategies and programmes are introduced to promote the well-being of the people and to make sure all Malaysians receive equal attention in this respect. As such, the said community development programmes must be a "state tool" in order to to achieve national progress, (Asnarulkhadi *et al*., 2009). Such programmes must be equipped with 'easy to handle' properties but 'sharp' enough qualities to get the desirable output. Hence, ALDP acting as such a 'tool' for the Orang Asli community development should provide an easy and acceptable scheme for implementation, with the ability to make a considerable positive impact on this society.

The implementation of a large scale development programme such as ALDP will undoubtedly make a desirable impact on many aspects of Orang Asli lives. The Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA) as the main agency responsible for Orang Asli development should stay alert about their clients' welfare. At the onset of the implementation of Resettlement Plan Scheme (RPS) for basic amenities, the JAKOA with help of agriculture agencies will work hard to improve Orang Asli socio-economic situation through the ALDP.

In order to reach goals more efficiently in this programme the Rubber Industry Smallholder Development Authority (RISDA), Federal Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (FELCRA) and Farmers' Organisation Authority of Malaysia (LPP) which act as the main agriculture agencies (Hassan, 1998) will help in implementing the ALDP. Unlike the FELDA scheme, the provision for RPS is in the form of 'grant' or 'gift' to the Orang Asli. This implies that such programmes

do not require the expenses to be paid back by them. The FELCRA and RISDA will function as the operation arms of JAKOA in the sense that all work in the field is undertaken by an agriculture agency, right from clearing to planting and harvesting.

In addition to benefits from various facilities, each family in RPS gets ten acres of land for rubber, oil palm, and fruit orchards, and two acres for housing and subsistence crops under ALDP (Jimin *et al*., 1983). While JAKOA focused on the development program through commercial crops (oil palm and rubber), participants not only received dividends through plantation produce but were also given job opportunities by getting the chance to become directly involved as plantation workers (JAKOA, 2010). By referring to FELCRA (2011), we realize that there are 125 projects under RISDA and FELCRA which bring benefits to 6,001 participants through a total dividend distribution of RM 47.8 million. Pahang has the highest number of projects, participants and dividend distribution of Orang Asli farms.

However despite many years of ALDP implementation, many Orang Asli still remain in poverty. As stated in the 10$^{th}$ MP document, poverty among Orang Asli communities was aimed to fall below 25 percent. But statistics show that about half of Orang Asli community is still suffering from poverty.

Most of the ALDP participants receive RM400.00 to RM800.00 as monthly dividends. If RM 800.00 is taken as the current poverty line, majority of the Orang Asli households even in urban areas are below the poverty line (Edo *et al.*, 2009). However, some of the Orang Asli population who manage and sell their oil palm or rubber on their own smallholdings have been earning between RM1,500 and RM3,000 per month (Nicholas, 2010).

The Peninsular Malaysia *Orang Asli* Association (POASM) says that the Orang Asli are treated as mere shareholders or they just earn their income through a 'share' system without being directly involved in plantation work as such (Zawawi, 2000). Majorities are still involved in the traditional economic sector and have no skills. Some of them refuse to get involved on their land with the commercial crops and prefer the traditional ways of life.

Nowadays, many of the Orang Asli are self-employed as they harvest forest produce for a living. They usually earn a monthly income between RM150 and RM400 from selling rattan and crabs (Kamal *et al*., 2006). Another type of forest produce is river fish, clams, bird and other exotic animals, ornamental and medicinal plants, cigarette rolls made from *nipah* leaves and others. Usually their wives run the stalls along the main roadside to sell the collection of their forest produce. This shows that the Orang Asli still heavily depend on the forests even when they are involved in ALDP.

Regroupment has helped to "modernise" the Orang Asli economies by eliminating swiddening and most other subsistence activities, while totally integrating them into the market economy (Nicholas, 1990). This regroupment did not overcome their

lack of skills and absence of knowledge in managing commercial crops (Rosemary & Bayr, 2009; Ministry of Rural and Regional Development Malaysia, 2005; Endicott & Dentan, 2004). The situation became worse when the government preferred to hire foreign workers rather than local Orang Asli people for cheap salary and no resistance to working on plantations.

