

LAND OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION

The final part of this Exercise deals with an important economic question, that of land ownership and operation. Before going to the analysis proper, some basic terms must be understood.

1. A farm is a unit of production based on land.¹ A farm therefore consists of all pieces of land operated by the farmer. He can operate on his own land and/or on land rented from other farmers.

2. A holding consists of all the pieces of land owned by one farmer.² It is not necessary that he operates on all his land. A farmer having 3 pieces of land but rents out one piece is a farmer of the 2 pieces only while the third piece is the tenant's farm.

Three types of farmers are listed:

(a) Owner-operator means a farmer who operates his own land.

(b) Operator but not owner means a tenant farmer who rents other people's land and operates it.

(c) Owner but not operator means the land is rented out to tenants.

2. Distribution of Farms

We have seen that there are 180 households in the 3 blocks, which means each household lives on one farm. Therefore there are 180 farms with a total acreage of 832.5 acres. Block C has the most number of farms with 73 or 40.54% of the total 180, as is seen in TABLE 16. Block B has 68 farms or 37.77% and Block A 21.65% or 39 farms.

TABLE 16 shows an analysis of farms by size and ethnic groups in the different blocks. Malays operate 81 farms, Javanese 66 and Banjarese 33. In Block A the Javanese have the

¹Prof. Ungku Aziz - "Concepts of Agglomeration and Consolidation and Related Research Methodology" - Ekonomi, Volume I, No. I, 1960, page 16.

²Ibid, op. cit., page 16.

TABLE 16

DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS BY SIZE, BLOCKS AND ETHNIC GROUPS

Farm Size (Acres)	Block A			Block B			Block C		
	M %	J %	B %	M %	J %	B %	M %	J %	B %
0 - 1½	1 0.55	0 0.00	1 0.55	3 1.66	0 0.00	1 0.55	2 2.22	4 2.22	2 1.11
1½ - 3	4 2.22	14 7.77	2 1.11	20 11.11	4 2.22	9 5.00	14 7.77	18 10.00	5 2.77
3 - 4½	4 2.22	4 2.22	1 0.55	6 3.33	2 1.11	2 1.11	4 2.22	5 2.77	1 0.55
4½ - 6	0 0.00	3 1.66	1 0.55	8 4.44	2 1.11	6 3.33	7 3.88	8 4.44	0 0.00
> 6	1 0.55	2 1.11	1 0.55	5 2.77	0 0.00	0 0.00	1 0.55	0 0.00	0 0.00
Total	10 5.55	23 12.77	6 3.33	42 23.33	8 4.44	18 10.00	30 16.66	35 19.44	8 4.44

Note

It should be noted from the TABLE 16, that the % are calculated from the total of 180 farms.

largest number of farms (23) while the Malays and Javanese only have 10 and 6 each, or 5.55% and 3.33% respectively. Block B sees the greatest number of Malay farmers (42) or 23.33% and in C 30 or 16.66%. Since the Javanese population is comparatively smaller in Block B their farms totalled to only 8 (4.44%). They, however, abound in Block C with 35 farms. The greatest number of Banjarese farms is found in Block B - 10% or 18 farms.

In the above table the farms have been analysed according to their size, ranging from 0 - 1½ acres to over 6 acres. The most common acreage is in the 1½ - 3 acres, with farms closer to 3 acres abounding. The total number here is 100. Farms with an acreage of more than 3 acres number 64, while the rest (16) are of less than 1½ acres in area. Malay farmers have the largest number of farms of over 3 acres (36 farms).

The 180 farms are made up of 267 pieces of land,³ as is seen from TABLE 17. One hundred and fifty-seven pieces are owner-operated while 92 pieces are "rented in." The remaining 18 pieces are owned but not operated, i.e. rented out. We do not have information as to whether the same pieces of land rented out are rented in by other farmers. In this case the 18 pieces would have been included under the 92 pieces which are rented in. A great majority of the first 2 types of operation, that is, 157 pieces are between 1½ to 3 acres each, as is shown in TABLE 17.

