



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***RELATIONSHIP AMONG HALAL TRACEABILITY SYSTEM
ADOPTION, HALAL INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS
AND HALAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN PERFORMANCE***

NORASEKIN BT AB RASHID

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By

NORASEKIN BT AB RASHID

**Thesis Submitted to Graduate School of Management,
Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

February 2016

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DEDICATION

To my beloved family:

Lokman Hakimi Bin Lot

Liz Dania Eryna Binti Lokman Hakimi

Luqman Darwisy Izzrizq Bin Lokman Hakimi

Liz Dalisa Idzaara Binti Lokman Hakimi

Thank you for the love and laughter, which are so accommodating. I hope this journey inspires us to be more organized and well prepared for balanced prosperity in this world and hereafter.

To my parents:

Haji Ab Rashid Bin Hussin

Hajjah Mek Som Binti Hj Che Mat

To my parents in law:

Haji Lot Bin Omar

Hajjah Wan Azizah Binti Wan Ismail

Your entire support has always made me strong and raised my enthusiasms in completing this study.

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia
in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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February 2016

Chairman : Associate Professor Jamil Bojei, PhD
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Halal has become one of the features being discussed especially in food production either in Muslim countries or non-Muslim countries due to the increasing demand from customers worldwide. The increase number of cases on the misuse of *Halal* logo and questionable status of *Halal* food has raised many concerns among the Muslim consumers regarding the status of *Halal* food in Malaysia. The various reports on the issues of fraudulent cases and physical contamination in *Halal* food also indicate that there are weaknesses in the procedure of determining *Halal* food.

In this case, food companies must be prepared to implement systematic traceability system to ensure the authenticity of *Halal* products and comprehend the importance of *Halal* industry environmental factors in enhancing integrity of *Halal* food supply chain and performance. Accordingly, the main purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between the *Halal* traceability system adoption and *Halal* industry environmental factors on *Halal* food supply chain integrity and performance.

Using a quantitative research approach, survey questionnaires were distributed to 176 Malaysian *Halal* food and beverages companies through mail and during *Halal* exhibition (i.e., MIHAS and HALFEST). Partial Least Squares (PLS) software was applied to examine the direct and mediating effect hypotheses. The results revealed that *Halal* industry environmental factors have a relationship with *Halal* traceability system adoption. Moreover *Halal* traceability system adoption and *Halal* industry environmental factors were significantly and positively related to the importance of *Halal* food supply chain integrity. Furthermore, the findings also show that *Halal* traceability system adoption and *Halal* food supply chain integrity have significant relationship on *Halal* food supply chain performance. However, *Halal* industry environmental factors were not perceived as important in determining the *Halal* food supply chain performance. The study also found a partial role of *Halal* food supply chain integrity in mediating the relationship between *Halal* traceability system adoption and *Halal* food supply chain performance.

The results will be useful to the Malaysian *Halal* food companies in developing proper strategy to enhance supply chain performance and adopting effective traceability system that can assist those companies in handling *Halal* food products without arousing the *Halal* integrity issues. Policy makers could also benefit from this study by providing advisory services and assistance programs that could help the *Halal* food producers in improving their performance.

The study has successfully filled the gap in literature by empirically establishing the relationship between *Halal* traceability system adoption and *Halal* environmental factors on *Halal* food supply chain integrity and performance. The study has also contributed to the existing body of knowledge in food supply chain by integrating the *Halal* context into current research framework.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**HUBUNGAN DI ANTARA PERLAKSANAAN SISTEM PENGESANAN
HALAL, FAKTOR PERSEKITARAN INDUSTRI HALAL DAN PRESTASI
RANTAIAN BEKALAN MAKANAN HALAL**

Oleh

NORASEKIN BT AB RASHID

Februari 2016

Pengerusi : Profesor Madya Jamil Bojei, PhD
Fakulti : Sekolah Pengajian Siswazah Pengurusan, UPM

Halal telah menjadi salah satu isu yang sering dibincangkan terutama sekali di dalam pengeluaran makanan samada di negara-negara Islam mahupun di negara-negara bukan Islam disebabkan permintaan yang amat tinggi di kalangan pengguna seluruh dunia. Namun begitu, peningkatan kes penyalahgunaan logo Halal dan ketidakpastian status Halal telah menyebabkan pengguna yang beragama Islam musykil dengan status makanan Halal di Malaysia. Pelbagai laporan tentang kes penyalahgunaan serta pencemaran fizikal makanan Halal membuktikan terdapat kelemahan di dalam cara pengesanan makanan Halal.