Other studies have mentioned that the ALDP was actually an important tool to uplift Orang Asli's living standards due to the apparent difference between the villages that were involved in the scheme with others which were not (Lim, 1997, 2003; Omar, 2004; Nicholas, Tijah & Tiah, 2003). As examples of this difference we can look at the higher monthly household income, education and health level of the community that was involved in this programme in comparison to those which did not participate. For those who did participate in the scheme, there was clearly an improvement in the income, where they could have gained between RM400.00 and RM800.00 for their monthly dividends and a bonus of RM1000.00 at the year's end without working on the estates.

Many past studies were done to identify the impact of the development programs such as resettlement and land development program, but the specific research on the impact of commercial agriculture crops programme introduced to Orang Asli was never observed clearly. Generally, the objective of the study is to evaluate the impact of Orang Asli participation in ALDP in Pahang. The specific objectives are (1) To identify the level of ALDP impact on respondents socio-economic and (2) To determine the relationship between selected demographic profiles and the impact of ALDP.

In social science, Latanẽ (1981) defines social impact as any influence on individual feelings, thoughts, or behaviour that is exerted by the real, implied, or imagined presence or actions of others. In this study, the impact of ALDP is measured in term of skills and farm practices, life style, ownership and economic related aspects. Impact is based on change brought by ALDP on Orang Asli.

The ALDP is one of innovations introduced to this community to replace the traditional way of farming. It involved new technologies and skills in farm management and plantation. The Orang Asli community, like other communities is expected to refuse the immediate t adoption of an innovation. Early adopters are the people who adopt the practices or idea of ALDP right away, while late adopters are those who wait to see how successful it is before making the final decision to adopt. However, all people will pass through five stages on their way to adoption. These stages include knowledge, persuasion, decision, implementation, and finally adoption (Rogers, 1983).

The rate of adoption is based on and affected by the personal characteristics such as age and socio-economic status, in addition to characteristics of the targeted community (Rogers, 1995). Rogers (1995) has also stated that the higher the level of education, the higher the diffusion rate will be.

## METHODOLOGY

The criteria for selecting RPS instead of villages in the study area are based on the following considerations:

1. The facilities and provisions in RPS are the same. All the RPS participants receive equal facilities provided by the government.
2. Early implementation of ALDP which was carried out in RPS will make the availability of information much easier.

This study focuses only on ALDP oil palm plantation because of following reasons:

1. The skills and practices needed are different in different crops like in rubber, oil palm and temperate crops. It is easier for the researchers to focus on only one crop.
2. To ensure homogeneity among the respondents (i.e those involved in commercial crop oil palm).

The biggest number of population in four RPS involved in oil palm include RPS Kedaik, RPS Buluh Nipis, RPS Runchang and RPS Bukit Serok, Pahang which consist of almost 955 of the total dividend receivers (JAKOA, 2010).

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents involved in this study. Most of respondents were from RPS Bukit Serok that is 46 (27.1 percent). Second highest number of respondent is 44 (25.9 percent) from RPS Kedaik, continued by RPS Runchang with the 43 (25.3 percent) and Buluh Nipis with 37 (21.8 percent) number of respondents.

TABLE 1
The Distribution Number of Respondents by RPS

| Name of RPS | Frequency (n=170) | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Kedaik | 44 | 25.9 |
| Bukit Serok | 46 | 27.1 |
| Runchang | 43 | 25.3 |
| Buluh Nipis | 37 | 21.8 |

This study involves descriptive statistical analysis of operating results from research performed by looking at frequency data. Frequency and percentages of data are enough to interpret the in part of demographic respondents. Mean, maximum and minimum value was applied on suitable items. In addition, for Likert scale part, mean and standard deviation was also applied to interpret the results. Likert Scale is applied to identify the level of impact of ALDP on Orang Asli socio-economic.

