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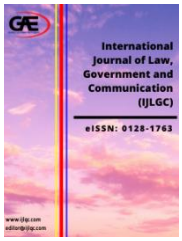

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FOOD SECURITY ISSUES IN MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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Abstract:

Food security is becoming increasingly important as the world's population grows, particularly in emerging countries like Malaysia and Indonesia. In Malaysia, food security is crucial to ensure that Malaysians have access to enough food if the nation experiences any unplanned events. Several critical food security issues have been identified in Malaysia and Indonesia, including a lack of agricultural land, agricultural investment, and appropriate policies and innovative programs for the agriculture sector to boost food production. This study aims to examine food security issues in Malaysia and Indonesia and to analyse the laws, policies, and initiatives implemented in Malaysia and Indonesia to ensure food security. In addition, waqf has much potential to address food security issues. This study adopts a qualitative approach that involves data collection based on primary and secondary legal material. The data collected are comparatively analysed using content analysis. This comparative legal research methodology draws lessons from both jurisdictions. The findings can be used to develop best practices and inform policy decisions on food security issues.

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Agriculture, Climate Change, Food Security, Land, Poverty, Waqf

Introduction

Food security is a flexible concept. The current comprehensive definition of food security came from the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) annual report on food security, "The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2001", defined as all people, at all times, having physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 2002). Food insecurity, meanwhile, was described as the inability or restricted capacity to obtain wholesome foods in morally acceptable ways. Food insecurity is frequently linked to poverty and poor health (Murdad et al., 2022). Peng and Berry (2018) mention that the relationship between food security and food insecurity is dynamic, reciprocal, and time-dependent. Also, the resultant status depends on the interaction between the stresses of food insecurity and the coping strategies to deal with them. The pressures of food insecurity may occur at any point along the food security pathway: availability, accessibility, utilisation, and stability. The elicited coping responses may occur at the national, household, or individual levels. The two processes are interrelated linearly with re-iterative feedback loops. Stress leads to managing responses that may or may not be adequate, thereby requiring modifications in the coping strategies until food security is regained. The resultant status depends on the interaction between the stresses of food insecurity and the coping strategies to deal with them.

Generally, the food supply involves all processes in a country's food production, processing, distribution, and sales. It is a complex system involving many stakeholders, including farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs, food factories, distributors, retailers, restaurants, authorities, and government agencies that regulate and ensure food safety and quality. Food security and food supply are essential in ensuring the adequacy and reliability of food supply to meet the population's needs. Food security refers to the availability and safety of food supply for each individual and community (FAO, n.d; World Food Programme; n.d).

Food sufficiency means that there is enough food to meet the nutritional needs of the entire population, thus ensuring no hunger or malnutrition among the people. Food security also involves the principle of fairness in access to food, ensuring that every individual and community has equal opportunities to access sufficient and quality food, regardless of their social, economic, or geographical background. Additionally, measures are taken to ensure that the food produced, processed, and distributed is safe for consumption. From a food safety perspective, this also involves compliance with food safety guidelines and regular quality inspections to prevent food-related issues such as food poisoning.

Malaysia and Indonesia face food security challenges due to limited agricultural land, insufficient agricultural investment, and inadequate policies. The problem arising from these issues is that Malaysia and Indonesia cannot ensure a stable and sufficient food supply for their populations, leading to potential food shortages and increased vulnerability to unplanned events. This study aims to analyse current laws and initiatives in both countries, focusing on the potential of waqf to improve food security. By comparing the two countries, the study seeks to find best practices and guide policy decisions to address these issues effectively. Apart from

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that, to achieve food security, it is crucial to manage and ensure the safety of the food supply. This requires collaboration among the government, agricultural sector, food industry, and the community in addressing issues such as natural disasters, climate change, and extraordinary events that may affect the food supply.

Literature Review

Food Security Concept in Malaysia and Indonesia

Food security is the ability to access enough food for every person in the nation and the availability of enough food per capita. Food security is critical in many countries, particularly in Southeast Asia, where Malaysia and Indonesia are two significant players. Domestic agricultural production and food security are economically and politically influential in Malaysia and Indonesia. Both nations face unique challenges related to food production, distribution, and accessibility.

