

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

FACTORS INFLUENCING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES ADOPTION AMONG FOOD AND BEVERAGE SMEs IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

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Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Science

April 2019

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in Fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science

FACTORS INFLUENCING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES ADOPTION AMONG FOOD AND BEVERAGE SMEs IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

By

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April 2019

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SMEs in manufacturing sector has a crucial role in contributing to Malaysian economy specifically, the food and beverages sector in fulfilling the increasing demand for food in Malaysia. However, there is a rising concern regarding issues on the environmental degradation caused by the aforementioned sector. Sustainable manufacturing practices have been identified as an approach to minimize the effect of manufacturing activities towards environmental degradation.

Thus, the specific objectives of this study were to examine the sustainable manufacturing practices undertaken by the SMEs manufacturers; to identify the association between business profile of SMEs manufacturers and the adoption of sustainable manufacturing practices; to determine the factors that motivate SMEs manufacturers to adopt sustainable manufacturing practices and to predict the most influential factors influencing the SMEs manufacturers towards the adoption of sustainable manufacturing practices.

A total of 378 food and beverages SMEs were selected as respondents and the questionnaires were distributed. Only 375 of the questionnaires were used for analysis, while three questionnaires were discarded due to the incomplete information. The data was analysed using several statistical analyses, namely descriptive analysis, mean ranking analysis, Chi-Square analysis, factor analysis, and logistic regression analysis.

Based on the descriptive analysis, majority of the food and beverages SMEs participated in this research have annual sales turnover between RM300000 to RM15 Millions, which are categorized as small SMEs. Mean ranking analysis showed that most of the SMEs reasoned they have never received summons on environmental problems as the basis to not adopt sustainable practices. Chi-square analysis was conducted to investigate the association between business profile of food and beverages SME's and the adoption of sustainable practices. The result showed that adoption of sustainable practices has positive significant association with region of SMEs.

The factor analysis revealed four main factors that influenced the adoption of sustainable practices, namely knowledge, economic benefit, stakeholder demand, and financial incentives. Finally, the logistic regression analysis indicated that knowledge, annual sales turnover, and region were the most influential factors that influenced the adoption of sustainable practices among food and beverages SMEs. Based on the findings from the present study, it is highly recommended to involve related agencies to improve the adoption of sustainable practices by providing training programmes to extend the knowledge on sustainable practices among food and beverages SMEs.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master Sains

FAKTOR MEMPENGARUHI PENERAPAN AMALAN PEMBUATAN LESTARI DALAM KALANGAN PENGILANG MAKANAN DAN MINUMAN PERUSAHAAN KECIL DAN SEDERHANA

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Sektor pembuatan Perusahaan Kecil Sederhana (PKS) memainkan peranan yang penting dalam pembangunan ekonomi Malaysia dan sektor pembuatan makanan dan minuman PKS khususnya dalam memenuhi permintaan makanan yang semakin meningkat di Malaysia. Walau bagaimanapun, terdapat kebimbangan yang meningkat mengenai isu kemusnahan alam sekitar kesan daripada pertumbuhan sektor ini. Amalan pembuatan lestari dilihat sebagai salah satu cara untuk meminimumkan kesan aktiviti pembuatan terhadap kemusnahan alam sekitar.

Oleh itu, objektif khusus kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji amalan pembuatan lestari yang dikendalikan oleh pengilang PKS; untuk mengenal pasti hubungan antara profil pemilik syarikat PKS dengan penerapan amalan pembuatan lestari; untuk menentukan faktor-faktor yang mendorong penerapan amalan pembuatan lestari oleh para pengusaha PKS dan untuk meramalkan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi pengeluar PKS untuk menerapkan amalan pembuatan lestari.

Sejumlah 378 pengusaha makanan dan minuman PKS dipilih sebagai responden dan soalan kaji selidik telah diagihkan kepada PKS yang terpilih. Hanya 375 soalan kaji selidik yang digunakan untuk dianalisis manakala tiga telah dikecualikan oleh kerana data tidak lengkap. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan beberapa analisis statistik seperti analisis deskriptif, analisis purata kedudukan (mean ranking analysis), analisis Khi kuasa dua, analisis faktor, dan analisis regrasi logistik.

