DIFFERENT LATEX PRODUCTION BETWEEN HILLY AREAS AND FLAT AREAS IN MALACCA

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ABSTRACT

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The impact of slope in latex production of rubber is important as it affects the latex production in profitable. The aim of the current study was to identify the effect of topography in latex production. This study was conducted at Felcra Bukit Sedanan where there are two different areas which are Bukit Seraya and Bukit Sedanan. In this study, latex production, overall cost production and also rainfall reading was collected through estate log books and also from estate database from January 2014 until December 2015. The secondary data then was analyzed by using one way ANOVA. Result showed that average production of latex in flat area was higher than the hilly area for 24 month of data. In addition, the overall cost management in flat area was higher than flat area. However, different latex production might come from another factor such as nutrient level and also water potential on soil.

Keyword: Rubber, Latex production, *Hevea brasilliensis,* Topography

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Rubber or scientifically known as *Hevea brasiliensis* is a tropical tree crop origins from Brazil (Verheye, 1990). The trunk of the tree, besides its other uses, is the source for latex. Rubber tree was widely cultivated in South East Asia and it was first introduced in Tanah Melayu in 1877 by H. N. Ridley and planted in Kuala Kangsar (Omar et al., 2010). As rubber is suitable to be planted in Malaysia, a lot of rubber plantations were established since then. The first rubber plantation in Malaysia was grown in early 1890's (Wan Daud et al., 2012) and almost all area in Malaysia was planted with rubber at that time. Rubber was planted majorly in north part of Malaysia (Omar et al., 2010) meanwhile the southern part was majorly planted with oil palm trees due to the soil factor

Malaysia has been the major contributor in rubber industry since 1950's and nowadays, rubber is one of the important commodities in Malaysia (Yusof, 1988). Rubber industry in Malaysia covers almost 1,171,700 hectare including smallholder and plantation areas (Omar et al., 2010). Although the rubber plantation areas in Malaysia are decreasing each year and the trees were replaced with oil palms, Malaysia is still the major contributor for rubber or latex in the world. Furthermore, rubber trees can be planted in both flat area and hill area, which is why it is suitable