Malaysia has introduced three central policies to ensure national food security: The First National Agricultural Policy from 1984 to 1991, the Third National Agricultural Policy in 2010, and the Food Supply Guarantee Policy in 2008 (Mohd Aris & Rahman, 2010). Based on the Global Food Security Index (2019), which covers all dimensions of food supply assurance, Malaysia ranks 28th among ASEAN countries, while Indonesia ranks 63rd (Agrobank, 2021). In 2018, the agricultural sector contributed 7.9% to Malaysia's income compared to the service sector (56.0%) and manufacturing (22.8%) (Agrobank, 2021). The National Food Security Policy Action Plan (2021–2025) and the National Agri-Food Policy 2.0 were formulated to ensure the country's preparedness to face food security crises effectively, emphasising food security components, including availability, affordability, utilisation, and stability of food supply. With these action plans and policies related to food security, the country should be able to address food security issues comprehensively and minimise their impact, especially during times of disaster.

Furthermore, to achieve the Zero Hunger 2030 goal outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Malaysia aims to ensure food security and improve the nutritional quality of food, which involves guaranteeing food security and enhancing the nutritional content of food to work towards eliminating hunger by 2030. Malaysia has made significant progress in addressing food security challenges over the years. Despite being a net food exporter, the country still faces issues related to income disparity, changing dietary patterns, and vulnerability to external shocks, such as climate change and global market fluctuations (FAO, 2021). Moreover, the heavy reliance on food imports, especially for staple commodities like rice, poses risks to food security (Shamsudin et al., 2019).

Indonesia is one of the world's most populous countries and a major food producer. The fundamentals of food security in Indonesia are the government's efforts to achieve food resilience for the entire population. Agriculture accounted for around 14% of GDP and 35% of employment in 2012. Food security in Indonesia has significantly improved since the early 2000s (OECD, 2015). The new Indonesian government revised the timeframe for self-sufficiency to 2017 for rice, maise, and soybeans and 2019 for beef and sugar. A significant focus of Indonesia's food security program is rice, the primary source of calories for most Indonesians. The food security program for rice is pursued through self-sufficiency targets, price stabilisation, and a "rice for the poor" (RASKIN) program, which provides rice at

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subsidised prices, prioritising poor or near-poor households. Fertilisers and other input subsidies are also increasingly used to stimulate domestic production (OECD, 2015).

Additionally, the government introduced the Food Security Law (Law Number 18 of 2012), the legal foundation governing efforts to achieve national food security. The National Food Security Program is a strategic framework to address food security issues in Indonesia, and the Local-based Food System supports food security at the regional level. With these fundamentals and policies, the government strives to enhance food security and supply in Indonesia, aiming to achieve better food resilience for the entire population.

However, the nation confronts several food security issues, including land use conflicts, inadequate agricultural infrastructure, and low productivity. Additionally, Indonesia experiences high malnutrition and food waste levels, leading to significant food losses along the supply chain (Maulidia et al., 2021). Climate change impacts, such as extreme weather events, further threaten food production and availability in the country (World Bank, 2020).

Food Security Issues in Malaysia

Agricultural Productivity and Land Use

Agricultural productivity and land use are vital components of food security in Malaysia. Research and literature in this area emphasise the need for sustainable practices, climate resilience, and effective land use policies to ensure a stable and sufficient food supply for the growing population. By addressing challenges in productivity and adopting appropriate land use strategies, Malaysia can strengthen its food security and reduce its reliance on food imports. A study by Jomo (2017) highlights the declining agricultural productivity in Malaysia due to land scarcity and increasing urbanisation. The conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, such as industrialisation and urban development, poses a significant challenge to food production (Jamaluddin et al., 2019).

Climate change, including irregular rainfall patterns and extreme weather events, further exacerbate these challenges (Firdaus et al., 2020). Agricultural productivity and land use are critical in ensuring food security in Malaysia. As a nation heavily reliant on food imports, enhancing domestic agricultural productivity is essential for reducing dependency on external sources and achieving self-sufficiency. The efficient utilisation of available arable land and the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices contribute to a stable and resilient food supply chain. This is suitable and related to the study by (Tapsir et al., 2019). Sustainability and food security in agricultural development are still Malaysia's main agendas in its vision of being a developed nation. It is the government’s responsibility to instil public confidence that food is available and affordable and ensure the sustainability of the agri-food sector for the welfare of today's and future generations.

