



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**SELECTION OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AS CAREER
DEVELOPMENTS AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT
PERFORMANCE AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN FACULTY
OF AGRICULTURE, UPM**

AHMAD JAKI SAMRI

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**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA
SERDANG, SELANGOR**

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By

AHMAD JAKI BIN SAMRI

A project report submitted to the Faculty of Agriculture

Universiti Putra Malaysia

In fulfilment of the requirement of PRT 4999 (Final Year Project)

For the award of the degree of Bachelor of Horticultural Science

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA
SERDANG, SELANGOR**

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DECLARATION

This project report entitled “Selection of Agriculture Sector as Career Developments and Its Relationship to Student Performance among Undergraduate Students in Faculty of Agriculture, UPM” is prepared by Ahmad Jaki Bin Samri and submitted to the Faculty of Agriculture Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement of PRT 4999 (Final Year Project) for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Horticultural Science.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CGPA	Cumulative Grade Point Average
FAMA	Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HSC	Higher School Certificate
KDNK	Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar
MAHA	Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism Show
MARDI	Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry
MYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
NAP	National Agrofood Policy
NCER	Northern Corridor Economic Region
PERMATANI	Persatuan Mahasiswa Fakulti Pertanian
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
R.I.A.S.E.C	Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising and Conventional
SPSS	Statistical Packages for the Social Science
TKPM	Taman Kekal Pengeluaran Makanan
UPM	Universiti Putra Malaysia
UPMKB	Universiti Putra Malaysia Kampus Bintulu, Sarawak

ABSTRACT

Agriculture is the important sector in Malaysia which encompasses a broad field which include livestock, crop production, aquaculture, entrepreneurship and downstream sector related to agriculture. Currently, agriculture becomes the second largest contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Universiti Putra Malaysia through Faculty of Agriculture plays a major role to find solution for current agriculture problems including producing human resources for producing trained individuals comprising of graduates who visionary and comparative in the agricultural sector. The career selection of the students will shape our future agriculture sector to ensure the continuation of contribution for national economic growth. The main objective of the study is to identify the selection of agriculture sector as career choice among undergraduate students in Faculty of Agriculture, UPM. The research is conducted using mixed method research. First, by distribution of the questionnaire among 234 students which are selected using stratified random sampling. The frequency, percentages, correlation and regression was calculated from the result of the questionnaire. Secondly, face to face interview was done from four different respondents. From the study, almost all students will involve in agriculture sector as the career choice after graduate from their study. This was represented from huge percentages of student who interest to work as self-employ in agriculture and government sector related to agriculture. Correlation analysis also has shown strong positive correlation between career developments in agriculture toward student performance.

ABSTRAK

Pertanian adalah sektor yang penting di Malaysia merangkumi bidang seperti ternakan, pengeluaran tanaman, akuakultur, keusahawanan dan sektor hiliran yang berkaitan dengan pertanian. Pada masa ini, pertanian menjadi penyumbang kedua terbesar kepada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK). Universiti Putra Malaysia melalui Fakulti Pertanian memainkan peranan penting untuk menyelesaikan masalah – masalah pertanian termasuk menghasilkan sumber manusia bagi melahirkan individu terlatih yang terdiri daripada graduan yang berwawasan dalam sektor pertanian. Pemilihan kerjaya dalam kalangan pelajar akan membentuk masa depan sektor pertanian yang dapat menyumbang secara berterusan kepada pertumbuhan ekonomi negara. Objektif utama kajian ini dijalankan adalah untuk mengenalpasti pemilihan sektor pertanian sebagai kerjaya dalam kalangan pelajar ijazah pertama di Fakulti Pertanian, UPM. Kajian ini dijalankan dengan menggunakan kaedah kajian campuran. Kaedah pertama adalah melalui pengedaran borang soal selidik dalam kalangan 234 pelajar yang dipilih secara persampelan rawak berstrata. Kekerapan, peratusan, korelasi dan regrasi dikira daripada hasil soal selidik yang dijawab oleh pelajar. Keduanya, wawancara bersemuka dilakukan daripada empat responden yang berbeza. Hasil dapatan kajian ini, hampir kesemua pelajar akan menceburi bidang pekerjaan dalam sektor pertanian kelak selepas bergraduat dari pengajian mereka. Perkara ini ditunjukkan dengan peratusan besar pelajar yang berminat untuk bekerja sendiri dalam sektor pertanian dan dalam sektor kerajaan. Keputusan analisis daripada korelasi juga menunjukkan korelasi positif yang kuat antara perkembangan kerjaya dalam bidang pertanian terhadap prestasi pelajar.