Maka, syarikat makanan perlu bersedia untuk mengimplimentasi sistem pengesanan yang lebih telus bagi memastikan kesahihan produk Halal dan memahami kepentingan faktor persekitaran industri Halal bagi meningkatkan integriti dan prestasi rantai makanan Halal. Dengan ini, tujuan utama kajian ini dijalankan adalah untuk menguji hubungan di antara pelaksanaan sistem pengesanan Halal dan faktor persekitaran industri Halal terhadap integriti serta prestasi rantai makanan Halal.

Menggunakan pendekatan kajian kuantitatif, soalan kaji selidik telah diedarkan kepada 176 buah syarikat makanan dan minuman Halal melalui pos dan semasa pameran Halal (cth: MIHAS dan HALFEST). Perisian *Partial Least Square (PLS)* digunakan untuk menguji hipotesis kesan secara langsung dan pengantara. Keputusan kajian menunjukkan bahawa faktor persekitaran industri Halal mempunyai pengaruh yang besar ke atas penggunaan sistem pengesanan Halal. Selain itu, penggunaan sistem pengesanan Halal dan faktor persekitaran industri Halal mempunyai kaitan yang positif dan signifikan terhadap kepentingan integriti rantai bekalan makanan Halal. Di samping itu, kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa penggunaan sistem pengesanan Halal dan integriti rantai bekalan makanan Halal mempunyai pengaruh yang besar ke atas prestasi rantai bekalan makanan Halal. Walaubagaimanapun, faktor persekitaran industri Halal tidak begitu penting dalam menentukan prestasi rantai bekalan makanan Halal. Kajian ini juga mendapati

integriti rantaian bekalan makanan Halal memainkan peranan sebagai pengantara separa terhadap pengaruh penggunaan sistem pengesanan Halal dan prestasi rantaian bekalan makanan *Halal*.

Keputusan ini amat berguna kepada syarikat-syarikat makanan Halal di Malaysia dalam membangunkan strategi yang tepat untuk meningkatkan prestasi rantaian bekalan dan menggunakan sistem pengesanan yang berkesan bagi membantu mereka dalam mengendali produk makanan Halal tanpa membangkitkan isu integriti Halal. Pembuat dasar juga boleh mendapat manfaat daripada kajian ini dengan menyediakan khidmat nasihat dan program bantuan yang boleh membantu pengeluar makanan Halal dalam meningkatkan prestasi mereka.

Kajian ini telah berjaya mengisi jurang ilmu dengan mewujudkan secara empirik pengaruh penggunaan sistem pengesanan Halal dan faktor persekitaran terhadap integriti dan prestasi rantaian bekalan makanan Halal. Kajian ini juga telah menyumbang kepada pengetahuan sedia ada dalam rantaian bekalan makanan dengan mengintegrasikan konteks Halal ke dalam rangka kerja penyelidikan semasa.

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I pray that Allah showers all of you with His blessings.