Dependency on Food Imports

Dependency on imports refers to how much a country relies on goods and services from other nations to meet domestic demand. In Malaysia, this concept is often used to describe the country's reliance on importing food products to meet its population's dietary needs and preferences. Malaysia is a net food-importing country, meaning it does not produce enough food domestically to fulfil its consumption requirements. This dependency on imports is influenced by various factors, including the country's population size, limited arable land,

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agricultural productivity, and changing dietary patterns. Malaysia heavily relies on food imports to meet domestic consumption demands (Mardani et al., 2020). Factors such as limited domestic production, increased urbanisation, and changing dietary patterns contribute to this dependency (Othman et al., 2017).

While importing food products can provide a diverse range of choices for consumers and supplement domestic supply during shortages, it poses certain risks and challenges. Fluctuations in international food prices, supply chain disruptions, and trade restrictions in exporting countries can affect the availability and affordability of imported food items. Malaysia has been implementing various strategies to address the dependency on food imports. These include promoting sustainable agricultural practices, increasing investment in research and development for agriculture, and encouraging local food production through policies and incentives. By enhancing domestic food production and reducing reliance on imports, Malaysia aims to improve its food security and ensure a stable and resilient food supply for its population.

Several vital factors also contribute to Malaysia's dependency on food imports because of the limited arable land. Rahim et al. (2017) also discuss these factors that affect supply and demand in the rice production system in Malaysia. This study employs the qualitative system dynamics approach to analyse the effect of the price, land availability, and technology on rice production in Malaysia. The findings of this study will help the government better understand the causes and effects of the factors related to improving the rice production policies in Malaysia.

Malaysia has a relatively small land area suitable for agriculture due to rapid urbanisation and industrialisation. The scarcity of arable land limits the country's capacity to produce enough food to meet its population's needs. Consumers demand a more diverse range of food products, including those not traditionally produced within the country. Globalisation and Trade Agreements also depend on imports. Malaysia's participation in international trade agreements has facilitated the importing of various food products from different countries. These trade agreements aim to ensure a stable food supply and provide consumers access to diverse products.

Food Supply Chain Efficiency: In some cases, it may be more cost-effective for Malaysia to import certain food products rather than produce them domestically. Transportation costs, economies of scale, and trade preferences influence the decision to import specific items. While importing food products can provide a diverse range of choices for consumers and supplement domestic supply during shortages, it poses certain risks and challenges. Fluctuations in international food prices, supply chain disruptions, and trade restrictions in exporting countries can affect the availability and affordability of imported food items. Whatever the management related to food security, Malaysia is strongly supported by the agriculture sector as the backbone to drive the economy related to significantly affected agriculture across the production, supply, and marketing chains. It also disturbs Malaysia's food supply and demand balance (Tan et al., 2023).

Income Inequality and Poverty

Income inequality and poverty levels impact food security, as low-income households often struggle to afford nutritious food (Mohammad et al., 2020). A study by Latiffah et al. (2018) suggests that poverty rates in Malaysia have a direct relationship with food insecurity. These issues affect the ability of individuals and households to access sufficient and nutritious food,

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contributing to disparities in food availability and consumption within these countries. Income inequality is the unequal income distribution among individuals or households within a nation. In both Malaysia and Indonesia, income inequality is a significant concern. Specific segments of the population have significantly higher incomes, while others struggle with lower wages and limited economic opportunities.

This disparity can impact access to food, as lower-income households may face challenges affording an adequate and diverse diet. Poverty is closely linked to income inequality and represents the inability of individuals or households to meet their basic needs, including access to sufficient and nutritious food. Poverty rates in both Malaysia and Indonesia vary across regions and population groups, with rural areas often experiencing higher levels of poverty compared to urban centres. They are also related to a study from Sukereman et al. (2022), which reveals that food security in higher-income countries tends to be more secure and robust than in upper- and lower-middle-income countries. Thus, cooperation between Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia must address each country's strengths, weaknesses, and trends that create new opportunities to close the gap and enhance food security.