Berdasarkan analisis deskriptif, majoriti pengeluar makanan dan minuman PKS yang mengambil bahagian dalam penyelidikan mempunyai perolehan jualan tahunan diantara RM300000 ke RM15 juta . Hasil analisis purata kedudukan menunjukkan bahawa

kebanyakan wakil syarikat PKS menyatakan bahawa alasan untuk tidak mengamalkan amalan pembuatan lestari adalah kerana mereka tidak pernah menerima saman berkaitan isu alam sekitar. Analisis (Chi-square) telah dijalankan untuk menyiasat perkaitan antara profil syarikat PKS dan penerapan amalan pembuatan lestari. Keputusan analisa menunjukkan bahawa penerapan amalan pembuatan lestari mempunyai hubungan positif yang signifikan dengan lokasi sesebuah PKS.

Analisis faktor menujukkan terdapat empat faktor yang mempengaruhi penerapan amalan pembuatan lestari adalah tahap pengetahuan, faedah ekonomi, keputusan pihak berkepentingan, dan insentif kewangan. Akhir sekali,, analisis regresi logistik menunjukkan bahawa tahap pengetahuan, lokasi sesebuah PKS dan jumpah perolehan tahunan adalah faktor utama yang paling berpengaruh dalam mempengaruhi penerapan amalan pembuatan lestari dalam kalangan pengusaha makanan dan minuman PKS. Oleh yang demikian, peranan agensi yang berkaitan dalam meningkatkan penggunaan amalan pembuatan lestari amat disyorkan. Adalah disyorkan bahawa agensi yang berkaitan harus menyediakan program latihan untuk meningkatkan tahap pengetahuan dan kesedaran pemilik syarikat/pekerja syarikat/wakil syarikat) tentang amalan pembuatan lestari dalam kalangan pengusaha makanan dan minuman PKS.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SME	Small and Medium Enterprises		
NSDC	National SME Development Council		
GDP	Gross Domestic Products		
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry		
MITI	Ministry of International Trade and Industry		
IMP	Industrial Malaysian Plan		
TQM	Total Quality Management		
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility		
TPS	Toyota Production System		
GHG	Greenhouse Gas		
TBL	Triple Bottom Line		
LSC	Lean Supply Chain		
GTFS	Green Technology Financing Scheme		
EMS	Environmental Management System		
F&B	Food and Beverages		

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter embarks on a description on SMEs development and contribution of SMEs towards the country's economy. It will include the overview of sustainable practices, the impact of daily operation by the food and beverage SME's, problem statement of the study, research objectives, and research questions, followed by significance of the study.

1.1 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Development in Malaysia.

Malay Peninsula or Malaya, during the fourteenth has been trading variety of commodities anchoring in porcelain and spices for its economy development. While the Malayan economy concentrated mainly on the production of worldwide commodities, palm oil, and tin rubber in the seventeenth century. Commodity based economy has impacted the country positively that it is continued upon achieving independence since 1957 to 1970s. Those years have observed a high involvement of SMEs in Malaysian especially in agricultural and small services like wholesaling, and restaurants retailing and restaurant (Ahmad, 2012).

Strong economic growth in the late 1980s stems from the Malaysian economy's variegation from the mining and agricultural industries to production activities (Aris, 2007). According to Gomez and Jomo (1998), during the late 1980s, Malaysia is known for its success in being one of the world's main exporter of palm oil, tin, tropical 75 timbers, rubber, pepper, and petroleum in accordance to the rapid developing manufacturing sector. The manufacturing sector performs a role in growing Malaysian exports, particularly electrical and electronic products, and becomes the key factor in boosting fast economic growth. The economic transition causes the basis of numerous small and medium-sized firms specifically in the manufacturing industry. However, in the late 1980s, the development plans for SMEs, particularly hub on the domestic oriented market, small scale industries, and the bumiputera commercial and industrial community specifically (NSDC, 2005).