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter is the review of the introduction of the first chapter of the research. It contains the subtopics related to the investigation conducted by the researcher. The subtopics includes introduction of the chapter, agricultural sector in Malaysia, UPM roles in agriculture development, historical background of UPM, Review of all faculties in UPM, Faculty of Agriculture, UPM, UPM strategic plan 2014-2020, problem statement, objective of study and thesis organization.

1.2 Agricultural Sector in Malaysia

Agriculture encompasses a broad field which include livestock, crop production, aquaculture, entrepreneurship and various downstream sector related to agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture and Agro Based Industry (MOA) in 2005 has reported that there are large numbers of job opportunities in agriculture and agricultural – based sector waiting for local graduates especially who are unemployed. Agriculture currently becomes the second largest contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) after gas and petroleum (Ismail et al., 2013). So that, the involvement of local graduates especially from agricultural course study is crucial to boost the sector. Generally, agriculture in Malaysia can be classified into three founding sections which are stated below.

1.2.1 Aquaculture

Also known as aqua farming, aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms such as fish, molluscs and aquatic plants. It involving salt water and fresh water cultivation of fish or aquatic organism that commonly under controlled condition and can be categorized such as commercial fishing of Tilapia Merah, *Oreochromis niloticus*. Aquaculture is becoming economically more important as a way of increasing local fish production for food security. Production of fish under aqua farming is still low compared to captured fisheries. But, it has succeeded in producing high value species for the domestic market as well as for the export market. In UPM, students who are taking Bachelor of Agriculture (Aquaculture) program will be exposed to the whole aquaculture industry and specifically on the important of freshwater and marine aquaculture industry as a new source of national economic growth. In addition, it covers the aspect of current trends in agriculture in light of emphasis given by the Malaysian Government and the application of biotechnology and information technology to provide value added product. The program vision to produce students that are qualified to participate in the various sector involved in services, research, production and sustainable management of marine and freshwater aquaculture activities.

1.2.2 Food Crop, Floriculture and Industrial Crop

Food crop are referred to all seasonal or non-seasonal crop that become source of human food, animal feed, agricultural downstream product or other things that related to the crop that induced the growth of national economy. Floriculture or flower farming refers to a discipline under horticulture that involved the cultivation of ornamental plant for garden and for floral industry. Example of the floriculture

industry products are flowering garden and pot plants, cut cultivated greens and cut flowers. Flowering plants are largely sold in pots for indoor use. The major flowering plants are poinsettias, orchids, florist chrysanthemums and foliage plant. Industrial crop in Malaysia indicated to the crop that are planted in large scale and give highly significant to national GDP. Examples of industrial crop that are planted in Malaysia are Palm Oil, Rubber and Paddy.

1.2.3 Livestock

Livestock sector can be referring to any field of breeding or animal production that could give benefits to human. The industry of livestock can be classified into the non-ruminant and the ruminant sub-sectors. Cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep constitute the ruminant sub-sector. The Malaysian livestock industry is an important and integral component of the agricultural sector, providing gainful employment and producing useful animal protein food for the population.

1.3 UPM Roles in Agriculture Development

UPM through its historical establishment in agriculture sector seem really committed to be the leader in world of Tropical Agriculture. With the current theme by its Vice Chancellor Prof. Datuk.Dr Mohd Fauzi Ramlan; Agriculture, Innovation and Life, take seriously to produce high quality of graduates and researcher that give high impact to the nation. Quotes from his annual message in this year, Prof. Datuk .Dr Fauzi said that; *“UPM sees food security as an agenda that actually requires a substantial contribution. In this advanced age and increasing demand for food, UPM must spearhead the food security initiative to ensure its sufficiency for every generation”*. Furthermore, UPM has been scales in world top 100 in agriculture,

forestry and education reported by QS World University Rankings last year. Recognition as the Research University and Centre of Excellence in Agriculture prove the integrity of UPM to be the pioneer in contributing toward agriculture sector to our country.

1.4 Historical Background of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

Universiti Putra Malaysia was first established as the School of Agriculture in 1931 located on a 22 -acre piece of land in Serdang and offered two programmes which is a three year diploma programme and a one year certificate course in agriculture. The School are declared as College of Agriculture Malaya by Sir Edward Gent, the Governor of the Malayan Union. Establishment of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia comes about when college of Agriculture in Serdang merged with the Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Malaya. Universiti Pertanian Malaysia had its first academic session in July 1973 in the three central faculties and one basic division: the faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, Faculty of Forestry and Faculty of Agriculture, and a division of foundation Studies. In the early 80s, UPM extended its area of studies to include the field of the science and technology. In 1997, the name of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia was changed to Universiti Putra Malaysia by former Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, as a strategic gesture to portray the status of UPM as a centre of higher education capable of providing various fields of studies, especially in science and information technology, which facilitate national development in the new millennium.