Food Security Issues in Indonesia

Agricultural Productivity and Smallholder Farming

Indonesia faces challenges in improving agricultural productivity, particularly among smallholder farmers who constitute a significant portion of the rural population (Rusastra et al., 2018). Inadequate access to modern farming technologies, limited credit facilities, and poor infrastructure hinder agricultural development (Setyoko et al., 2019). Agricultural productivity and smallholder farming are closely intertwined in Indonesia, as smallholder farmers play a crucial role in the country's agricultural sector. Smallholder farming refers to farming practices carried out on relatively small plots of land by individual or family farmers. These farmers are the backbone of Indonesia's agricultural production and are significant in ensuring food security and rural livelihoods.

This is related to a study from Sibhatu et al., (2015) based on the common assumption that higher farm production diversity is always conducive to household nutrition needs adjustment. The most suitable policy mix to improve nutrition in smallholder farm households will vary from case to case. In many situations, facilitating market access through improved infrastructure and other policies to reduce transaction costs and price distortions seems more promising than promoting further production diversification.

Land Use Changes and Deforestation

Land use changes, including deforestation for agriculture and the expansion of palm oil plantations, affect the availability of arable land for food production (Sulistyowati et al., 2018). Environmental degradation and soil erosion resulting from deforestation further contribute to food security challenges (Nugraha et al., 2019). Land use changes and deforestation in Indonesia have been significant environmental issues with far-reaching implications for biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable development. The country's rapid economic growth, industrialisation, and expansion of agriculture and infrastructure have driven extensive land conversion, particularly for palm oil and timber production. Similarly, an overview of the critical aspects of land use changes and deforestation in Indonesia on palm oil plantations, timber and pulp industry, agricultural expansion, and biodiversity loss.

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Deforestation in Indonesia has had devastating effects on biodiversity. Many plant and animal species, including endangered species like orangutans, Sumatran tigers, and Bornean elephants, have lost their habitats and are now at risk of extinction. Climate change impact: The destruction of forests and peatlands in Indonesia releases vast amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, contributing to global climate change. Deforestation and peatland degradation make Indonesia one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases.

Climate Change and Natural Disasters

Indonesia is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including rising sea levels, increased temperatures, and more frequent extreme weather events (Dharmawan et al., 2019). Climate-related disasters, such as floods and droughts, affect agricultural production and exacerbate food insecurity (Kuswardani et al., 2019). The article is a full-length original empirical investigation that should present new and significant findings that contribute to advancing the research area. Analysis and discussion must be supported with relevant references. Climate change and natural disasters significantly impact Indonesia due to its geographical location, which is a region prone to various climate-related hazards. The country experiences many natural disasters, including floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and extreme weather events.

Additionally, climate change exacerbates the frequency and intensity of these disasters, posing substantial challenges to the country's environmental, social, and economic resilience. Here is an overview of the critical aspects of climate change and natural disasters in Indonesia. Correspondingly, climate change and natural disasters pose significant threats to communities and biodiversity in Indonesia, as well as displacement of communities due to sea-level rise and extreme weather events. Damage to infrastructure and loss of lives and livelihoods. Destruction of critical ecosystems, such as coral reefs and forests. Threats to biodiversity include endangered species such as orangutans and Sumatran tigers and loss of agricultural productivity and food security due to climate-related events.

Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative approach. It involves data collection based on primary legal material as well as secondary legal material. The primary legal materials are reviewed, including all statutes and regulations relevant to food security in both countries. Secondary legal materials are also reviewed, including textbooks and journals about food security in both countries. The data collected are comparatively analysed using content analysis. This comparative legal research methodology draws lessons from both jurisdictions. The findings can be used to develop best practices and inform policy decisions on food security issues.

Law, Policies, and Regulations in Malaysia and Indonesia on Food Security

Food security, as a fundamental aspect of human well-being and development, remains a pressing concern for countries worldwide. Ensuring a stable supply of safe, nutritious, and affordable food for their populations is a complex challenge that requires comprehensive strategies and effective governance (World Bank, n.d.). Food security is a critical concern for governments worldwide, including Malaysia and Indonesia (Sukereman et al., 2022). This part analyses the policies and initiatives implemented in Malaysia and Indonesia to ensure food security. The focus is on relevant policies such as the National Agriculture Policy (NAP), Malaysia Agro-Food Policy 2021-2030, and the Strategic Food Security Plan.

