AGRICULTURE AND MAN PRT 2008
Dr. Ganesan Vadamalai (Assoc. Professor)
Dr. Tan Yee How (Assoc. Professor Rtd)
Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia
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PROGRAM: BACHELOR -----  
(melalui PENDIDIKAN JARAK JAUH, UPMET)

SESSION: Semester I, 2017-18

COURSE: PERTANIAN DAN MANUSIA PRT 2008  
(AGRICULTURE & MAN)

CREDITS: 2 + 0

LECTURERS: Dr. Ganesan Vadamalai (Assoc. Professor)  
Department of Plant Protection, Block E  
Faculty of Agriculture, UPM 43400 Serdang,  
Selangor Darul Ehsan  
ganesanv@upm.edu.my, 03-89474843 (UPM),  
012-3719244 (mobile)

Dr. Tan Yee How (Assoc. Professor Rtd)  
alvinyht@yahoo.co.uk, 016-3951526 (mobile)
OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, a student will be able to:

1. explain the role of agriculture in the development of civilization and well-being of mankind

2. elucidate the importance of the agricultural sector in ensuring food security and basic industrial resources

3. discuss and evaluate the importance of agricultural resources and their management for the development of sustainable agriculture
SYNOPSIS

This course explores the evolution of agriculture from the beginning to the present as a planned activity for food security and wealth creation, driven by sustainable economic and technological advancement.

Modern agriculture is presented as a science, an art and a business, encompassing its role and impact on resource utilization and human development.
1. MID-TERM EXAMINATION 30%
   based on Chaps 1-5

2. FINAL EXAMINATION 40%
   based on all Chaps 1-9, with major emphasis on Chaps 6-9

3. GROUP ASSIGNMENT 30%

   TOTAL 100%
1. Introduction & Scope of Modern Agriculture
2. Transformation of Agriculture - Agricultural Evolution
3. Transformation of Agriculture - Agricultural Revolution
4. Agro-Ecological System - Basic Agricultural Resources and the Environment
5. Genetic Resources in Agriculture
FINAL EXAMINATION

(40 Objective Questions, based on all chapters with major emphasis on last five chapters, 6-9)

6A. Sustainable Agriculture
6B. Agricultural Practices in Malaysia
7. Economics of Agricultural Development (Agriculture and the Malaysian Economy)
8. Innovation & Challenges in Agriculture
9. Approaches to Agricultural Development in Malaysia
EXAMINATIONS
(MID-TERM and FINAL)

You will be examined on the contents of the power-point F-2-F lectures (presentations) and the PJJ UPMET module (text), Agriculture & Man (Yusof Ibrahim & Tan Yee How, 2007).

Today’s powerpoint presentation is available on-line.
Questions would be objective (multiple choice) in nature.

Example:
The crop which is economically the most important in Malaysia is:

A. rubber  
B. oil palm  
C. cocoa  
D. coconut  
E. none of the above

Answer: B
Example:
The following is (are) a good agricultural practice (s):

A. using compost as fertilizer
B. tillage (ploughing)
C. crop rotation
D. two of the above
E. all three (A, B, C) of the above

Answer: D
Example:
Most of the oil palm estates in peninsular Malaysia are found in the north:

A. True
B. False

Answer: B
GROUP ASSIGNMENT (TUGASAN)
1. A critical review is conducted on a topic pertaining to agriculture selected from a list to reflect a grasp of the salient features and understanding of the principles involved in the subject.

Write with particular reference to MALAYSIA.

You could source information for your assignment from the library, internet or on-site visits to relevant places.
ASSIGNMENT TOPICS

1. Advocating good agricultural practices
2. Impact of Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) on Malaysian agriculture
3. Fertilizer production from oil palm empty fruit bunch (EFB) in Malaysia
4. Food safety
5. Halal hub
6. Carbon trading and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
7. ICT in Malaysian agriculture
8. Integrated farming in Malaysia
9. Agricultural biotechnology
10. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture
11. Technology transfer in agriculture
12. Environmental issues in agriculture
13. Agriculture as the third engine of growth in Malaysia
14. Mushroom cultivation in Malaysia
15. Biodiversity
16. Agrotourism
17. Recreational fishing
18. Labour problems in agriculture
19. Mechanization and automation in agriculture
20. Precision agriculture
21. Agriculture for non-food purposes
22. Aquafarming
23. Micro-organisms in the Malaysian agricultural industry
24. Entrepreneurship in agriculture
25. Hydroponics
26. Organic farming
27. Benefiting from agricultural wastes
28. Can agriculture survive against industrialization on the road towards developed nation status?
29. Agriculture as a desired profession in the 21st century
30. Agriculture in developing and developed nations
2. For this task, students will be assigned into groups based on their locality by the Course Lecturer.