The elements of small and medium-sized enterprise became increasingly noteworthy in the Malaysian economy around mid 1990s. These enterprises have become mediums to generate domestic led investment, stimulate economic expansion, and increase job chances due to the Asian financial crissis in 1997-1998 as well as the globalization force (Aris, 2007). As a conclusion, small and medium-sized enterprises have been converted and reinforced as a instrument for strengthening national capital while establishing useful links in the growth of a wide, competitive production sector globally. SMEs have continuously risen and many operations promoted by the Malaysian government have been included. The companies also participate extensively in service operations instead of concentrating on manufacturing and agricultural operations and have proved flexible in the evolving company environment (NSDC, 2009/10).

The year 2004 marked the establishment of the National Council for SME Development (NSDC) as another component of the development of Malaysia's SMEs. NSDC is responsible for formulating SME development policies across all economic sector, managing SME programs introduced by associated ministries and agencies, promoting collaboration with the private sector and ensuring the efficient execution of the SME development programs in this nation as a whole. The policies launched by the NSDC include improving access to finance, financial reorganization, consultancy facilities, data, coaching and advertising coordination, and a extensive SME database to monitor SMEs ' advancement across all economic industries. Small and Medium Industries Development Corporation (SMIDEC) was assigned by NSDC in 2007, formally renamed SME Corporation Malaysia in 2009, to draw up general policies and strategies for SMEs and to coordinate programs across all associated ministries and agencies. The government remains to conduct multiple SME development programs through its ministries and organizations in line with the macro objectives set under the SME Masterplan and one of the main objectives of the SME Masterplan is to increase SME productivity levels.

Thus, the aim in 2016 was to remain focus on critical areas such as innovation and technology implementation as well as the development of human resources that will further stimulate SME development in the economy. The programmes also adressed other key issue affecting the operation of SMEs, such as acess to financing and market. In 2017, a sum of RM10.5 billion was invested on implementing 168 SME development programmes, benefiting approximately 600,000 SMEs across all industries. Our SMEs encounter huge competition against those who are in more advanced economies therefore the Government has reestablished the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development in 2018 to help stimulate the growth of SMEs. A revision of the definition was carried out in 2013 and a new definition of SMEs was approved in July 2013 at the 14th NSDC meeting. On 1st January 2014, the new definition of SMEs became effective. The simplified definition as shown in Table 1:1 below.

	Manufacturing	Services and Other Sectors	
Micro	Sales turnover < RM 300000 OR <	Sales turnover < RM300000 OR < 5	
	5 full-time employees full-time employees		
Small	Sales turnover from RM300000 to < Sales turnover from RM300000 to -		
	RM15 million OR full-time	RM3 million or full-time employees	
	employees from 5 to < 75	from 5 to < 30	
Medium	Sales turnover from RM15 million	Sales turnover from RM3 million to	
	to < RM50 million OR full-time	< RM20 million OR full-time	
	employees from 75 to < 200	employees from 30 to < 75	

Table 1.1: SME Definition

Source: SME Corp, 2014

1.2 SME's Contribution to Economy

Based on data from the Department of Statistics Malaysia, SMEs ' real GDP performance has continuously outperformed the overall economy with an average annual growth rate of 6.6% for SMEs compared with 5.2% for the overall GDP in the 2011-2017. This has led in an increase in SMEs ' contribution to overall GDP from 32.2% in 2010 to 37.1% in 2017.

Small and medium-sized companies accounted for 37.1% of gross domestic product (GDP), 66.0% of employment and 17.3% of exports in 2017 compared with 2016. The latest statistic in Malaysia is a total enterprise 907,065 enterprise that is active and still in operation and from the total is the enterprise from the category of micro, small, and medium enterprises involved in the service sector (89.2%), manufacturing sector (5.3%), the construction (4.3%), agricultural (1.1%) and quarrying sector (0.1%) (SME Annual Report 2017/2018). The contribution of this industry in the context of economic development of the country is seen highly especially in the production of food products that meet the specifications of the international standard.

The manufacturing industry adds 21.5 per cent to the total GDP of SMEs in 2017, based on Table 1.2 (SME Annual Report 2017/2018).