Pearson *r* analysis was applied in this study to determine the relationship between two metric variables that are dependent variable (impact of ALDP) and selected independent variable (demographic factor). Pearson *r* is applied when analysing data conforming to normal distribution. To test the statistical significance of the relationship between two variables, the appropriate statistic to use is the *t* statistic and the population parameter is symbolized as ρ (rho). The two variables are correlated if the Sig-r < α. In this study, α value is 0.05. This study also discusses the correlation strength based on Guilford's Rule of Thumb where $r < 0.20$ is very weak correlation; $0.20 < r < 0.40$ is weak correlation; $0.40 < r < 0.70$ is moderate correlation; $0.70 < r < 0.90$ is

strong correlation and 0.90 < r: very strong correlation (Guilford, 1956).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The empirical results and discussions are presented in two sub-sections. The first sub-section is the descriptive analysis used to describe the 1) respondents' demographic profile and 2) Level of ALDP impact on Orang Asli socio-economic. Meanwhile in the second sub-section is Pearson Product-Moment Correlation analysis was applied to identify the relationship between demographic factors and impact of ALDP.

### *The Results of the Descriptive Analysis*

### Demographic Profile

Table 2 presents the distribution of frequencies and percentages of respondents based on their backgrounds. As mention ed earlier, this study only involved the respondents who participated in the oil palm ALDP. From the age level distribution, the average age of respondents is around 41 years old and above, where 56 (32.9 percent) of the respondents are between 41 – 50 years old and 45 (26.5 percent) fall within the range of 31 – 40 years old.

Most of the respondents are male with 138 (81.2 percent) out of 170 respondents. However, 32 (18.8 percent) are female respondents which shows that opportunity was also given to the women to participate in the program. All of them are from two Proto-Malay sub-ethnic groups which comprise of 168 (98.8 percent) Jakun and 2 (1.2 percent) Semelai. The highest percentage is of Jakun

TABLE 2
Demographic Profile of Respondents (n=170)

| Characteristic | Frequency (n) | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Age (years) | | |
| < 30 | 10 | 5.9 |
| 31 – 40 | 45 | 26.5 |
| 41 – 50 | 56 | 32.9 |
| 51 – 60 | 41 | 24.1 |
| 61 – 70 | 11 | 6.5 |
| >71 | 7 | 4.1 |
| Mean =47.18 | | |
| S.D =11.74 | | |
| Max =25.0 | | |
| Min =88.0 | | |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 138 | 81.2 |
| Female | 32 | 18.8 |
| Sub-Ethnic | | |
| Jakun | 168 | 98.8 |
| Semelai | 2 | 1.2 |
| Religion | | |
| Islam | 6 | 3.5 |
| Animisme | 164 | 96.5 |
| Education Level | | |
| No education | 88 | 51.8 |
| Primary | 67 | 39.4 |
| Secondary | 13 | 7.6 |
| Tertiary | 2 | 1.2 |
| Income Level | | |
| <RM500 | 15 | 8.8 |
| RM501 – RM1000 | 99 | 58.2 |
| RM1001 – RM1500 | 41 | 24.1 |
| RM1501 – RM2000 | 10 | 5.9 |
| RM2001 – RM2500 | 3 | 1.8 |
| >RM2501 | 2 | 1.2 |
| Mean =990.47 | | |
| S.D =458.06 | | |
| Max =400.0 | | |
| Min =4000.0 | | |
| Number of Household (persons) | | |
| < 5 | 106 | 62.4 |
| 6 – 10 | 60 | 35.3 |
| 11 – 15 | 3 | 1.8 |
| >15 | 1 | 0.6 |
| Mean =4.88 | | |
| S.D =2.91 | | |
| Max =0.0 | | |
| Min =20.0 | | |

because the locations of the study that are Pekan and Rompin Districts are originally and primary occupied by the Jakun. This study revealed that 88 respondents or almost 52 percent of respondents did not attend formal education . Almost 40 percent or 67 of respondents attended primary school. Only a small number that is 2 (1.2 percent) achieved tertiary level of education. More than half of them that is 99 (58.2 percent) of the respondents gain RM 501 – RM 1,000 per month. The highest monthly income gained was more than RM2,500 by 2 (1.2 percent) respondents. The lowest monthly income is below RM500 by 15 respondents or 8.8 percents.