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Third National Agriculture Policy (NAP)

The main objective of the Third National Agriculture Policy (DPN 3) ("Dasar Pertanian Negara Ketiga (DPN 3)," n.d.) is to maximise income by resources in the agriculture sector. The policy aims to achieve various objectives, including enhancing food security, increasing productivity and competitiveness, creating linkages with other sectors, and conserving natural resources sustainably. To accomplish these goals, DPN 3 introduces two strategic approaches: the agroforestry approach and the product-based approach.

The agroforestry approach promotes mutual compatibility between agriculture and agroforestry to create a more extensive productive base for both sectors and land utilisation. The product-based approach identifies vital products and markets based on demand, market potential, and consumer preferences, supporting cluster-based agro-industrial development.

The policy envisions the agricultural sector achieving a growth rate of 2.1% annually, with new sources of growth from emerging industry groups such as agroforestry, speciality natural products, and biotechnology products. Strategic sourcing through offshore investment will complement domestic supply. The total workforce in agriculture is projected to decline, but productivity per worker is expected to increase through labour-saving technology.

The DPN 3 emphasises moderate land expansion and land use intensification to achieve agricultural growth. Some areas will experience substantial reductions, while new land development will occur in specific regions. Overall, the plan envisions limited hectarage expansion but increased productivity, leading to marginal land utilisation growth during the plan period.

The National Agrofood Policy 2021-2030 (NAP 2.0)

The National Agrofood Policy 2021-2030 (NAP 2.0) is a comprehensive nationwide document that builds upon the previous National Agrofood Policy (NAP) implemented from 2011 to 2020. NAP 2.0 aims to ensure food security by transforming the national food system. It emphasises crucial interventions, including the sustainable and resilient modernisation of the agri-food sector, enhancing food security and nutrition for the population's well-being, and promoting environmental sustainability.

Aligned with the national development agenda and existing policies like the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, Malaysia Five-Year Development Plan, National Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Policy, and Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint, NAP 2.0 on five key policy thrusts: modernisation and intelligent agriculture, strengthening market and product access, human capital development, food system sustainability, and creating conducive business ecosystems and governance.

The policy sets six strategic objectives to achieve its goals: driving income growth and improving the quality of life for food producers, raising production output through increased productivity, establishing agile and resilient value chains with high value-added activities, improving food safety and nutritional well-being, embracing economic and social inclusiveness, and encouraging sustainable consumption and production practices. Strategic development within the agri-food system focuses on sub-sectors such as paddy and rice, fruits and vegetables, livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture. The policy outlines diverse strategies for each sub-sector, encompassing innovative agriculture technology adoption, improved technical

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services, efficient land and water management of speciality rice varieties, and the promotion of high-value fruits and vegetables.

Environmental sustainability is a critical aspect of the policy, emphasising sustainable practices, waste and pollution reduction in food production, conservation of biodiversity and natural resources, and enhanced fisheries resource sustainability. To foster inclusive economic and social growth, NAP 2.0 emphasises strengthening value-producing industries, diversifying exports, supporting local food industries, establishing links between food production and consumers, attracting investments and private sector participation, and encouraging self-sufficiency in feed for intensive farming.

Overall, the National Agrofood Policy 2021-2030 seeks to transform Malaysia's agri-food sector for long-term sustainability, resilience, and economic growth while ensuring food security, safety, and environmental preservation.

Strategic Food Security Plan

In Malaysia, ensuring food security has been a top priority for the government to safeguard the nation against food crises and ensure the well-being of its citizens. The National Food Security Policy, introduced in 2013 by the Government of Malaysia, outlines a comprehensive strategy to address food security challenges (GOMP, 2013). This policy emphasises sustainable agricultural practices, the enhancement of food production and distribution systems, and measures to stabilise food prices.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry (MOA) is pivotal in implementing food security initiatives. Collaborating with various stakeholders, including the private sector and research institutions, the MOA actively promotes research and development in the agricultural sector to boost productivity and efficiency (Mohd Shariff et al., 2018). Additionally, the ministry conducts educational programs and extension services to empower farmers with the knowledge and skills required for sustainable agriculture.