 Table 1.2: SME GDP and Overall GDP by Key Economic Activity in 2017 (constant 2010 prices)

	2010 prices) 2017 (Percentage share to Total (%)		
	SME GDP	Overall GDP	
Services	59.7	54.5	
Manufacturing	21.5	23.0	
Agriculture	11.2	8.2	
Construction	5.8	4.6	
Mining & Quarrying	0.4	8.4	
Plus: import duties	1.4	1.4	
Total	100.0	100.0	

Source: SME Annual Report 2017/2018

On the basis of Figure 1.1, in the manufacturing industry, food, drinks and tobacco accounted for 21.8% of SMEs the total value added. It demonstrates that the food and beverage industry make a significant contribution to the manufacturing sector of SMEs.



Figure 1.1: Value Added Components of Manufacturing SMEs for 2017

SMEs have opened up employment possibilities, increased income and changed the life of populations and formed the vital construction blocks for bigger companies. As a result, the position of SMEs in a working business system is increasingly being realized globally. Malaysia's SMEs are becoming a main development catalyst to achieve a strong revenue and inclusive country by 2020.

Human population had been increased day by day and it had caused the increasing in the food products productivity. Human need foods to live, thus, manufacturers are forced to increase their production scale as a result from the growing demand of food products. Food industry has developed remarkably in the past two decades from the Malaysian food industry perspectives and is extremely important to the Malaysian economy. Food industry is crucial for Malaysia's development because it contributes greatly to Malaysian trade. The food production sector accounts for about 10% of the manufacturing industry in Malaysia and Malaysian Investment Development Authority (2014) disclosed that Malaysia produced approximately RM14.2 billion food products in 2013 and shipped them to over 200 nations worldwide. To date, in 2017, processed food has contributed RM21.1 billion and shipped out to more than 200 countries, while the value of imported processed food is RM20.7 billion (Malaysian Investment Development Authority, 2018).

The food commodities sub-sector is projected to expand at an average rate of 7.6 percent per year owing to enhanced of the production effectiveness as stated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Based Industry (MOA). For that reason, Malaysian food processing industry will be encourage and boost up so that it become crucial element of the agro-based industry. In the Third Industrial Malaysian Plan 2006-2020 (IMP3), the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) granted a total of RM24.6 billion to aid the food and beverage production sector.

1.3 Environmental Issues

Basic resources like land, water and energy are going to be utilized by the SME's micro, small, medium or large and in any industry that includes manufacturing, agriculture or even services (Nik Wan, Asar, Mohamed Zain, 2017). Thus, smaller size is not a reason for SMEs to disregard their effects either on the social issues or on the ecological issues. Out-dated technologies, lack of efficiency in raw material management and lack of awareness with legislation as well as pollution control facilities are still used by most of the SMEs these days (Condon, 2004; Feil, de Quevedo, & Schreiber, 2015).

Papargyropoulou, Wright, Lozano, Steinberger, Padfield & Ujang (2016) added it is inevitable that the edible food waste are disposed to landfill despite the growing realization and interest towards minimizing the food waste initiatives. Food waste anaerobic digestion in landfill generates methane that is twenty-one times more powerful than carbon dioxide. Hussin (2015) also stated that, as the amount of landfill produced continues to grow alongside cities ' limitations on handling it, food packaging strongly linked to this sector requires comprehensive systematic waste management.

Hussin (2015) explained that, sample surveys in United States estimate that processed food moves over more than 1,300 miles, while fresh produce travels lengthy distances. Consequently, an immense quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) produced along the way is the outcome of the use of massive quantities of fossil particularly by imported food. Furthermore, the approximately 11% of the worldwide food system's GHG emissions are due to the food's transportation. Related to both climate change and sustainability of the food production and distribution system, food miles and CO2 emissions' argument are growing mainly in developed world economies. Exporting and importation in business activities for food producing will come along a high price; in distinction with a number of environmental activist who presume it as detrimental to environment, harm regional economies, and hinder several aspects of communities such as induced noise and accidental rate. As a consequence, food processing and production were accused of being one of the main contributors to disrupting the sustainability of the ecosystem.