UPM February 16

Norasekin Ab Rashid

I certify that an Examination Committee met on 17th February 2016 to conduct the final examination of Norasekin Bt Ab Rashid on her Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled “Relationship among *Halal* Traceability System Adoption, *Halal* Industry Environmental Factors and *Halal* Food Supply Chain Performance” in accordance with Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U. (A) 106] 15 March 2008. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FAMA	Federal Agriculture Marketing Authority
FSC	Food supply chain
FSCM	Food supply chain management
FTS	Food traceability system
GHP	Good Hygiene Practice
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practices
HACCP	Hazard analysis and critical control point
Hadith	Records of the actions and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)
<i>Halal</i>	Lawful, permissible
<i>Halalan Tayyiban</i>	Dietary concept in Islamic law which refer to permissible and good for consumption or use
HALFEST	<i>Halal</i> Fiesta Malaysia
<i>Haram</i>	Unlawful, prohibited
HDC	<i>Halal</i> Industry Development Corporation
HFSCIn	<i>Halal</i> food supply chain integrity
HFSCPer	<i>Halal</i> food supply chain performance
HIEF	<i>Halal</i> industry environmental factors
HTSA	<i>Halal</i> traceability system adoption
IMP3	The 3rd Industrial Master Plan
ISO	International Standard Organization
JAKIM	Department of Islamic Development in Malaysia
KLIFF	Kuala Lumpur Islamic Financial Forum

MAHA	Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture, and Agrotourism Show
MARDI	Malaysia Agricultural and Development Institute
MATRADE	Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation
MECD	Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Corporation
MIDA	Malaysian Industrial Development Authority
MIHAS	Malaysia International <i>Halal</i> Showcase
MITI	Ministry of International Trade and Industry
MNCs	Multinational Corporations
MOH	Ministry of Health
<i>Quran</i>	The book Muslims believe was revealed by Allah through the Angel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad SAW, the Prophet of Islam
SC	Supply chain
SCM	Supply chain management
<i>Shariah</i>	Islamic law
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SME Corp	Small and Medium Enterprises Corporation
<i>Tayyib</i>	Good and pure
WHF	World <i>Halal</i> Forum
WIFE	World Islamic Economic Forum

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 An Overview

This chapter introduces the background of the study concerning on *Halal* issues, *Halal* food supply chain integrity, traceability system applied in *Halal* food companies, *Halal* industry environmental factors and the food supply chain performance. This chapter also details out the problem statement, overall objectives, and an overview of the conceptual framework. The discussion on the scope and justification for the significance of the study will also be presented in this chapter including the contribution of this study. The overall organization of the thesis wraps up this chapter.

1.2 Background of the Study

Halal issues have been conversed and have gained high attention by the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad since early 2003 (Talib, Ali, & Jamaludin, 2008). According to Kettani (2010), the percentage of the world Muslim population has increased steadily from 17 per cent in 1950 and estimated to be 26 per cent by 2020. Quoting the sources from PEW Research Center (2013), the global Muslim population will be approximately 2.2 billion by 2030.

The *Halal* market has burst up and grown at tremendous rate (Zalina, 2008). According to Global Islamic Economy Report (2015), the worldwide spending on *Halal* food and beverages products has increased at 10.8 per cent to reach USD1.29 billion in 2013, corresponding to 17.7 per cent of the global expenditure. This expenditure is expected to grow to USD2.54 billion by 2019, equal to 21.2 per cent of global expenditure (Global Islamic Economy Report, 2015). Amongst the reason contributing to this market growth is due to the increasing value and diversity of the consumer market, combined with strong demographic trends across the world (Anne-Birte, 2007). In addition, the Islamic consumer market is the fastest growing in the world (Alam & Mohamed, 2011). This is because the *Halal* food consumption is one of the principles set by Islam to determine the level of faith and it is also act of worshipping Allah (Ghazali & Md. Sawari, 2014). Furthermore, *Halal* food has becomes as a standard of choice for both Muslims and non-Muslims (Nawai *et al.*, 2007). This revealed that the global *Halal* food demand is increasing rapidly consequently the whole *Halal* food market.

Conversely, the huge demand of *Halal* food products has led to the increase of supply for *Halal* certificate and logo (Nurulhuda *et al.*, 2009). In Malaysia, the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) is the authority that issued the certification for *Halal* products (Badrudin *et al.*, 2012). JAKIM is entrusted with the responsibility to issue the *Halal* status for local products, foreign manufacturing and processing plants intending to export their *Halal* products to Malaysia (Arif & Sidek, 2015). Generally, Malaysia's *Halal* certification issued by JAKIM is highly

recognized and recommended in the international market due to its stringent criteria and is regarded as having a strong industrial and commercial set up to produce and market *Halal* products as well as having strong relationships with the major trading nations of the world, and strong government support (Badrudin, et al., 2012; Muhammad, Isa, & Kifli, 2009).