Table 3 shows the distribution of full and part-time jobs of the respondents. From the results, 53 (31.2 percent) are working as rubber tappers. The job of forest product supplier is second highest with 27 (15.9 percent) which proved that Orang Asli was still attached to the forest as their traditional source of income. The next type of job is self-employment with 24 people (14.1 percent). Self-employment refers to the village jobs and as mentioned by respondents they are a combination of fishermen, farmers, and forest product suppliers. Forty-three (25.3 percent) of respondents have no jobs and depend on the monthly dividend from the ALDP as their main source of income.

Regarding part time jobs, most respondents 130 (76.5 percent) do not have a part-time job. Forest product supplier is the highest part-time job among respondents with 13 (7.6 percent).

The ALDP farm size is not much different between 4 RPS, whereby on average it is 6 acres per individual. Only with Bukit Nipis, the acreages are less, i.e. 3 acres.

Table 4 shows the distribution of respondents by type of cultivated land. From the results, 52 (30.6 percent) of respondents cultivate the traditional land by planting rubber. Only 3 (1.8 percent) of them are using traditional land for orchards.

Meanwhile Table 5 shows the distribution of total farm land sizes of respondents. More than half of the respondents that is 91 (53.5

TABLE 3
Main and Part-time Job of Respondents (n=170)

| | Main jobs | | Part-time jobs | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | n | % | n | % |
| Rubber tapper | 53 | 31.2 | 7 | 4.1 |
| Forest product supplier | 27 | 15.9 | 13 | 7.6 |
| Self-employment | 24 | 14.1 | 7 | 4.1 |
| Salary worker | 10 | 5.9 | 2 | 1.2 |
| Oil palm worker | 6 | 3.5 | 3 | 1.8 |
| Cash crop farmer | 5 | 2.9 | 7 | 4.1 |
| Businessman | 2 | 1.2 | 1 | 0.6 |
| No job/ housewife | 43 | 25.3 | 130 | 76.5 |

TABLE 4
Distribution of Respondents by Type of Cultivated Land (n=170)

| Type of Cultivated Land | Frequency (n) | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| ALDP oil palm plantation (by FELCRA and RISDA) | 170 | 100.0 |
| Rubber plantation (by RISDA) | 34 | 20.0 |
| Tradition land planting with rubber | 52 | 30.6 |
| Tradition land planting with oil palm | 11 | 6.5 |
| Tradition land planting with orchard | 3 | 1.8 |

TABLE 5
Distribution of Respondents by Farm Land Size (n=170)

| Farm Land Size (Acre) | Frequency (n) | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| < 3.0 | 24 | 14.1 |
| 3.1 – 6.0 | 91 | 53.5 |
| 6.1 – 9.0 | 29 | 17.1 |
| 9.1 – 12.0 | 16 | 9.4 |
| 12.1 – 15.0 | 4 | 2.4 |
| >15.01 | 6 | 3.5 |

percent) have 3.1 – 6.0 acres of land. This is the land size reserved through ALDP. For those who have farm land size of more than 6 acres, they use it for another income by planting rubber, oil palm and orchards and are involved in the commercial market.

## Impact of ALDP

This part discusses the impact of ALDP on respondents in changing their skills related to oil palm plantations and farm practices, changes in the aspects of their life style, property holdings, assets, and income and economic**.**

Some of the study revealed that the majority of Orang Asli are still involved in traditional economic sector and have no skills in commercial plantation. Table 6 below shows the change in skills related to oil palm plantations and farm practices among respondents. Thia study discovered that the change in this aspect is low. This is confirmedby the answers of strongly disagree and disagree given by the respondents in relation to the skills listed below. The highest change in skills come from respondents who can handle fertilizer equipments with 2.935 mean score. Next skill is handling pesticide tools and handling grass cutting machines with 2.882 and 2.741 mean score respectively. However, the specific skills relate to oil palm plantation such as taking care of palm trees, planting palm trees and cutting oil palm stalks is low with a mean of score of 2.412, 2.388 and 2.365 respectively.

