

AGROFORESTRY PRACTICE AND IT'S CONTRIBUTION TO RURAL FARMERS. CASE STUDY IN BEAUFORT, SABAH

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ABSTRACT

Agroforestry practices have become a way of life centuries ago. This practice has become an important practice to continuing their live. This study was conducted to evaluate the current practice of agroforestry practices and perceptions of the population regarding the contribution of agroforestry practices in Beaufort, Sabah. A total of 35 respondents per village were interviewed from three villages of Kg. Mempagar, Kg. Kukut, and Kg. Kota Klias. A set of semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Field observations are also used to assess and get a clear picture of the practice of agroforestry practices. The study found that the practice is a practice homegarden most widely practiced by residents. There is also the practice of animal and plant homegarden with multiple layers. A total of 61 or 58.1% of the respondents strongly agreed that this practice is important as a food source. Through the cultivation of various plants around the house, residents obtain various crops and generate additional income resulting from the sale of agroforestry. However, the contribution of agroforestry to increase revenue is insignificant. This is because most of them use the results of agroforestry for their own use only. From this study, agroforestry is an important shade to crops and livestock. Therefore, further research on the contribution of this homegarden should be carried out in this area to determine the contribution of agroforestry in their socioeconomic status.