In addition, the Malaysian Standard entitled “*Halal* Food: Production, Preparation, Handling and Storage – General Guidelines (Second Revision)” (MS1500:2009) is being used by JAKIM as guidance when issuing the *Halal* certificate (Arif & Sidek, 2015). This standard was developed in accordance with International Standard Organization (ISO) methodologies and was the first *Halal* standard to be developed by a Muslim nation (Mukhtar, 2009). To strengthen its application, this standard is recommended to be used together with MS1480 and MS1514. MS1480 is the standard in food safety according to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system, while the MS1514 is the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for food (First Revision). Both standards cover issues of hygiene, sanitation and food safety aspects in the food processing and preparation chain and also consider the permissible sources of *Halal* food.

Furthermore, with the increase number of non-Muslims dominating the food industry, the status of *Halal* food has become doubtful (Arif & Sidek, 2015). This has lead to the barriers and misconceptions in producing *Halal* food. In this respect, many cases of questionable *Halal* food have been reported in the mass media recently. It seems that several suppliers and manufacturers did not realize the peculiarity in the process of handing *Halal* food (Arif & Sidek, 2015). The production of *Halal* food needs a very cautious understanding throughout the supply chain especially if a product has a complex collection of ingredients (i.e., animal or plant source) and processing aids (al-Mazeedi, Regenstein, & Riaz, 2013).

In addition, Muslims want assurance that the products they consume are a true manifestation of Islamic principles, and should be *Tayyib*, meaning wholesome and good (World Halal Forum, 2009). Thus, the *Halal* food supply chain integrity subject disembarks. According to Batu and Regenstein (2014), it is critical that *Halal* food be prepared in accordance with Islamic rules and that product integrity be maintained throughout the supply chain. Consequently, this will increase the importance of perceptive in factors ensuring the *Halal* food supply chain integrity (Zulfakar, Anuar, & Talib, 2014). Therefore, the adoption of *Halal* traceability system among *Halal* food manufacturers should be addressed due to the increasing demands for better *Halal* food supply chain among customers. This is crucial to diminish and to assure that contamination does not exist throughout the process in handling *Halal* food which is in accordance to Islamic principle.

1.3 Problem Statement

Halal is a *Quranic* word meaning lawful, allowed, and legal or that what is permitted by the lawgiver (Allah). *Halal* is clearly based on values, namely Islamic values (Zakaria & Abdul Talib, 2010). *Halal* has become one of the features being discussed especially in food production either in Muslim countries or non-Muslim countries due to the increasing demand from customers worldwide (Suhaiza *et al.*,

2010a; Malihe, Mohd, & Nizaroyani, 2013) and because of the complexity of the *Halal* food supply chain that includes the aspect of ethics, sustainability and human values (Milestad *et al.*, 2010).

Supply chain management (SCM) in food industry has become an important topic discussed at business schools. From an extensive literature search, it was apparent that most of the recent research done in food supply chain (FSC) focuses on *Halal* issues such as *Halal* in supply chain management (Tieman, 2011; Tieman, Jack, & Maznah, 2012), *Halal* food supply chain (Malihe, Mohd, & Nizaroyani, 2013; Suhaiza *et al.*, 2010a), *Halal* food supply chain integrity (Zulfakar, Anuar, & Talib, 2014; Zulfakar, Jie, & Chan, 2012) and *Halal* traceability in *Halal* food supply chain and *Halal* food production (Suhaiza *et al.*, 2010b; Zurina & Wan Siti Khadijah, 2012; Siti Zakiah *et al.*, 2011).

