

報告テーマ

Development of Palm Oil Value Chains in Malaysia: A Model for Agro-based Industrialization?

マレーシア・パーム油産業バリューチェーンの発展における政府の役割

氏名(所属)

小井川 広志(関西大学)

要旨

The economic success of Malaysian palm oil industries is often referred as a model of agro-based industrialisation for developing countries. The development of palm oil value chains has been vastly supported by the four major domains of innovation; (1) broadening the fields of palm oil-based applications, (2) expanding markets for palm oil-based products, (3) enhancing productivities of the upstream and downstream activities, and (4) leveraging foreign capital for technological development and capital accumulation. Such remarkable developments have been realised due to intensive research and marketing efforts pursued by the public and private sectors. This paper intends to examine the role of the government and private companies in the development of Malaysian palm oil industries.

At the earliest stage of palm oil application, namely in the 1950s and 1960s, it was simply used as raw materials for cooking oil, candle and a few others. Moreover, it was notorious as unhealthy oil. Palm oil was then-regarded as rather futile commodity. However, Malaysian government bravely took initiatives to make palm oil more versatile and reputable. A major milestone in the Malaysian palm oil industry was the establishment of PORIM (Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia) in May 1979. Cess system, inherited from the Malaysian Rubber Research Institute, financed its R&D activities. PORIM's research activities were carried out in collaboration with private sector research stations. Since its establishment of PORIM, later transformed to MPOB in 2000, was given the task of organizing research pertaining to oil palm and palm oil products. The expansion of palm oil industry also attracted foreign capitals, particularly refineries and process equipment manufacturers, to develop more efficient processes and equipment specialised for palm oil. Consumer product global giants, such as Unilever and P&G, started R&D collaboration with MPOB. Rather overlooked achievement is the palm's contribution to Malaysian financial development, specifically CPO (Crude Palm Oil) futures traded at Bursa Malaysia Derivatives. Thus, it can be concluded that Malaysia has been successful to leverage palm oil development for maximum the benefits to the entire Malaysian economy.

Undoubtedly, such Malaysian experience can provide an important lesson for other developing countries. This paper examines the historical process of Malaysian palm oil development from the perspectives of government initiatives and private sectors' contributions.