Despite these efforts, Malaysia still faces challenges in achieving complete food self-sufficiency due to its reliance on imports for specific food items (Abdul-Rahman et al., 2020). However, the country has established stringent import regulations to ensure the safety and quality of imported food products. The government also engages in strategic partnerships with neighbouring countries to secure food supplies and maintain price stability in the domestic market (FAO, 2019). Furthermore, the Malaysian government provides targeted food subsidies to make essential items affordable for low-income citizens. These subsidies are crucial in reducing the burden of rising food prices on vulnerable populations and contributing to overall food security (Kiran et al., 2019).

As a densely populated country, Indonesia faces significant challenges in achieving food security for its vast population. To address these challenges, the government has implemented Food Act No. 18/2012 and Regulation No. 28/2016 on Food Security (Republic of Indonesia, 2012; Government Regulation of Indonesia, 2016). These regulations provide the legal framework for food security planning and implementation. To enhance food security, Indonesia has adopted a multifaceted approach. One of the key strategies is to improve agricultural productivity and modernise the agricultural sector. The government invests in infrastructure,

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irrigation systems, and research and development to support farmers and increase agricultural output (FAO, 2018).

Promoting food diversification and self-sufficiency is another crucial aspect of Indonesia's food security strategy. The country encourages various crops to reduce reliance on imports and ensure a diverse and nutritious diet for its population (World Bank, 2020). Furthermore, Indonesia strongly emphasises strengthening food security infrastructure, including storage and transportation facilities, to prevent food losses and ensure efficient distribution (FAO, 2018). Social safety nets are also in place to protect vulnerable groups, such as targeted food assistance programs for those most in need (World Bank, 2020).

Both Malaysia and Indonesia recognise the importance of food security and have implemented comprehensive laws, policies, and regulations to address the challenges associated with this issue. Malaysia focuses on sustainable agriculture, price, and targeted subsidies, while Indonesia emphasises agricultural productivity, diversification, infrastructure development, and social safety nets.

These countries have made significant strides toward food security, but challenges persist, such as import dependence and rapid population growth. Continuous evaluation and improvements in their policies, backed by collaborative efforts from all stakeholders, will be crucial in ensuring long-term food security and prosperity for their citizens. By learning from each other's experiences and exchanging best practices, Malaysia and Indonesia can strengthen their food security strategies and contribute to regional and global efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition.

Food Security-Related Laws, Policies, and Regulations in Indonesia and Malaysia: Comparative Analysis

Table 1 compares food security-related laws, policies, and regulations in Indonesia and Malaysia. It examines their respective National Food Security Policies, Strategic Food Crop Development Programs, Food Safety Acts, Agricultural Subsidies, Import and Export Regulations, and Land Use Policies. Both countries have implemented measures to enhance food security, focusing on domestic food production, sustainable farming practices, and safety regulations. The analysis highlights the importance of these policies in ensuring the availability, accessibility, and affordability of food for their populations.

Table 1
Comparative Analysis Laws, Policies, and Regulations in Malaysia and Indonesia on Food Security

Law/Policies/Regulations	Malaysia	Indonesia
National Food Security Policy	Malaysia's National Food Security Policy aims to ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability of food for its population. The policy includes strategies such as increasing domestic food production, improving	Indonesia's National Food Security Policy focuses on self-sufficiency in essential staple food such as rice. The policy includes measures to increase domestic food production, enhance farm productivity, support small-