There are several issues that made Muslim consumers became aware about the status of *Halal* products that they consume. Among them are the issues of food ingredient, food cleanliness, *Halal* food mixing with non-*Halal* food in storage, distribution activities as well as the issue of poultry and meat slaughtering that does not comply with the *Shariah* principles (Omar & Jaafar, 2011). In addition, there are various issues and an increasing number of fraudulent cases such as *Halal* certification and physical contamination (Zulfakar, Jie, & Chan, 2012), *Halal* foods manufacturers do not comply with the regulations set by the Malaysia authorities (Suhaiza *et al.*, 2010b; Arif & Sidek, 2015), discovery of a dirty bread factory that uses *Halal* logo (Daros, 2006), the use of *Halal* logo on food produced from unslaughtered chicken (Berita Harian, 20th February 2008), and the status of catfish which fed with filth or *najs* and catfish fed with feed derived from pig organs in several ponds at Batu Gajah, Tronoh and Papan, Perak (JAKIM, 2006). Recently, on 23rd May 2014, Muslim consumers in Malaysia were shocked with the report by the Ministry of Health (MOH) that Cadbury Dairy Milk Hazelnut and Cadbury Dairy Milk Roast Almond were tested positive for traces of porcine DNA (*New Straits Times*, 5th June 2014).

These issues showed that although current *Halal* standards regulate food production, preparation, handling and storage towards some degree, it does not ensure that the product is *Halal* at the point of consumption (Tieman, 2006). As a result, Muslim consumers nowadays are not only concerned about their food ingredients whether it is *Halal* or not but also curious on the whole activities involved along the supply chain. According to Anir, Nizam, and Masliyana (2008), the Malaysian Muslim consumers are very much concerned about the authenticity of *Halal* food products claimed by food producers. However, according to Bonne and Verbeke (2008), Muslim consumers are lacking of information on supply chain and cannot reassure that no cross-contamination has taken place. Thus, to cope with the growing demand of *Halal* food, a comprehensive food supply chain approach needs to be adopted with the concept of *Halalan Tayyiban*.

As argued by Lada, Tanakinjal, and Amin (2009), Alserhan (2010), Ibrahim and Mokhtarudin (2010), Wilson and Liu (2010), and Tieman (2011), *Halal* needs a supply chain approach, where the value chain and its supply chain should be fully aligned (Christopher, 1998) to fulfill the promise of *Halal* to the end-customer that the food they consume is a subsequent to the Islamic principles. Furthermore, in

Halal food supply chain, the main goal is not only to ensure the customers satisfaction but also to ensure that the *Halal* status of the product remains intact throughout the whole process of the supply chain (Bahrudin, Illyas, & Desa, 2011).

Since the integrity of *Halal* food supply chain has become more essential than ever, the identification of *Halal* food supply chain integrity factors and the *Halal* traceability system implementation play the most important role to ensure the truthfulness of *Halal* food production. In accomplishing these objectives, the *Halal* traceability system has been used to strengthen the *Halal* food supply chain (Suhaiza *et al.*, 2010b) and to sustain the integrity of *Halal* product (Siti, Mohd, & Mohamad, 2011; Zulfakar, Anuar, & Talib, 2014). This is to avoid any misconception in the entire *Halal* food supply chain, hence to attain the *Halal* acceptance quality that will be recognized by other countries. In addition, *Halal* has been accepted as quality attribute where *Halal* refers to nature, origin and processing method of the food product, which entails similarities with organic foods and foods produced by taking animal welfare or sustainability issues into account (Darby & Karni, 1973; Grunert, 2005).

As such, the *Halal* food supply chain integrity has become an increasing concern (Suhaiza *et al.*, 2010a; Lam & Alhashmi, 2008; Zulfakar, Jie, & Chan, 2012; Zulfakar, Anuar, & Talib, 2014). There are several reasons why the *Halal* industry is increasingly engaged with the integrity of *Halal* food chains. First, *Halal* integrity issues are more likely to occur than before, because of increasing complexity of supply chain (Lam & Alhashmi, 2008) and focus on cost reduction in the logistics industry (Wilson & Liu, 2010). Second, the complexity of today's supply chain is making integrity issues harder to detect (Zalina, 2008; Talib, Ali, & Jamaludin, 2008; Shafie & Othman, 2004; Abdul, Ismail, Hashim, & Johari, 2009). Third, the consequences of *Halal* integrity issues in the supply chain have possibly become more costly than before for brand owners and retail chains to repair (Zakaria & Abdul Talib, 2010).