The respondents who did not have enough skills to identify diseases linked to oil palm and identify the treatment for the disease of oil palm had a mean score of 1.582 and 1.547 respectively. Overall, the

TABLE 6
Changes in Skills Relate to Oil Palm Plantations and Farm Practices (n=170)

| Changes in Skills | Score Frequency (Percentage) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Mean | S.D |
| Handle fertilizer equipment | 49 (28.8) | 23 (13.5) | 16 (9.4) | 54 (31.8) | 28 (16.5) | 2.935 | 1.508 |
| Handle pesticide tools | 52 (30.6) | 21 (12.4) | 17 (10.0) | 55 (32.4) | 25 (14.7) | 2.882 | 1.503 |
| Handle grass cutting machine | 54 (31.8) | 27 (15.9) | 19 (11.2) | 49 (28.8) | 21 (12.4) | 2.741 | 1.469 |
| Take care of palm trees | 62 (36.5) | 33 (19.4) | 27 (15.9) | 39 (22.9) | 9 (5.3) | 2.412 | 1.326 |
| Plant palm trees | 62 (36.5) | 40 (23.5) | 19 (11.2) | 38 (22.4) | 11 (6.5) | 2.388 | 1.346 |
| Cut the oil palm fruit stalk | 66 (38.8) | 38 (22.4) | 10 (5.9) | 33 (19.4) | 23 (13.5) | 2.365 | 1.496 |
| Type of fertilizer for oil palm | 69 (40.6) | 49 (28.8) | 23 (13.5) | 21 (12.4) | 8 (4.7) | 2.118 | 1.206 |
| Kind of pesticide for oil palm | 71 (41.8) | 49 (28.8) | 21 (12.4) | 20 (11.8) | 9 (5.3) | 2.100 | 1.219 |
| Drive farm machinery (tractors) | 81 (47.6) | 42 (24.7) | 15 (8.8) | 20 (11.8) | 12 (7.1) | 2.059 | 1.295 |
| Measure of fertilizer for the oil palm | 74 (43.5) | 56 (32.9) | 21 (12.4) | 13 (7.6) | 6 (3.5) | 1.947 | 1.089 |
| Measure of pesticide for oil palm | 77 (45.3) | 56 (32.9) | 14 (8.2) | 18 (10.6) | 5 (2.9) | 1.929 | 1.107 |
| Know the market price of palm oil | 84 (49.4) | 45 (26.5) | 20 (11.8) | 15 (8.8) | 6 (3.5) | 1.906 | 1.132 |
| Determine soil fertility | 93 (54.7) | 49 (28.8) | 13 (7.6) | 14 (8.2) | 1 (0.6) | 1.712 | 0.963 |
| Calculate the profit of oil palm | 90 (52.9) | 56 (32.9) | 13 (7.6) | 9 (5.3) | 2 (1.2) | 1.688 | .912 |
| Farm financial budget planning | 93 (54.7) | 53 (31.2) | 12 (7.1) | 10 (5.9) | 2 (1.2) | 1.677 | 0.927 |
| Identify disease of oil palm | 102 (60.0) | 50 (29.4) | 8 (4.7) | 7 (4.1) | 3 (1.8) | 1.582 | 0.895 |
| Identify treatment for the disease of oil palm | 102 (60.0) | 52 (30.6) | 9 (5.3) | 5 (2.9) | 2 (1.2) | 1.547 | 0.821 |

Note: 1: Strongly disagree; 2: Disagree; 3: Less agree/ disagree; 4: Agree; 5: Strongly agree

impact of ALDP in increasing respondents' skills with farm practices is low and it shows the low adoption by respondents for innovations in ALDP.

From a social aspect, ALDP also has an impact or brings change to the respondents' life style. Table 7 demonstratesthe aspects of changes in the life style brought by ALDP.

TABLE 7
Change in Life Style (n=170)