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	agricultural productivity, promoting sustainable farming practices, and enhancing food supply chain management (Malaysian et al. Institute, n.d.) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (Malaysia) (Food and Agriculture Organization, n.d.).	scale farmers, and improve post-harvest infrastructure (Ministry of Agriculture, n.d.; Badan et al.; Food and Agriculture Organization, n.d.).
Strategic Food Crop Development Program	Malaysia has the Strategic Food Crop Development Program, which encourages the cultivation of strategic food crops to reduce import dependency. This program supports the production of crops such as rice, corn, and vegetables through incentives, research, and development (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries Malaysia. (n.d.).; Department of Agriculture Malaysia. (n.d.).)	Indonesia has various programs to support strategic food crop development, including the Food Estate Program, which aims to develop large-scale agricultural areas for rice, corn, and other staple crops. The program includes infrastructure development, land utilisation, and support for farmers (Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia. (n.d.); od and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Indonesia. (n.d.).
Food Safety Act	In Malaysia, food safety is governed primarily by the Food Act 1983 (Attorney General's Chambers of Malaysia, 1983). This legislation ensures food products' safety, quality, and hygiene throughout the supply chain, covering food labelling, additives, premises, and enforcement. The Food Act 1983 establishes the Food Safety and Quality Division under the Ministry of Health Malaysia to oversee and enforce food safety standards.	In Indonesia, food safety is primarily governed by Law No. 18 of 2012 (National Legislation Agency of Indonesia, 2012) concerning Food. This law regulates food products' production, processing, distribution, and sale to ensure safety and quality standards compliance. It outlines the responsibilities of food business operators, importers, and government agencies in ensuring food safety. Additionally, various regulations and ministerial decrees provide specific guidelines and requirements related to food safety.
Agricultural Subsidies	In Malaysia, agricultural subsidies are managed by	Agricultural subsidies are crucial in supporting

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	various government agencies, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries Malaysia). These subsidies aim to enhance agricultural productivity, improve rural livelihoods, and boost food security (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries Malaysia, n.d.). The government provides financial assistance to farmers to purchase fertilisers, seeds, machinery, and other agricultural inputs. Additionally, subsidies may be offered for crop insurance, research and development initiatives, and training programs (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries Malaysia, n.d.).	smallholder farmers and promoting food self-sufficiency in Indonesia. The government offers various subsidies to reduce production costs, improve farm practices, and increase agricultural productivity (Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia). Subsidies in Indonesia may include support for seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, farm machinery, and irrigation infrastructure (Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, n.d.). The government also provides financial assistance and incentives to encourage the adoption of modern agricultural technologies (Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, n.d.).
Import and Export Regulations	Malaysia has import regulations to ensure the quality and safety of imported food products. These regulations include inspections, certifications, and adherence to international standards. The country also implements export regulations to promote the export of high-quality food products (Ministry of Health Malaysia, n.d.); (Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services (MAQIS), n.d.).	Indonesia has import regulations governing imported food products' quality, safety, and quarantine. BPOM and other relevant agencies enforce these regulations. Export regulations are also in place to regulate the export of agricultural products, including compliance with international trade standards (Badan Pengawasan Obat dan Makanan (n.d.).
Land Use Policies	The National Land Use Policy in Malaysia provides a framework for land use planning and development, including provisions for sustainable agriculture and food security (EPU, 2016). It considers factors like	Indonesia's National Spatial Plan (RTRWN) provides land use planning and management guidelines across different regions (Kementerian Agraria dan Tata Ruang/Badan Pertanahan Nasional, n.d.).

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agricultural potential, ecological protection, and land productivity.

Malaysia designates certain areas as Permanent Reserved Forests (PRF) to preserve natural resources and biodiversity. These forests indirectly contribute to food security by supporting water catchment areas and ensuring ecological balance (Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia, n.d.).

Malaysia promotes the adoption of integrated farming systems that combine various agricultural activities such as crop cultivation, livestock rearing, and aquaculture (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries Malaysia, n.d.). This approach optimises land use, improves productivity, and enhances food security.

The Malaysian government also implements policies to control land fragmentation and promote efficient land use (Department of Director General of Land and Mines, n.d.). This helps prevent excessive land fragmentation and ensures effective land utilisation for food production.

It aims to balance economic development with environmental conservation and food security. The plan considers agricultural potential, water availability, and ecosystem protection to ensure sustainable land use for food production.

Indonesia has policies to safeguard agricultural land from conversion to non-agricultural purposes. The government encourages the preservation of prime agricultural land for food production. It restricts the conversion of such lands for other uses (Kementerian Agraria dan Tata Ruang/Badan Pertanahan Nasional, n.d.).

The Indonesian government promotes community-based land management approaches that involve local communities in land use decision-making (Global Land Tool Network, 2017). This approach helps preserve traditional knowledge and practices related to sustainable agriculture and food security.

To enhance food security, Indonesia emphasises adopting sustainable agricultural practices that improve soil fertility, water management, and crop productivity (National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), 2015). These practices aim to

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	ensure long-term food security while minimising negative environmental impacts.