Although numerous studies have been conducted in *Halal* integrity and food supply chain integrity (Abdul & Hazlinda, 2011; Zulfakar, Anuar, & Talib, 2014; Russly & Nurulhidayah, 2013; Ali *et al.*, 2014; Zulfakar, Jie, & Chan, 2012; Suhaiza *et al.*, 2010a), none had focused on identification of factors enhancing *Halal* food supply chain integrity within supply chain partners. According to Malihe *et al.* (2013), to ensure the integrity of *Halal* food production, managing its supply chain needs extra attention. Thus, this study aims to identify the factors enhancing *Halal* food supply chain integrity particularly with regard to supply chain partners such as supplier, manufacturer, control system and customer.

In addition, the integrity of *Halal* food should be monitored so that customers can satisfy with the authenticity of the *Halal* products. Therefore, the traceability can be used to trace the *Halal* status of a particular food product at every stage of the supply chain (Bahrudin, Illyas, & Desa, 2011; Zulfakar, Anuar, & Talib, 2014; Suhaiza *et al.*, 2010b).

According to International Standard Organization - ISO 8402, the general definition of traceability is "the ability to trace the history, application or location of an entity by means of recorded identification" (Bertolini, Bevilacqua, & Massini, 2006;

Canavari *et al.*, 2010; Karlson *et al.*, 2013; Kelepouris, Pramadari, & Doukidis, 2007; Olsen & Aschan, 2010). Suhaiza *et al.* (2010b) added that traceability in the *Halal* industry is defined as a communication tool to ensure that information related to *Halal* food and products is available along the supply chain.

Furthermore, traceability has become a method of providing safer supplies and connecting producers and consumers. According to Zulfakar, Anuar, and Talib, (2014), a comprehensive and reliable traceability system in the *Halal* food supply chain can increase the *Halal* transparency and strengthen the *Halal* integrity. Suhaiza *et al.* (2010b) added that the *Halal* traceability system can also be used to strengthen the *Halal* food supply chain. However, there was no empirical study that focused specifically to show the relationship between *Halal* traceability system adoption and factors enhancing *Halal* food supply chain integrity.

Thus, to help bridge this gap in literature, this study attempts to examine to what extent the *Halal* traceability system adoption is relevant in enhancing the *Halal* food supply chain integrity particularly within supply chain partners. In addition, it is crucial to develop a more comprehensive conceptual framework of factors enhancing the *Halal* food supply chain integrity. Hence, this study is considered as a major attempt for contribution to the existing body of knowledge in the *Halal* food industries.

Furthermore, this study will also try to justify the significance between *Halal* industry environmental factors, *Halal* traceability system adoption and *Halal* food supply chain integrity on *Halal* food supply chain performance. Environmental factors are the general environment, or sometimes are referred as macroenvironment (Mohamed, Ann, & Yee, 2010), that directly or indirectly influence firms in an industry (Talib & Hamid, 2014). In addition, according to van der Vorst (2000), supply chain performance is the degree to which a supply chain fulfills end user requirements.

However, to optimize the *Halal* food industries supply chain, new indicators should be included in the performance measurement to ensure that the supply chains are not only efficient but also effective in protecting the *Halal* integrity and robust in its supply chain executions (Tieman, van der Vorst, & Maznah, 2012). Therefore, the measurement of the entire supply chain is important because measurement affects decision making and organizations in a *Halal* food supply chain depend on each other. Whereas, research on performance measurement in supply chain has received much attention, research on measuring performance in the *Halal* food supply chain has received little attention in the literature. Thus, the knowledge gap will be fulfilled in this study.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

From the above discussion, the objectives of the study have been articulated in the form of general and specific objectives that are linked to the problem statement of this study.

