



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA

KHAMIS / 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

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DISEDIAKAN OLEH :
CAWANGAN KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
(MADA)

KERATAN AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

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TIGA anak muda mencabut semai padi untuk dijual kepada pesawah sebagai pendapatan mereka di Parit Tanjung Pliandang, Parit Buntar, Perak.

Generasi muda tidak kekok bersawah

PARIT BUNTAR 26 Sept. - Kerja kampung biasanya dikaitkan dengan generasi yang sudah berumur, namun tidak bagi sekumpulan anak muda di sini yang menjadikan kerja di sawah sebagai pendapatan mereka.

Pengalaman sejak kecil membantu ibu bapa mereka menjalankan kerja-kerja di sawah menyebabkan mereka tidak kekok melakukan kerja yang kini membebankan mereka sumber kewangan.

Seorang remaja, Fauzail Azwan Hasbullah, 19, di Parit Tanjung Pliandang di sini berkata, sudah sampai masanya mereka generasi muda mengambil alih kerja sawah padi daripada orang tua mereka.

Malah selepas menamatkan persekolahan beberapa tahun lalu, dia dan rakan-rakannya sudah mula mengambil upah membuat kerja kampung khususnya di sawah padi, katanya.

"Bebekalkan pengalaman ikut ayah dan emak semasa mereka turun ke sawah, kini saya tiada masalah berpanas atau berhujan di sawah padi, malah lintah pacat serta selut telah menjadi asam garam sebagai anak tani.

"Tidak secara langsung kami dapat menyelami bagaimana susahanya menjadi pesawah dengan pendapatan yang tidak menentu dan hasil

pendapatannya terpaksa tunggu lama," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* di sini semalam.

Fauzail Azwan berkata, mereka menjual semai anak padi atau 'semarang' kepada pesawah yang memulakan jadual penanaman musim baharu ketika ini.

Katanya, sejak pukul 8 pagi, dia dan dua rakan-nya mula turun ke petak sawah untuk mencabut semai padi yang dijual RM5 seikat.

"Inilah masanya untuk kami mencari duit lebih untuk disimpan, mana tahu pada masa akan datang kami nak sambung belajar dan wang yang kami kumpul ini boleh digunakan untuk tujuan itu," katanya.

Rakannya, Fakrul Reza Jafaar, 17, berkata, selain mengambil upah bekerja di sawah, dia turut melakukan kerja kampung yang lain seperti membela kambing di rumahnya.

"Kerja yang kami lakukan dibuat dengan penuh amanah serta bertanggungjawab dan setakat ini kerja yang kami lakukan tiada masalah," katanya.

Sementara itu, Mohd. Azril Fikri Azmi, 18, berkata, agensi kerajaan perlu menyokong penglibatan anak muda dalam kerja sawah padi dengan memberi kursus untuk memajukan lagi bidang tersebut.

"Dengan cara ini, ia dapat mengelak remaja terlibat dalam aktiviti kurang sihat," katanya.



FAUZAIL AZWAN HASBULLAH

FOOD SAFETY

ASEAN SHOULD SHIFT TO RISK-BASED ASSESSMENTS

Calibrating food safety standards on a risk-based approach may provide more benefits, write **JOSE MONTESCLAROS, MELY CABALLERO-ANTHONY** and **JOERGEN SCHLUNDT**

TO the average person, "hazard" and "risk" may seem synonymous, both implying a threat that needs to be addressed. But they are substantively different in the food safety aspect.

Hazard refers to any microbiological or chemical agent in food that may cause an adverse health effect, while risk is the probability of an adverse health effect caused by a hazard in food.

Food safety assessments in Asean have so far focused on guarding against hazards, and neglecting the risks. Safety assessments can take two forms: the hazard-based approach, and the risk-based approach. The former is a black-white approach where a food item is deemed unsafe for consumption, and therefore banned. The latter is, in contrast, graduated, and a commodity can still be allowed to enter a country even if a hazard is present, as long as the level of risk is negligible.

Over the previous decades, an international movement has started shifting from hazard to risk-based assessments. For instance, 25 years ago, the standards by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for evaluating food safety for modern biotechnology products, defined food safety as "a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from intended uses under the anticipated conditions of consumption".

Similarly, 20 years ago, the World Trade Organisation's sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) called for an "appropriate level of health protection", and 15 years ago, the United Nations system adopted principles which clearly stipulate the need

for a risk-based approach.

Yet, today, hazard-based assessments are still being used in Asean institutions for specific commodities.

There is a slow rate of adopting risk-based assessments, in fact, it was only in 2016 that the Asean Risk Assessment Centre (ARAC) was established. The first assessment from ARAC is still not out yet.

Clearly, Asean is lagging behind countries in the west in shifting from hazard to risk-based approaches in food safety.

A hazard-based approach may seem like a harm-free operating principle; in fact, it is favoured by food safety regulators because of the impression it creates of being a more conservative approach: in the absence of complete information on a product, better ban than allow it to enter a country. However, this can lead to a sense of complacency.

What is problematic is the way it is presently implemented.

For instance, the same food product or ingredient can have different hazard assessments, and in turn, reach their maximum limits (MLs) across countries.

MLs may differ because the probability of disease depends on a wide range of location-specific factors, and the way these factors are controlled.

In terms of biology and physiology, there can be different breeds of plants, herds, or flocks, each having their own threshold for susceptibility to the infection a pesticide or treatment is aimed at controlling.

At the ecological and environmental level, certain temperature levels could permit a disease to emerge.

The other reason why MLs vary



Fruits and vegetables are a common source of food-borne disease. REUTERS PIC

is more contentious. Not all countries comply with the call to harmonise food safety assessment methodologies, as vetted by the larger international scientific community.

Status quo, incoherent food safety assessment methods prevent comparison of data across countries.

This will prevent analysis of underlying factors shaping the impact of a hazard. The result is that countries will more likely get caught off-guard by "unknown unknowns", such as new food-borne and human diseases, as well as re-emerging diseases and their development of resistance to antibiotics.

Hence, Asean countries should consider adopting risk-based assessments. It should be a critical priority. Such an approach will be substantively different, not only in the shift in analysis from hazards to risks, but also in the way it is implemented.

The scientific rigour required by the risk-based approach requires a coherent method for food safety risk assessment, as well as data-sharing across countries. The approach allows for understanding of the underlying factors, and for greater foresight so that society will less likely be caught off-guard by emerging and re-emerging diseases, and "unknown unknowns".

Sticking to the hazards-based approach can make Asean more vulnerable to future uncertainty. Hence, countries will need to collaborate with the private sector to support these new technologies.

Calibrating food safety standards and limits on a risk-based approach may also provide more benefits, such as having greater food access, given that a larger variety of risk-free, or risk-reduced food products can be made available, at lower or more competitive prices. **RS15**

Clearly, Asean is lagging behind countries in the west in shifting from hazard to risk.