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Agricultural Waste Management System [AWMS] in Malaysian

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Editorial

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Editorial

Malaysia's climate is categorized as hot, wet and rainy throughout the year, because it is located near the equator and surrounded almost by the sea. With high temperature and humidity accompanied with rains, Malaysia is very suitable for agricultural activities such as plantation, fruits, vegetable and others. The agricultural sector plays a significant role in the overall economic growth in the world including Malaysia [1]. This is evidenced by statistics of the Department of Statistics; Malaysia [2], the agricultural sector generates 8.1% or RM89.5 billion to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018. However, the exports and imports in this sector also increased to 5.4% and 0.9% respectively as compared to 2015 [3]. Globally, 998 million tonnes of agricultural waste is produced per year and in Malaysia, 1.2 million tonnes of agricultural waste is disposed of into landfills annually [4]. This is because the agricultural sector is very important to human needs and important to our livelihood. It is estimated that 15% of the total waste generated in Asia is agro-waste, with agricultural waste generation in Malaysia at approximately 0.122 (kg/cap/day) in 2009 which is projected to reach 0.210(kg/cap/day) by 2025 [4]. Hence, solid waste management plays an important role in maintaining a sustainable environment of agricultural waste. Agricultural wastes from agro-based industries, such as animal waste (manure, animal carcasses, herbicides, etc), food processing waste (production of processed food), crop waste (vegetables, fruits, flowers, pruning, etc.) and hazardous and toxic waste (pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, etc) have increased by more than threefold [4].

The main problem of agricultural activities is the improper agricultural waste management system. Therefore, research is needed to focus on Sustainable Agricultural Waste Management System (SAWM) particularly to protect public health (SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages & SDG 11-Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and environment (SDG 6-7-Sustainable management of water & modern energy; SDG 11-Sustainable cities & SDG 15-Protect ecosystem). Therefore, it is important to provide new method in agricultural waste management system in order to achieve sustainable agriculture. The local authorities who are in charge of agricultural waste management need to take this issue seriously because it involves environmental sustainability [4-6].

In Malaysia, waste management and waste minimization are not the sole responsibility of Local Authorities but most government agencies like the Ministry of Wellbeing Housing and Local Government, National Solid Waste Department Malaysia, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, the various academic institutions and NGO's should work together to achieve this. Proper networking and linkages amongst these stakeholders will help in enhancing the potential for Agriculture Waste Management System in Malaysia.

Therefore, institutions need to outline the policies and strategies to improve the role of each stakeholder. Besides that, there are also lack of policies, strategies and guidelines on Agriculture Waste Management System. In order to come up with an efficient and sustainable Agricultural Waste Management [AWM] in Malaysia, the following issues need to be addressed: (1) How does delivery system on agricultural waste being managed? (2) How to create Agricultural Waste Management [AWM] System for all categories in Malaysia? Majority of studies on waste management in Malaysia focus on housing, commercial, and industrial. However, with agriculture contributing more than half of the country's GDP, research in this area is needed in order to achieve sustainable Agricultural Waste Management.

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