1.4.1 General Objective

In general, this study tries to examine the relationship between the *Halal* traceability system adoption and *Halal* industry environmental factors on *Halal* food supply chain performance through *Halal* food supply chain integrity. As such, this study also aims to investigate the factors enhancing the *Halal* food supply chain integrity particularly within supply chain partners. This will be dealt with accordingly in sub section 1.4.2 below.

1.4.1 Research Objectives (ROs)

Specifically, to make the study more explainable, the followings are specific research objectives of the study:

- RO₁: To examine the relationship between *Halal* industry environmental factors (HIEF) and *Halal* traceability system adoption (HTSA).
- RO₂: To determine the relationship between *Halal* industry environmental factors (HIEF) and *Halal* food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn).
- RO₃: To investigate the relationship between *Halal* industry environmental factors (HIEF) and *Halal* food supply chain performance (HFSCPer) through *Halal* food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn).
- RO₄: To determine the relationship between *Halal* traceability system adoption (HTSA) and *Halal* food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn).
- RO₅: To examine the relationship between *Halal* traceability system adoption (HTSA) and *Halal* food supply chain performance (HFSCPer) through *Halal* food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn).
- RO₆: To investigate the relationship between *Halal* food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn) and *Halal* food supply chain performance (HFSCPer).

To achieve the stated objectives above, this study proposed several research questions that need to be answered and the development of hypotheses to be discussed in the next session.

1.5 Research Questions (RQs)

The study is directed towards answering several research questions (RQs) concerning the *Halal* industry environmental factors (HIEF), *Halal* traceability system adoption (HTSA), *Halal* food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn), and *Halal* food supply chain performance (HFSCPer):

- RQ₁: Does *Halal* industry environmental factors (HIEF) have a significant relationship towards *Halal* traceability system adoption (HTSA)?

- RQ₂: Does *Halal* industry environmental factors (HIEF) have a significant relationship towards *Halal* food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn)?
- RQ₃: Does *Halal* industry environmental factors (HIEF) have a significant relationship towards *Halal* food supply chain performance (HFSCPer) through *Halal* food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn)?
- RQ₄: Does *Halal* traceability system adoption (HTSA) has a significant relationship towards *Halal* food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn)?
- RQ₅: Does *Halal* traceability system adoption (HTSA) has a significant relationship towards *Halal* food supply chain performance (HFSCPer) through *Halal* food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn)?
- RQ₆: Does *Halal* food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn) has a significant relationship towards *Halal* food supply chain performance (HFSCPer)?

Table 1.1 lists the research questions and hypotheses (from Chapter 4) corresponding to the specific objectives, together with dimensions and analyses to be used.

Table 1.1: Research Objectives, Research Questions, Hypotheses, Dimensions, and Analysis

Research Objectives (RO)	Research Questions (RQ)	Hypotheses	Dimensions	Analyses
RO ₁ : To examine the relationship between <i>Halal</i> industry environmental factors (HIEF) and <i>Halal</i> traceability system adoption (HTSA).	RQ ₁ : Does HIEF have a significant relationship towards HTSA?	H ₁ : <i>Halal</i> industry environmental factors (HIEF) have a significant relationship on the degree of <i>Halal</i> traceability system adoption (HTSA).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIEF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Political-legal ○ Economic ○ Socio-cultural ○ Technological • HTSA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supplier Traceability ➤ Producer Traceability ➤ Logistics Traceability ➤ End User Traceability 	PLS-SEM Analysis
RO ₂ : To determine the relationship between HIEF and HFSCIn.	RQ ₂ : Does HIEF have a significant relationship towards HFSCIn?	H ₂ : <i>Halal</i> industry environmental factors (HIEF) have a significant relationship on the importance of <i>Halal</i> food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIEF • HFSCIn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supplier level ○ Manufacturer level ○ Customer level ○ Control system level 	PLS-SEM Analysis
RO ₃ : To investigate the relationship between HIEF and HFSCIn through HFSCPer.	RQ ₃ : Does HIEF have a significant relationship towards HFSCPer through HFSCIn?	<p>H_{3a}: <i>Halal</i> industry environmental factors (HIEF) have a significant relationship on the <i>Halal</i> food supply chain performance (HFSCPer).</p> <p>H_{3b}: <i>Halal</i> industry environmental factors (HIEF) have a direct relationship on <i>Halal</i> food supply chain performance (HFSCPer) and indirect relationship on HFSCPer through <i>Halal</i> food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIEF • HFSCPer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Effectiveness perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process quality • Waste • Efficiency • HFSCIn 	PLS-SEM Analysis - Mediating analysis