3. You will be informed on-line or as to the particular group you are assigned by around the 4th week once the registration of students has been finalized.

4. You are NOT PERMITTED to switch to another group under any circumstance. If you do so, your assignment report will not be marked even if you submit it. You will receive 0 mark!
5. Each group can select from any topic on the list.

6. The assignment has to be written in English.

7. Avoid ‘cut and paste’ and full references must be made if this is done. Try to write using your own words.

8. At the end of the review exercise, each group will submit a written report consisting of not less than 20 typewritten pages, font 12, 1½ spacing, inclusive of photographs and illustrations.
9. Ensure you include a ‘Contents’ page at the beginning of the report and quote your ‘References’ at the end.

10. It would be an added advantage if you could include personal experiences such as on-site visits and discussions in your report.

11. Pictures speak a thousand words so include photographs wherever relevant.
12. All members of the group must have their names on the report which is bar coded. Any student whose name is not on the report will not receive any mark.

13. Marks are group-based with all members of a group receiving the same mark. This emphasizes the importance of group discussion and teamwork. You should try to make contact with all your group members at an early stage.

14. The report has to be submitted to UPMET on time otherwise it will not be marked.
CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION & SCOPE OF MODERN AGRICULTURE
TOPIC 1: GENERAL

- Definition of agriculture
- Importance of agriculture
- Agricultural systems and practices
- Downstream processing
Definition of Agriculture

• art and science of cultivating soil
• systematic production of crops for food, feed, fiber
• raising livestock
• protecting land from deterioration and misuse.
TOPIC 2: Importance of agriculture

• Around 40% (2017 estimate) of the world’s population is employed in agriculture, making it the most common occupation.

• Asia’s share of the agricultural labour force reaches 80%:
  - India & China - 60%
  - Africa - 14%
  - Europe - 10%
  - Latin America - 3.5%
  - North America - 1.0% (highly mechanized)
TOPIC 3: Agricultural Systems/Practices

Broadly categorized into:

- Subsistence farming
- Commercialized farming.
Subsistence agriculture
Subsistence agriculture
Commercial agriculture
Commercial agriculture
Commercial agriculture
TOPIC 4:
Downstream (2°) Processing
CHAPTER 2

TRANSFORMATION OF AGRICULTURE –

AGRICULTURAL EVOLUTION
TOPIC 1

Pre-historic era through the Middle Ages, and
Domestication of plants and animals
Mesopotamia in 2500 BCE
Ancient China

Early cultures:
Xia (c. 2200 B.C.),
Shang (c. 1750 B.C.),
Zhou (c. 1050 B.C.)
Extent and major sites of the Indus Valley Civilization

Indus River Valley: Harappa/Mohenjo-Daro

Present day excavated ruins of Mohenjo-daro, an ancient city along the Indus river
Prehistoric Era

- Human started farming around 12,000 years ago (pre-historic, as recorded history started 7000 years ago)

- Initially, grain crops like wheat were cultivated, then rye and barley, later followed by peas and beans.
Sumerian Harvester's sickle, 3000 BCE

Sickle from chalcolithic times (2500-1800 years BCE)

Dental swing plough

Iron plough 200 BCE

Millstone for grains
By 14th and 15th C, new plants and animals were shipped from the Old World to the New World.

**Agribusiness** was borne with the idea of large scale cultivation for export, including linen and silk.
TOPIC 2

UTILIZATION OF HUMAN LABOUR, ANIMALS, MACHINES, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, TRANSPORTATION AND BIOTECHNOLOGY
Remote sensing, GPS and precision farming increased yields and varieties.
Biotechnology in Agriculture

• While most industries use mechanical devices (machines) to make things, biotechnology uses living organisms to make products of economic value.