Papargyropoulou, Lozano, Steinberger, Wright, & Ujang (2014) added that land, air, and water contamination from food's manufacturing processes, and rapid increase of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission from within the decomposition of organic waste and the food supply chain are the effects from the food production and consumption. Besides, Searchinger, Hanson, Ranganathan, Lipinski, Watie, Winterbottom, Dinshaw, & Heimlich (2013) revealed that GHG releases from food production and consumption are predicted to proceed to grow in light of the exponential growth of the human population. In addition, increase in the complexity of worldwide food supply chains is the result from the increase of consumers' demand on seasonal and more varied food products. (Padfield, Papargyropoulou, & Preece, 2012).

Result from research study on food, greenhouse gas emission and the changing climate by Garnett & Garnett (2008) disputed that worldwide environmental degradation was caused by food production and consumption. According to Hillary (2000), the estimated collective communal of small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) manufacturing operations towards the ecosystem, which is noteworthy and could exceed the overall environmental impact of large companies was disputed despite the fact that many prior research focused on the environmental impact of large companies. In short, the fact that greater consideration need to be considered to the SMEs industries in the environmental management and social literatures may be debated.

A MARDI research revealed an alarming statistic that 15,000 tons of food is wasted every day. Food waste in Malaysia has hit a critical point, as statistics from the Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation (SWCorp) report that 55% of solid waste disposed in landfills consists of food. Malaysians allegedly have at least 3,000 metric tons of food per day that is still eligible for consumption, with the quantity increasing during the festive times (The Star 2018). In addition, food represented between 31% and 45% of the 36,000 tons of waste produced annually by Malaysians. The treatment procedure for all the food waste and the transportation to treatment plants needs more fuel for transportation. The process of producing, packaging and transporting food waste involves built-in energy expenses equivalent to at nearly 15 million tons of carbon dioxide annually (Latip, Sharkawi, Sharifuddin, & Mohamed, 2018).

As a result of the above mentioned, the important stakeholders of the manufacturing industry are becoming more responsible to the environment with respects to the products and the process. These people comprise of regulatory policy makers, shareholders, customers, and employees on the manufacturing organizations (Gomez, 2008; Rusinko, 2007). Sustainable practices were therefore required and seen as a primary source of improved company performance by many manufacturing firms in many countries around the globe, including the Asia-Pacific region, the United Kingdom and the United States (Anis, & Nurul, 2012; Seidel, Shahbazpour, & Seidel, 2007).

1.4 Overview of Sustainable Manufacturing Practices

Research from Carley, Jasinowski, Glassley, Strahan, Attari, & Shackelford (2014) revealed that scholars, industry, governments, and trade associations used many different definitions of sustainable manufacturing. Over time, the definition of sustainable manufacturing has evolved as more studies are conducted and develop a better understanding on sustainable manufacturing concept. There are two independent element yet related in sustainable manufacturing. It included the products that use minimum material or energy resources when it being produced, and minimize the environmental impacts along their life cycle stage. There are four main concepts of sustainable practices namely Total Quality Management (TQM), and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) lean and green practices. It includes operations in reducing waste, and at the same time focused on ethical commitment (Carley *et al.*, 2014).

Another study by Miller, Pawloski, & Stanridge (2010) added that lean manufacturing which is synonymous with The Toyota Production System (TPS) began in Japan after World War II. Eliminating waste, which results in greater efficiencies, is the idea behind TPS and "lean". The waste involves overproduction, human capital, inventory, movement, correction, over-processing and storage. Lean manufacturing strategies enhanced business efficiency by improving manufacturing productivity by decreasing set-up times and work in process inventory that improve throughput times (Tu *et al.*, 2006). Moreover, Lopes, Freitas & Saousa (2015) stated that increasing flexibility in production and reducing lead times are the outcome of lean practices being adopted by Portuguese food and beverage firms.

