

Food security experience in Malaysia

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Abstract

The food processing industry forms an important linkage to the agriculture sector. The growth in the primary food production, together with an expansion of the food processing industry will lead to greater synergy, in terms of value-added creation, product diversification and market expansion.

Food safety and quality are major concerns in the food industry. The right to food is a basic tenet of a food security policy of any nation. Malaysia's food industry is as diverse as the multi-cultures of Malaysia, and the food processing industry in Malaysia is predominantly Malaysian-owned and dominated by small and medium scale companies.

The importance of food security in Malaysia can be viewed from both the perspectives of supply and demand. Malaysian food producers are capable in producing world class food products that comply with international certification requirements, such as HACCP and Codex Standard and thus far has venture into more than 200 markets. Among the certifications in relation to safety and quality of the food industry in Malaysia are Halal, GMP, Good Hygiene Practice (GHP), ISO 9000 and Quality Assurance Programme. With the ranging concerns on food security, trade promotion is seen as an important mechanism in helping companies to penetrate and sustain their presence in the international market.

Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), the national trade promotion agency plays an important role in positioning and promoting Malaysia as a producer of safe and high quality products, in compliance with international certification requirement.