| Change in Life Style | Score Frequency (Percentage) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Mean | S.D |
| I love getting involved in community activities such as gotong-royong and welfare. | 5 (2.9) | 2 (1.2) | 12 (7.1) | 68 (40.0) | 83 (48.8) | 4.306 | 0.884 |
| I am increasingly aware of the importance of good health. | 7 (4.1) | 1 (0.6) | 3 (1.8) | 88 (51.8) | 71 (41.8) | 4.265 | 0.874 |
| I am concerned about eating a healthy and balanced. | 8 (4.7) | 1 (0.6) | 7 (4.1) | 94 (55.3) | 60 (35.3) | 4.159 | 0.906 |
| I am concerned about education and knowledge. | 8 (4.7) | 4 (2.4) | 11 (6.5) | 77 (45.3) | 70 (41.2) | 4.159 | 0.987 |
| The way I dress changing due to fashion trend. | 25 (14.7) | 7 (4.1) | 10 (5.9) | 73 (42.9) | 55 (32.4) | 3.741 | 1.347 |
| I still practice the Orang Asli traditional knowledge. | 6 (3.5) | 16 (9.4) | 36 (21.2) | 74 (43.5) | 38 (22.4) | 3.718 | 1.028 |
| My friends from others nations and race are increased. | 20 (11.8) | 25 (14.7) | 16 (9.4) | 73 942.9) | 36 (21.2) | 3.471 | 1.297 |
| I am not concerned with inter-marriages with other nations or races. | 25 (14.7) | 22 (12.9) | 26 (15.3) | 66 (38.8) | 31 (18.2) | 3.329 | 1.318 |
| I practice the technology of life such as mobile phones (and computers). | 30 (17.6) | 36 (21.2) | 21 (12.4) | 71 (41.8) | 12 (7.1) | 2.994 | 1.276 |

Note: 1: Strongly disagree; 2: Disagree; 3: Less agree/ disagree; 4: Agree; 5: Strongly agree

83 (48.8 percent) of respondents agreed that ALDP encouraged them to get involved in social and community activities such as *gotong-royong* and community welfare. This statement had the highest mean score (4.306). Furthermore, the respondents took care of their health because they were becoming increasingly aware of the importance of maintaining good health and got concerned about having a healthy and balanced diet with a mean score of 4.265 and 4.159 respectively.

The respondents were also concerned about the importance of knowledge, education and fashion styles with a mean score of 4.159 and 3.741 respectively. This is a good finding since it shows that they are trying to give a meaningful balance to their lifestyles through social, health, education and appearance as other communities have already done. The study also discovered that technology use such as mobile phones and computers among the respondents was relatively low with a mean score of 2.994. It was thought beneficial for the Orang Asli to get exposed to the technologies because it is now considered to be a basic need.

Changes in respondents' ownership are shown in Table 8. According to the data 88 (51.8 percent) of respondents agree

TABLE 8
Change in Ownership (n=170)

| Change in Ownership | Score Frequency (Percentage) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Mean | S.D |
| Have own vehicle | 24 (14.1) | 17 (10.0) | 25 (14.7) | 88 (51.8) | 16 (9.4) | 3.324 | 1.209 |
| Increased the ownership of household appliances | 31 (18.2) | 20 (11.8) | 45 (26.5) | 59 (34.7) | 15 (8.8) | 3.041 | 1.247 |
| The addition of other crops other than oil palm | 51 (30.0) | 23 (13.5) | 47 (27.6) | 43 (25.3) | 6 (3.5) | 2.588 | 1.253 |
| Increase in house size | 55 (32.4) | 34 (20.0) | 38 (22.4) | 39 (22.9) | 4 (2.4) | 2.429 | 1.225 |
| Involved in livestock (chickens, goats, ducks, etc.) | 59 (34.7) | 40 (23.5) | 33 (19.4) | 28 (16.5) | 10 (5.9) | 2.343 | 1.271 |
| Construction of new homes | 53 (31.2) | 39 (22.9) | 54 (31.8) | 24 (14.1) | 0 | 2.288 | 1.057 |
| Size of land owned increased | 55 (32.4) | 33 (19.4) | 70 (41.2) | 11 (6.5) | 1 (0.6) | 2.235 | 0.999 |
| Opening own oil palm plantations | 69 (40.6) | 38 (22.4) | 42 (24.7) | 18 (10.6) | 3 (1.8) | 2.106 | 1.110 |
| Increase the number of livestock | 71 (41.8) | 48 (28.2) | 41 (24.1) | 9 (5.3) | 1 (0.6) | 1.947 | 0.962 |
| Building own business | 79 (46.5) | 39 (22.9) | 43 (25.3) | 7 (4.1) | 2 (1.2) | 1.906 | 0.993 |

Note: 1: Strongly disagree; 2: Disagree; 3: Less agree/ disagree; 4: Agree; 5: Strongly agree

that ALDP can help them to get their own vehicles. This statement has the highest mean score (3.324). Next are the statements that the ALDP increased the ownership of household appliances, can plant other crops such as rubber trees and get involved in livestock (chickens, goats, duck, with the mean score of 3.041, 2.588 and 2.343 respectively.