Research conducted by Rusinko (2007) on green manufacturing found to imply environmentally safe, the word "green" is frequently used. The Green Party first developed this ideology in Australia in the early 1970s. Specifically, it seeks to eradicate or minimize waste that has a negative impact on the atmosphere, "green" production, sometimes referred to as sustainable production. Such disposal products are hazardous to the environment and natural resources. In addition to the end product, green production also involves the awareness of the life cycle of a product. This implies that the elements and equipment produced and used along the supply chain are sort, toxicity, and emissions of products used at every stage along the supply chain are intentional when a item is produced.

Carley et al. (2014) disclosed that the usually quoted and mentioned "Triple Bottom Line" or simply "people, planet, profits" is included in many businesses' sustainable attempts. Study on the implementation of TQM in the food industry in Germany shows positive effects on the achievement of the business through the adoption of methods (Morath & Doluschitz, 2009). The TQM of W. Edwards Deming is also essential for sustainable production. It enables a business to produce more sustainably by being more effective and using less natural resources; however, in the name of sustainability, most firms will not risk their product's worth (Morath & Doluschitz, 2009).

The concept of corporate social responsibility is above and beyond the organizations' production of quality products and the company's bottom line which is to have morality and ethics to employees, suppliers, customers, and local community The phrase "corporate social responsibility" has been used by business since at least 1960s (Carley *et al.*, 2014). Besides, Collins, Roper, & Lawrence (2010) agreed that 'corporate ' duties and how a business handles its staff and their communities are part of social responsibility. Littig, & Grießler (2005) added that social accountability relies on integrating procedures and strategies that are aware of social effects in business day-to-day activities. Included in social responsibility practices are those related to fundamental needs and quality of life, volunteers, integration into social networks and gender equity, labour practices and human rights (Lankoski, 2008), training employees in sustainability, sustainable education, and outreach (Rusinko, 2007).

The result from research study on the concept of sustainable manufacturing by Moldavska & Welo (2017) concluded that all of the principles which are lean, green,

TQM, and CSR are employed in today's sustainable manufacturing. Results from sustainable production strategies were reduced energy and water, waste reduction, and awareness of the impacts of manufacturing processes on workers and local communities. To sum up, we define sustainable production as using less power and resources to generate a product that is just as effective and of the same quality as a replacement product.

Guide, Harrison, & Van Wassenhove (2003) clarified that, among other attempts, sustainability initiatives are driven by government engagement to greenhouse gas (GHG) emission decrease. Many of the firms' owner attempts to implement similar initiatives given the equilibrium between the three dimensions known as economics, nature and social issues differ significantly across businesses. Some argue that achieving this equilibrium in the commercial globe is highly difficult and say, "In some instances, sustainable solutions will never be lucrative, regardless of how smart or creative the business model is."

The majority of small and medium-sized enterprises claim some awareness, but many of them still absence knowledge of the meaning of sustainable production. If they do not understand the significance of the word, the producers will experience an issue in applying the methods. Companies think that government plays an important part in promoting producers to embrace sustainable production methods, but there is little public stress in the Caribbean for producers to pursue sustainable activities. The majority of companies think that the government can provide economic rewards in the form of tax cuts and green plans in an attempt to motivate producers to implement sustainability procedures in their manufacturing operations (Millar & Russell, 2011).

In a research of 304 UK producers, the customer's pressure, laws and regulation are disclosed as the main internal drivers for the implementation of sustainable manufacturing techniques (Millar & Russell, 2011). In other hand, a study of 811 Small and medium sized enteprises in New Zealand revealed that they do not confront with any outside force to implement sustainable strategies (Lawrence, Collins, Pavlovich, & Arunachalam, 2006). It demonstrates that local companies still adopt sustainable manufacturing methods, even in the lack of rigorous legislative requirements. Sustainable manufacturing practices are aimed to optimize production efficiency while minimizing environmental impact. The implementation of sustainable manufacturing practices are optimize these days. Hence, firms are able to get better access to international markets, enhance business profile, consumer perception and corporate reputation as well as increasing the manufacturing capacity (Adebambo, Ashari, & Nordin, 2015).