Waqf Land Development for Agriculture

Waqf land, an integral part of Islamic societies, represents a charitable endowment with immense potential for socio-economic development. Through waqf, individuals or institutions dedicate assets, including land, to perpetually ensure their use for the benefit of the community (Ali & Idris, 2021). Waqf land has historically been crucial in supporting various social and economic activities, such as building mosques, schools, and hospitals and promoting agricultural endeavours.

As an Islamic philanthropy asset, Waqf land has much potential to address food security issues. Waqf can contribute to growth in the agricultural industry by giving capital and financial support, which are typically the main problems. Furthermore, waqf is viewed as a potential answer to alleviate the current socioeconomic problem and finance the SDGs (Listiana et al., 2021). In addition, waqf land has been utilised as paddy fields in Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world. Paddy fields were initially proposed for use in waqf land under the control of the Indonesian Waqf Board (Badan Wakaf Indonesia). Indonesia's primary objective in generating an adequate supply of rice is to reduce the disparity between basic farmer prices and retail market prices (Wildana & Kafabih, 2021).

Concept of Waqf Land

Waqf is a practice rooted in Islamic law that involves the dedication of assets, including land, to serve charitable purposes in perpetuity. It promotes social welfare, economic development, and community empowerment (Naqvi, 2013). Waqf land refers to parcels of land that are dedicated through waqf for various purposes, including agriculture. Waqf land has been utilised for various purposes throughout history, including agriculture. It represents an essential resource for generating income, supporting livelihoods, and meeting the community's needs. The significance of waqf land in supporting agricultural activities for food security is highlighted by (Ali & Idris, 2021).

Waqf land holds immense potential for promoting sustainable agriculture, contributing to self-sufficiency, and enhancing food security. Its utilisation for agricultural activities can provide opportunities for income generation, employment creation, and the production of nutritious food (Raman, 2019). By harnessing the potential of waqf land for agriculture, communities can improve their food production capabilities and reduce dependence on external food sources.

Despite its potential, there are challenges and barriers to agricultural development on waqf land. These include limited funding, lack of technical expertise, inadequate infrastructure, and conflicting legal frameworks. Overcoming these challenges requires effective governance, strategic planning, and stakeholder partnerships to harness the full potential of waqf land for agricultural activities (Raman, 2019).

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Waqf Land and Food Security

Agricultural activities directly impact food security by increasing food production, improving nutrition, and reducing dependence on external sources. Sustainable agricultural practices contribute to enhanced food availability, accessibility, and utilisation, thereby improving food security outcomes (Pretty et al., 2011). The effective utilisation of waqf land for agriculture holds the potential to contribute to sustainable food production. By leveraging waqf land for agricultural purposes, communities can enhance their capacity for food production, create income-generating opportunities, and improve their overall food security status (Ali & Idris, 2021).

Waqf land initiatives have the potential to address poverty by promoting income-generating activities and enhancing community development. By utilising waqf land for agricultural purposes, communities can create sustainable livelihoods, improve economic well-being, and reduce poverty levels, indirectly contributing to improved food security (Suleiman & Ibrahim, 2017). Effective utilisation of waqf land for agricultural activities can enhance access to food and reduce food insecurity. By promoting local food production and reducing dependence on external sources, waqf land initiatives can improve food availability and accessibility, ultimately reducing food insecurity within communities (Raman, 2019).

Research has emphasised the potential of waqf land in Malaysia and Indonesia to contribute to food security (Abdullah et al., 2019). If properly managed and developed, Waqf land can serve as a sustainable source of agricultural production, providing communities with access to nutritious food. However, effectively utilising waqf land for food security requires establishing shared mental models among stakeholders involved in its development and management.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Malaysia and Indonesia share some common food security challenges, particularly concerning their reliance on imports and agricultural productivity. Climate change significantly threatens both countries' food systems, affecting production and distribution. However, they also have unique issues that stem from differences in population size, land availability, and agricultural policies. Indonesia's larger population presents a more complex task in ensuring food security for its citizens. In contrast, Malaysia's focus on research and development may offer specific opportunities for sustainable solutions. To address these challenges effectively, both countries must invest in sustainable agricultural practices, enhance food distribution networks, and promote policies supporting small-scale farmers. Additionally, efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote food safety and quality are crucial for ensuring a stable and resilient food supply for their populations.

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