1.5 Review of all Faculties in UPM

Began its academic life in 1973 with three founding faculties and a Division of Basic Sciences, now UPM offers 59 bachelor programmes, seven diploma programmes and 12 masters and Doctoral programmes with the strength of 16 faculty, eight centres, nine institutes, two schools, a University Park and a branch campus in Bintulu Sarawak (UPMKB).

- 1) Faculty of Agriculture
- 2) Faculty of forestry
- 3) Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
- 4) Faculty of Economics and Management
- 5) Faculty of Engineering
- 6) Faculty of Educational Studies
- 7) Faculty of Sciences
- 8) Faculty of Food Sciences and Technology
- 9) Faculty of Human Ecology
- 10) Faculty of Modern Language and Communication
- 11) Faculty of Design and Architecture
- 12) Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
- 13) Faculty of Computer Sciences and Information Technology
- 14) Faculty of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences
- 15) Faculty of Environmental Studies
- 16) Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences (UPMKB)

1.6 Faculty of Agriculture

Faculty of Agriculture, UPM is one of the three pioneer faculties that made up the establishment of UPM now. Starting with seven departments under this faculty, most of these departments were later develop to become several other faculties. At the end of 1998, faculty of Agriculture has three academic departments which are department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Department of Plant Protection and Department of Soil Science. From 1st January 1999 onward, UPM experience restructuring process that also affect faculty of Agriculture. The process is based on uniting and integrating the main elements in the agricultural system covering the aspect of crop, animal, soil, technology and management later make this faculty have seven department which are Department of Crop Sciences, Animal Science, Plant Protection, Land Management, Agribusiness and Information System, Agriculture Technology and Aquaculture.

Faculty of Agriculture, UPM currently offer programs in Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Bachelor of Horticultural Science, Bachelor of Science (Agribusiness), Bachelor of Agriculture (Aquaculture) and Bachelor of Agriculture (Animal Sciences). In addition, program at postgraduate levels offered are Master in Agriculture Science, Master in Science, Master in Land Resource management, Master in Plantation Management, Master in Sustainable Land Management and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

As the main and foremost agriculture in Malaysia, Faculty of Agriculture plays a major role to find solution for current agricultural problems faced by nations. To enhance the prospects of development of the agriculture industry in the long term especially in the trainings of human resources for producing trained individuals comprising of graduates who are visionary and competitive in the industrial area. Using the country's education system as the base, Faculty of Agriculture will strive to produce trained agriculture expertise characterized by their entrepreneurship and

capability to provide consultations at any place, besides contributing to new and high agriculture technology resulting from research and commercialization programs.

1.7 UPM Strategic Plan 2014-2020

Strategic Plan 2014-2020 is the manifestation of UPM to improve surge with more brilliant in facing the challenges of higher education at the global level. This manifestation is implicit in the Putra Global 200 which is UPM's aspirations to be listed in the ranking of 200 best universities in the world by 2020 through QS World University Ranking. Through goal number four which is empowering UPM as the centre of excellent in agriculture, it is important for UPM to focus on this goal because it relate to the historical background of the university on agriculture sector. In addition, the results of QS World University Ranking shows that UPM was first in Malaysia in range of 51-100 in world for subject rating in agriculture field. UPM also has producing many agriculture intellectual and producing professional in human capital to assist sustainable development of national economy in agriculture sector. To empowering the university as centre of excellent in agriculture, UPM deploy strategic objective to produce graduates who have attribute toward agriculture entrepreneurship. To achieve this objective, UPM will strive to strengthen business projects such as Putra Mart, Commercial Nursery and Clinic, increase MyAgrosis club activities, strengthen agricultural entrepreneurship subjects and empower Agropreneur Incubation Programmes.

1.8 Problem Statement

University's student are a valuable national asset as they are important source of trained worker who are the heirs of the present generation who will inherit to make

sure the continuation the economic development of country. According to Abidin et al. (2015), young people especially educated youth have less involvement in commercial agriculture sector in Malaysia because of negative perception towards the sector. We were worried about the involvement of graduate student in agriculture sector in our country even from agricultural background's student. The stereotypes floating over youth's mind such as agriculture is less glamour sector, exposed to the sun and which does not guarantee their future should be identify to prevent these notion from inherited from generation to generation. The notion that agriculture is a traditional occupation engaged by village folks, is unprofitable, often involved in dirty and hard work has to be relooked by the present generation (Ismail et al., 2013). So that, inappropriate rumours around the world agriculture must be take into account by people's leader or university lawmaker.