1.5 Problem Statement

From Malaysian food and beverages industry points of view, the industry has developed fundamentally and plays a part in Malaysian economy. The sector accounted for 21.8% of total value-added of SMEs in manufacturing sector. Due to the expanding of human populace, the demand for food is also increasing causing the food and beverages

manufacturers to increase their production volume. Despite the contribution of the food and beverage industry to the Malaysian economy, this sector's growth has led in severe economic effects such as greenhouse gas emissions and solid waste generation (Latip, Sharkawi, Sharifuddin, Mohamed, 2018). Within the food production supply chain, the focus is highlighted to the greenhouse gas emission as the consequence of large energy usage, chlorofluorocarbon from food refrigeration and embedded emission once food is wasted. One way to address the environmental impacts in the food and beverage sector is to increase adoption of sustainable practices in the production phase (Salim & Padfield, 2017).

Implementing sustainable methods in manufacturing activities promotes the development of manufactured item that use a minimum amount of material / energy resources and have minimal environmental impacts throughout their life cycle stages. In addition, the exercise promotes sustainable procedures, manufacturing technologies and supply chains to maintain substance / energy reserves and minimize environmental impacts. Besides that, the pressure also comes from the government, policy makers and consumer for food and beverages manufacturers to engage in sustainable practices. This concern has necessitated the need to implement sustainable manufacturing practices which is aim at reducing the negative impact of manufacturing sector focusing on food and beverages industries daily operation on the environment.

While sustainable practices are practiced and extensively researched in developed countries, its advocacy and implementation in developing countries is still in its infancy. (Abdul Rashid, Sakundarini, Ariffin & Ramayah, 2017). Therefore, this study seeks at providing insights into drivers of sustainable practices in developing countries, particularly in Malaysia concentrating on food and beverages SMEs.

1.6 Research Questions

- i. What are the sustainable practices undertaken by the SMEs in manufacturing sector focusing on food and beverages industries?
- ii. Is there any association between business profile of food and beverages SME's and the adoption level of sustainable practices?
- iii. What are the factors that influence the food and beverages SME's towards the adoption of sustainable practices?

.7 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to study the adoption of sustainable practices among SMEs in manufacturing sector focusing on food and beverages industries in Peninsular Malaysia. The specific objectives are:-

- i. To examine the sustainable practices undertaken by the food and beverages SME's.
- ii. To identify the association between business profile of food and beverages SME's and the adoption of sustainable practices.
- iii. To determine the factors that motivate food and beverages SME's for adopting the sustainable practices.
- iv. To predict the most influential factors influencing the food and beverages SME's towards the adoption of sustainable practices.

1.8 Significance of the Study

In terms of sustainable practices studies in Malaysia, most of the researchers basically conducted a research regarding on sustainable practices but not many are focusing on sustainable practices among food and beverages SME's.

1.8.1 Food and Beverage SME's

Food and Beverage SMEs sector need to acknowledge that their daily operation give significant impact on the environmental degradation. Hence, it is important for them to minimize this impact by adopting this sustainable practice. As the in Food and Beverages SMEs sector acknowledge that their daily operation give significant impact to the environmental degradation, they will properly adopt the sustainable practices in daily operation to minimize the impact.

The result can guide Food and Beverage SMEs sector in getting better understanding on the sustainable practices and the benefits of properly adopt the practices in their daily operation.

1.8.2 Government and Policy Makers

Lack of financial and management resources are the barriers of SMEs to embrace sustainability, therefore it is advisable for the government to supply financial aid and other incentives to business to allow them to overcome the challenges and issues which benefits can be gained from their environmentally friendly operation.

The result from this research can guide the policy makers to create new policy regarding the need to have a proper policy highlighting the importance of in Food and Beverages SMEs sector to properly adopt the sustainable practices as to minimize their impact of daily operation to the environmental degradation. This new policy can ensure that the Food and Beverage SMEs sector to strictly obey the new policy.

1.9 Summary

This chapter provide details of the background of the research on brief information regarding SMEs in Malaysia, environmental issues that arise cause by the SMEs manufacturing sector focusing on food and beverages industries daily operation in Malaysia and the other parts of countries as well, and also information on the adoption sustainable manufacturing practices in Malaysia and around the world. Besides, it explains the problem statement which shall be answered in research questions and objectives of the study.



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Proceeding Paper

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