

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food (TEEBAgriFood) aims at equipping decision-makers with the tools and information to recognise the value that ecosystems provide to food systems

TEEBAGRIFOOD MALAYSIA

Vegetable production in the Cameron Highlands and potential impacts of broader adoption of the Malaysia Good Agricultural Practices (MyGAP) Standard

Context & Focus

Over the past few decades, Malaysia has transitioned from an agriculture-based to an industrial and service-based economy. However, agriculture remains a vital part of the economy for livelihoods, employment, national food security, and international trade. Sustainable development of agriculture is a key focus of the national agri-food policy. The TEEBAgriFood assessment will examine the impact of increased adoption of the MyGAP Standard in vegetable production in the Cameron Highlands, in particular implications for farmer income and wellbeing.



Grown cabbages at Cameron Highlands, Malaysia. KuokLiang

Location

The Cameron Highlands, located in peninsular Malaysia, in the North-West part of the state of Pahang, supplies around 40 percent of Malaysia's needs for vegetable production (2014). Produce is also exported to neighboring countries from here. The area is over 1,000 meters above sea level, characterized by tropical rainforest, steep slopes, and serving as a habitat for several rare species of flora and fauna. The Cameron Highlands catchment area, which receives an average rainfall of 2,800 mm per year, provides water for many parts of the peninsula.



Cameron Highlands, Malaysia

- Facts & Figures -



6 %
of the overall
agricultural area
in Malaysia is
MyGAP
certified



The **agricultural**
area in the
Cameron Highlands is
6,053 ha
of which just
under 25%
is MyGAP certified



Vegetable production
is the **largest**
agricultural sector the
Cameron Highlands,
covering an area of
3,601 ha
Other crops include
tea, flowers, and fruits



1,508 ha
of **agricultural land**
in the **Cameron**
Highlands are currently
certified under the
MyGAP
Standard



Water
from the
Cameron Highlands
catchment
is used for **agriculture**,
drinking water,
fishing, **hydropower**
and **industrial uses**

Objectives & Actions

The project is overseen by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries (MAFI). The research is led by Malaysia Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI). Field work started in August 2022.

Objectives:

- Measure, evaluate the costs and benefits of vegetable production in the Cameron Highlands
- Assess the impact of MyGAP certification on ecosystems and agrobiodiversity in Cameron Highlands through several future scenarios
- Determine public policy options for enhancing adoption of the MyGAP Standard to support agricultural sustainability

Actions:

- Map and model the socio-ecological system and identify the contribution of ecosystem services
- Make a scientific comparison of the impacts of realistic public policy scenarios over time
- Estimate market and non-market impacts, repercussions on produced, natural, human and social capitals, and implications for sustainability

TEEBAgriFood for Business

The TEEBAgriFood for business project seeks to support private sector actors to understand the complex ways in which they depend and impact on the health of ecosystems for their success, and provide a clear business case for investing in environmental protection and restoration. The project will identify areas where nature-based solutions can be implemented to deliver benefits for business, nature and communities and develop collaborative partnerships at regional and national levels between key players in the agri-food value chain. A roundtable was held on 8 December 2021, a training programme for agrifood sector businesses commenced on 23 March 2022.



A farmer harvesting the vegetables at his farm in Cameron Highland, Malaysia. Nazri Yaakub

Project Duration:

December 2020 - July 2023

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