• Genetic engineering creates transgenic life forms superior to their original version.
Teosinte (A), the ancestral native corn that existed thousands of years ago in Central America, bears little resemblance to the modern corn plant. Through selective breeding, corn with an intermediate genetic mix was obtained (B). Continued selection resulted in the modern corn plant (C). The selective breeding process takes centuries. Today, genetic engineering technology makes it possible to breed plants for specific traits within a single generation.
TOPIC 3

VALUES, CUSTOMS and TABOOS in TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE Vs MODERN AGRICULTURE
TOPIC 4

THE CULTURE OF NOMADIC AND SEDENTARY AGRICULTURE
Nomadic (subsistence) agriculture
- Slash and burn
Sedentary agriculture – fixed, stationary
TOPIC 5

INFLUENCE OF RELIGION ON AGRICULTURE
• Islam and other religions give a lot of attention on agriculture.

• Many Quranic verses mention agriculture eg importance of bees in producing honey for food and medicine.

• Agricultural activity placed as very important where at least one person in a community must be involved in agriculture as a career.

• Christian biblical principles for agricultural development state that God is the first farmer and initiator of agriculture
TOPIC 6

INFLUENCE OF LIFESTYLE ON AGRICULTURE
CHAPTER 3

TRANSFORMATION OF AGRICULTURE - AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION
AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

• Green revolution (1960s): Improved crop variety and yield

• Blue revolution (present): Enough water for drinking and irrigation
TOPIC 1

CAUSAL FACTORS
• Population increase

• Resource constraints

• Product choices

• Environmental-friendly practices

• Technological development
TOPIC 2

CHARACTERISTICS OF AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION
• High-yielding and disease-resistant varieties
• Chemicals and bioagents
• Precision agriculture
• Mechanization and automation
• Biotechnology
• Agricultural enactments and schemes
Mechanization and Automation

- Use of **machines** to replace manual labour or animals
- Save **energy and time**
- Used in **irrigation, fertigation and controlled environmental systems**
BIOTECHNOLOGY - Tissue culture
Malaysian Farm Accreditation Scheme (SALM)

• SALM is a national program implemented by the Department of Agriculture to recognize and accredit farms which adopts good agricultural practices (GAP), operated in an environmentally friendly way and yielding products that are of quality, safe and suitable for human consumption.
CHAPTER 4

AGRO-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM –
BASIC AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Topic 1

- Climate
- Water
- Soil
- Human Resources
- Genetic (‘Seed’)
1. CLIMATE:

- **Tropics**
  - Tropical forest - Malaysia

- **Temperate**
  - Temperate Prairie - USA

- **Tundra**
  - Arctic tundra - Russia

- **Desert**
  - Desert - African Sahara

- **Alpine tundra** - Alps
Irrigation system provided by Kemubu Agricultural Development Authority (KADA), Kelantan
Histosol

– is a soil comprised primarily of organic materials, found to a depth of 40 cm

– Also known peat or muck.

– In Malaysia, 2.4 million ha are covered by Histosol, mainly Sarawak
4. HUMAN RESOURCES
5. GENETIC RESOURCES
TOPIC 2

ENVIRONMENT
CHAPTER 5

GENETIC RESOURCES IN AGRICULTURE
TOPIC 1

ORIGIN and DISTRIBUTION of CROP PLANTS AND LIVESTOCK
• Centre of origin: Geographical area where a plant species, either domesticated or wild, first developed with special characteristics

• 6 independent centres recognized
Mesoamerica (Southern Mexico, and North Central America).
BEEF CATTLE

High growth rate and excellent meat quality eg:

- Angus

Originated in northern Scotland. Among finest breeds, farmed in Australia, US
Asiatic chicken - Bantam
TOPIC 2

GERmplasm & Biodiversity
• **GERMPLASM**: genetic resources, or more precisely the **DNA** of an organism and collections of that material.

• **Worldwide** there are collections of plant, animal and bacterial germplasm for use in breeding new organisms and the conservation of existing species.
Biodiversity of life
To date 1.7 million species have been identified and named:

- about 1,000,000 animals (750,000 insects)
- about 250,000 plants
- about 69,000 fungi

Each species is given a **binomial (double) name**:

- *Zea mays* = corn
- *Homo sapiens* = humans
- *Elais guineensis* = oil palm
THEORY OF NATURAL SELECTION: Charles Darwin

• Over time, these early cells mutate to create new life forms.

• If these new forms are favoured by the environment, they will be selected and retained.

• Accumulated mutations over thousands of years will result in a new species. This gives rise to the biodiversity of life we see today
Techniques for conservation of genetic resources

• There are two major alternatives for the conservation of genetic resources
  – *in situ* conservation
  – *ex situ* conservation
IN SITU CONSERVATION
EX SITU CONSERVATION
REFERENCES


