The Potential Roles of Farmers’ Organizations and Private Service Providers in Improving the Livelihood of Farmers in the Muda Area, Malaysia

The Muda Irrigation Scheme
- Located in the North-west of Peninsula Malaysia.
- The largest granary area in Malaysia with an area of 100,685 hectare.
- Accounts for approximately 40% of the country's rice production.
- 55,130 farmers operate in Muda Area.

MUDA IRRIGATION SCHEME

REGION I
REGION II
REGION III
REGION IV

MADA was established by integrating the functions of 3 main Departments:
1. Department of Agriculture
2. Farmers’ Organisation
3. Drainage and Irrigation Department

OBJECTIVES
- To uplift the living standard of the majority of the rural population
- To increase rice production for the national requirement

VISION
- 4 MADA administrative regions.
- 27 Farmers’ Organizations (FOs).
- 172 irrigation blocks.
- MADA implemented extension by irrigation blocks at FOs level.
- Extension services within the zone will cover all stakeholders involved in the rice industry.

EXTENSION BY IRRIGATION BLOCK

Farmers’ Organizations
- There are 27 Farmers’ Organizations (FOs) in the Muda area.
- There are four (4) major roles of FOs in the Muda area, among them are:
  - Center of extension services, such as agricultural and irrigation advisory.
  - Distribution center for government’s aid and incentive.
  - Implementation of economic activities to improve local farmers’ lives.
  - Implementation of social and community activities.

PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDERS IN THE MUDA AREA
- 700 combine harvesters
- 4,117 tractors
To further enhance the water management efficiency at FOs localities, MADA has initiated the water users groups (WUG) among farmers in the scheme. Until 2018, there are 54 WUGs.

Since 2011, all FOs in the Muda Area are involved in the development of rice estate project, where management of participating farms is centralized and fully managed by the FOs. Currently there are 38,358 hectares of estate managed by the FOs with 20,299 farmers involved.

**Linkages of FO and Private Service Providers' Activities at Farm Level**

- **Farmers**
  - Tractors
  - Seeders
  - Harvesters
  - Transportation
  - Coverage area is subject to instructions from the FO

- **Farmers' Organization (FO)**
  - Tractors
  - Seeders
  - Harvesters
  - Transportation
  - Coverage area is subject to the respective FO boundaries

- **Farmers (Machinery Owner)**
  - Tractors
  - Seeders
  - Harvesters
  - Transportation
  - Coverage area is limited

**Benefits of Linkages between FO & Service Provider**

- Better planting schedule adherence.
- Service providers only need to discuss with the FOs, the FOs will represent the farmers.
- FOs receive up to 10% rebate of the contract service charges.
- FOs can reduce the cost of production and increase land productivity.
- Better income of the farmers.

**Conclusion**

- The service provider’s role is important in Muda Area.
- Good cooperation between FOs, farmers and service providers is required in the Muda area.
- The role of MADA through its FOs and the establishment of WUGs greatly helps to empower farmers to manage water efficiently. Thus ensuring better yield and improve livelihood of the farmers.
- Adherence to the planting schedule can help in good management of rice cultivation as well as the management of pests and diseases.
THANK YOU