However, 79 (46.5 percent) of respondents claimed that ALDP did not in any way facilitate the task of building their own business, thus creating the lowest mean score (1.906). In short, the ALDP did not bring many changes in property and asset holdings of the respondents except for vehicle and household utensils. No extension was found in another asset such as house or farm size and other agriculture activities.

Table 9 shows the changes in economic related issues of the respondents. The study discovered that the respondents can afford the monthly house loans through ALDP dividend as the highest mean score (3.777). The ALDP also let the respondents to purchase more grocery and increase their cash income with a mean score of 3.424 and 3.065 respectively. However, ALDP has a low impact on increasing their total savings with the lowest mean score, 2.859. In short, the ALDP brings a positive impact in

TABLE 9
Change in Economic Related Aspects (n=170)

| Change in Economic Related Aspects | Score Frequency (Percentage) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Mean | S.D |
| Afford the monthly house bills | 5 (2.9) | 14 (8.2) | 40 (23.5) | 66 (38.8) | 45 (26.5) | 3.777 | 1.025 |
| Purchase more grocery | 9 (5.3) | 20 (11.8) | 51 (30.0) | 70 (41.2) | 20 (11.8) | 3.424 | 1.019 |
| Cash income increases | 21 (12.4) | 32 (18.8) | 42 (24.7) | 65 (38.2) | 10 (5.9) | 3.065 | 1.142 |
| Able to provide educational opportunities for children to higher level | 17 (10.0) | 35 (20.6) | 64 (37.6) | 48 (28.2) | 6 (3.5) | 2.947 | 1.016 |
| Total savings increased | 26 (15.3) | 38 (22.4) | 48 (28.2) | 50 (29.4) | 8 (4.7) | 2.859 | 1.143 |

Note: 1: Strongly disagree; 2: Disagree; 3: Less agree/ disagree; 4: Agree; 5: Strongly agree

increasing the income and economic status in order to full-fil their daily needs. This is true for the short term benefit but not for the long term benefit where the respondents cannot make enough saving for the future .

## Level of ALDP impact

Table 10 shows the level of ALDP impact on respondents. From the result, the level of impact of ALDP is moderate with a mean of 93.930. Based on the data collection, 120 (70.6 percent) of the respondents are in the moderate level of impact of ALDP, 38 (22.4 percent) in the low level and only 12 (7.1 percent) of the respondents in the high level impact of ALDP. In short, the ALDP has brought moderate impact in their life whether in terms of skills in farm practices, lifestyle, properties and asset holding, income and economy. Rightly, the ALDP as a main tool to develop the economic status must have a big impact on the respondents' livelihood.

### *The Result of the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Analysis*

This part is to determine the relationship between the demographic factors of the respondents and the level of ALDP impact. The selected demographic factors are age, income, and land size, education level and number of dependents.

The result of correlation analysis for a sample of 170 respondents is summarized in Table 11. From the analysis, there is a significant relationship between income of the respondents and the level of ALDP impact at 0.01 level of significance with $r = 0.316$ and $\rho = 0.000$. The same result is also true for correlation analysis between land size and level of

ALDP impact where the study shows that there is a significant relationship between these two variables at 0.01 level of significance with $r = 0.281$ and $\rho = 0.000$. This implies that an increase in the income category and land size will bring a positive impact as a result of ALDP.