RO ₄ : To determine the relationship between HTSA and <i>Halal</i> food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn).	RQ ₄ : Does HTSA has a significant relationship towards HFSCIn?	H ₄ : <i>Halal</i> traceability system adoption (HTSA) has a significant relationship on the importance of <i>Halal</i> food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTSA • HFSCIn 	PLS-SEM Analysis
RO ₅ : To examine the relationship between HTSA and <i>Halal</i> food supply chain performance (HFSCPer) through HFSCIn.	RQ ₅ : Does HTSA has a significant relationship towards HFSCPer through HFSCIn?	<p>H_{5a}: <i>Halal</i> traceability system adoption (HTSA) has a significant relationship on the <i>Halal</i> food supply chain performance (HFSCPer).</p> <p>H_{5b}: <i>Halal</i> traceability system adoption (HTSA) has a direct relationship on <i>Halal</i> food supply chain performance (HFSCPer) and indirect relationship on HFSCPer through <i>Halal</i> food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTSA • HFSCPer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Effectiveness perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process quality • Waste ➢ Efficiency Perspectives ➢ Robustness • HFSCIn 	PLS-SEM Analysis - Mediating analysis
RO ₆ : To investigate the relationship between HFSCIn and HFSCPer.	RQ ₆ : Does HFSCIn has a significant relationship towards HFSCPer?	H ₆ : <i>Halal</i> food supply chain integrity (HFSCIn) has a significant relationship on <i>Halal</i> food supply chain performance (HFSCPer).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HFSCIn • HFSCPer 	PLS-SEM Analysis

Notes: Factors enhancing the *Halal* food supply chain integrity have been divided into supplier level, manufacturer level, control system level and customer level. Additional dimensions involved are *Halal* industry environment factors, *Halal* traceability system adoption, and *Halal* food supply chain performance that covered the whole research objectives and research questions. *Please refer Chapter 4 for the development of research hypotheses in this study.

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

This section outlines the organization of the whole thesis and contents for each chapter.

Chapter one is the introduction of the thesis. It explains the background of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, research questions and the significance of the study. This chapter ends up with the overall organization of the thesis to make the research process clearer.

Chapter two deals with the overview, discussion and explanation pertaining to the food industry particularly on the *Halal* processed food industry in Malaysia. This chapter also reveals the discussion on challenges and strategies in the development of *Halal* industry.

Chapter three reviews the pertinent literature relating to the research undertaken. This chapter begins with an extensive discussion of the definition of *Halal* and followed by the literature relevant to the supply chain management in general and finally focused on the *Halal* food traceability, *Halal* industry environmental factors, *Halal* food supply chain integrity, and *Halal* food supply chain performance.

Chapter four of this thesis explains the conceptual framework for the current study that is in line with the literature study. It also includes explanation of theories underlying the development of proposed research framework for the present study and the development of research hypotheses.

Chapter five discusses the methodology of the study. The discussions are mostly referring to the research paradigm, research design, sampling (design, size and procedure), data collection methods and questionnaire development. The selection of Partial Least Square (PLS) method as data analysis tool will be discussed in detail.

Chapter six provides quantitative data analysis of current study which includes preliminary analysis, measurement model assessment, structural model assessment and mediating analysis.

Chapter seven, which is the final chapter of the thesis, concludes the findings drawn from quantitative studies. This chapter also highlights the implications of the study for academics, practitioners, and policy makers, besides identify its limitations and future research avenues. All chapters are interconnected in order to meet the objectives of the study and contribute to the body of knowledge and practical applications for the industry of interest.

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