Universiti Putra Malaysia through Faculty of Agriculture had clear objective to producing quality graduates who are knowledgeable, creative and innovative with entrepreneurship inclination. So that, all student that will graduates later need to be equipped with these tool to participate into agriculture sector for their future job. University as higher learning institution sees could remove these notions by producing graduates that binding with latest agricultural knowledge, willing to become risk taker and able to see agriculture as future country's economic source. Graduates that are needed in agriculture industry today are those well trained with practical skill, can accept challenge and give a commitment to help the industry to success by providing "food security" through modern farming method (Hamid and Auwal, 2012; Chiu et al., 2010). These criteria are vital to ensuring the growth of agriculture industry and make several paradigms shift to secure future agriculture sector through youth generation.

1.9 Objectives of Study

1.9.1 General objective

The general study is to identify the selection of agriculture sector as career choice among undergraduate students in Faculty of Agriculture, UPM.

1.9.2 Specific objective

The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

- 1) To investigate students career setting after graduate from their first degree.
- 2) To identify the selection of agriculture sector as career development amongst undergraduate students in Faculty of Agriculture, UPM.
- 3) To determine relationship between agriculture as career development and student performance.

1.10 Thesis Organization

This final year project report is arranged in five chapters. The first chapter is an introducing and discussing about historical background of Universiti Putra Malaysia, Review of all faculties in UPM, Review on Faculty of Agriculture, UPM, UPM Strategic Plan 2014-2020, problem statement, and objective of the study and thesis organization.

Chapter two is the review on literature which is the past study that has been done. It is include the introduction of the chapter, overview on career development theory, definition of youth and undergraduate students, overview on agriculture Issues in Malaysia, the important of extension education and student development in

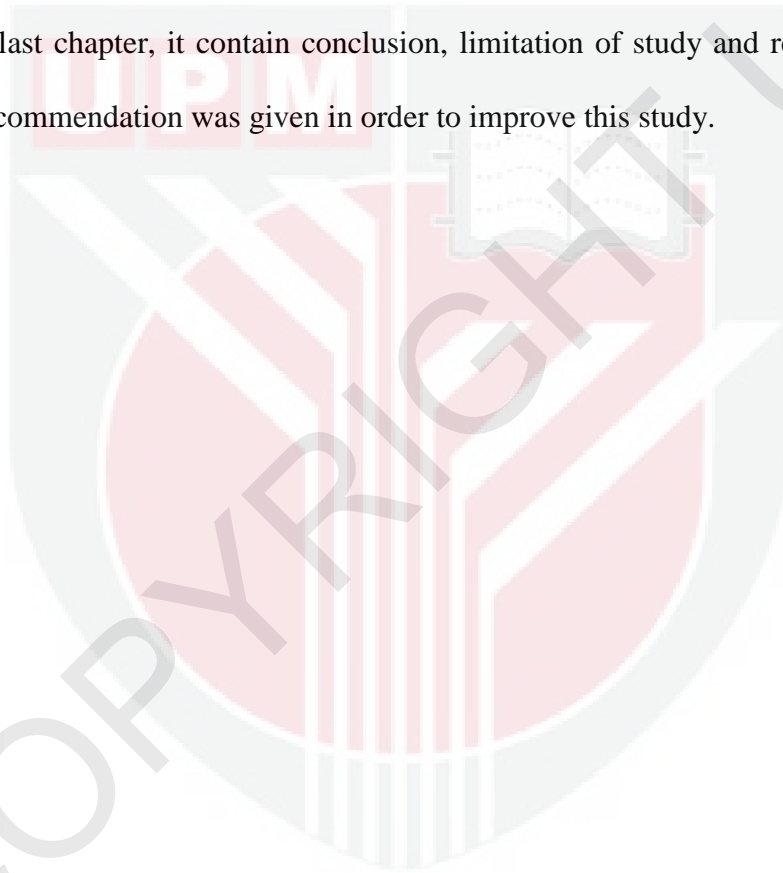
agriculture sector and lastly, career opportunities of local graduates in agriculture sector.

Chapter three comprises the methodology on how research is conducted. It is discusses about location of study, respondent selection, questionnaire design, data collection, data analysis technique and qualitative method.

Chapter four represented the result. The result will be discussed in this chapter.

In the last chapter, it contain conclusion, limitation of study and recommendations.

The recommendation was given in order to improve this study.



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