TABLE 10
Distribution of Respondent by Level of ALDP Impact (n=170)

| Level | Frequency | Percentage | Mean | S.D |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 93.930 | 23.283 |
| Low (40.0 – 93.0) | 38 | 22.4 | | |
| Moderate (94.0 – 147.0) | 120 | 70.6 | | |
| High (148.0 – 200.0) | 12 | 7.1 | | |

TABLE 11
Independent Variables and the Impact of ALDP (n=170)

| Demographic Factor | r | ρ (2-tailed) |
|---|---|---|
| Age Category | 0.067 | 0.385 |
| Income Category | 0.316** | 0.000 |
| Number of Year Involvement | 0.048 | 0.536 |
| Land Size | 0.218** | 0.000 |
| Number of Dependent | -0.050 | 0.521 |

***Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)*

However, the results also show that for two of these analyses, the relationships between variables are weakly correlated because the r values are between $0.20 < r < 0$ (Guilford, 1956). For correlation analysis of demographic factors, this study revealed that there is no significance between age, number of years of involvement and the number of dependents. The study by Ribka (2008) also showed that age category and number of dependents have no significant relationship with the acceptance of agricultural technology information among respondents as show in this study.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the demographic profile, this study involved Jakun and Semelai ethnic sub-groups with a total of 170 of respondents from Pekan and Rompin district in Pahang. The majority of respondents have an income below RM1000 per month including the dividend given and they work as rubber tappers and forest product suppliers. Their types of jobs showed that Orang Asli population still depends on agriculture and forest to survive. Due to changes in their life style which raised the amount of money they required, the activities of Orang Asli also changed. Thus commercial crops such as rubber and oil palm became their choice for planting while forest produce still had a demand in the market.

The study on level of impact of ALDP shows that the moderate impact of ALDP with respect to skills related to oil palm plantations and farm practices create changes in the aspects of life style, property holding, assets, income and economic status**.** This insight was gained from 120 (70.6 percent) respondents. The correlation between

independent variables and impact of ALDP was also studied. From the results, income category and land size have a significant positive relationship with the impact of ALDP. Increasing this variable will increase the impact of ALDP.

The JAKOA with help from other agencies must empower the Orang Asli in a variety of economic endeavors to improve their source of income. This is to make sure the Orang Asli who are involved in ALDP do not become over dependent on gift or dividends given for their survival. They should teach them to earn profits through other means than commercial crops. This is because depending on forest products only maintains the high level of poverty for those involved in agriculture and forestry. Another source of income is related to tourism, culture and small medium enterprises as already in practice in other communities. Related information should be more frequently introduced and diffused for Orang Asli. Orang Asli needs knowledge about management and value of money in order to avoid being taken advantage of by the middle man as reported by Baharon (1967).

When hope is restored by giving people the 'power', they will find a way to lift themselves out of poverty to reach success and spend their benefit from ALDP in a wise way. This also pertains to the Orang Asli who should learn to handle the farm management on their self without any help from agencies. The main constraint is the capital and knowledge. Empowerment can begin with their local leadership, by building individual and institutional local capacities through training programs. Once they are given this, it will help Orang Asli to develop and manage the development programme independently.

The researcher believes that income level and land size will affect the degree of success of ALDP and other development economic programmes for Orang Asli. By increasing these three factors, they will increase the acceptance toward ALDP. All three items will contribute to the increase of the socio-economic level of these people. So the JAKOA and other agencies that are interested to help this community must be aware that they will have to increase the income level and land size so that the Orang Asli population can feel the impact of this programme in their lives.

It is also suggested that giving land titles to individuals can start with RPS as it was done with FELDA for settlers to create the sense of belonging and security and this will directly encourage them to develop the land as well as to protect their rights as stated in the National Land Code. In addition, Aboriginal Peoples Act 1954 (Act 134) that was enacted to provide protection and security to the Orang Asli during the war against the communism or terrorism should be revised now to make sure it is relevant to the present day situation and fix the needs of Orang Asli especially about having land rights. The change will encourage Orang Asli's participation in mainstream development.

In short, after more than 20 years of ALDP implementation, Orang Asli can diffuse the commercial crop value in their

lives as one innovation to improve their socio-economic status since the moderate impact of ALDP on this study location. In addition, they have their own commercial crops after involvement in ALDP. Hence, the JAKOA, agriculture agencies with the help of the government will try to keep the improvement of this programme an ongoing matter in order to achieve the objectives of the programme. It is hoped that the impact of ALDP will be of greater importance to the participants than at the present. It is the government's aspiration that the Orang Asli community will come into the mainstream of the national economic development while simultaneously acquiring the ability to compete with other races and participate as *1Malaysia* in the efforts to achieve the goal of Vision 2020. The researcher believes that ALDP can be one of the ways for the government to reach this target.

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