From TABLE 17 we see that 157 pieces of land are owner-operated while another 92 pieces are operated by tenant farmers. From the two tables we observe that a number of farmers have more than one piece of land, regardless whether he owns it or rents it. We do not know the exact number of pieces operated⁴ by each farmer, but we do know the holdings of farmers, as seen from TABLE 18.

Of the 267 pieces of land operated, 171 pieces form holdings, i.e. all pieces owned by the farmer. Malays hold 78 pieces of land in all blocks, the greatest number of holdings (43 pieces) being in Block B. Javanese holds 32 pieces in Block C, 25 in A and only 6 in B, bringing the total to 63 pieces. The remaining 40 pieces constitute the holdings of Banjarese farmers, the majority of these holdings being in Block B (19 pieces). Here again we can see that the majority (110 pieces) of holdings are of 1½ - 3 acres each. Only 19

³See the above discussion on page 28.

⁴Operated here means all pieces which form the farm.

pieces have more than 4½ acres each, while another 15 pieces have an acreage of 3 - 4½ acres each. Therefore the majority of pieces are of the 3 acre group. In fact each farmer was initially given lots of 3 acres each but due to the process of buying and selling and subdivision, the acreage of pieces have either increased or decreased.

We have discussed so far of land holdings in the 3 blocks. It must be remembered that some of the farmers have holdings outside the blocks. These would include holdings in other blocks of Sawah Sempadan, as well as all land elsewhere. However, since the majority of farmers came from nearby areas in Kuala Selangor, they have their holdings there, such as in Sungai Burong, Tiram Burong and Sungai Tinggi Kanan. Only 2 farmers have holdings in Block G and H in Sawah Sempadan.

TABLE 17

LAND OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION IN BLOCKS A, B, C

Size of Pieces	Pieces of Land			Total
	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	
0 - 1½	17	22	3	47
> 1½ - 3	98	52	7	157
> 3 - 4½	14	7	1	22
> 4½ - 6	21	7	0	28
> 6	7	4	2	13
Total Pieces	157	92	18	267

NOTE: Type 1 means owned and operated pieces.
 Type 2 are "rented in" or operated but not owned.
 Type 3 are rented out: pieces which are owned but not operated.

We are dealing only with pieces of land within Blocks A, B and C.

TABLE 18

LAND HOLDINGS IN BLOCKS A, B, C

Holding size (Acres)	A			B			C			Total pieces
	J	B	S	J	B	S	J	B	S	
0 - 1	1	0	2	9	0	1	3	3	2	27
>1 - 3	2	10	4	25	0	13	22	19	3	110
>3 - 4	2	2	0	4	0	4	2	1	0	15
>4 - 6	0	0	0	4	0	1	3	7	0	15
>6	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	4
Total	5	25	6	43	0	19	30	32	5	171

NOTE: S - Malays
J - Javanese
B - Banjarese

TABLE 19 shows all holdings outside these blocks. I have included holdings only since only a small minority of tenant farmers are recorded outside the blocks. Also these holdings are based on families, e.g. a household may have moved into Block A leaving a piece of land in the former kampong operated by a brother or any close relative who would not in my case be considered a tenant.

It can be seen that only 3 pieces of land holdings outside the blocks are of over 4 acres in area.

3. Tenancy

Of the total 267 pieces of land which comprise 180 farms, 97 pieces are cultivated by tenant farmers. The number of pieces does not correspond with the number of farms. And it is not possible to record the exact number of tenant farmers, since some farmers may rent in from others and at the same time operates his own lot. The two pieces would make one farm. It is for this reason that I have calculated only the number of pieces of land, rather than actual number of tenant farmers.

TABLE 19

LAND HOLDINGS OUTSIDE BLOCKS

Holding Size	Malays	Javanese	Banjarese	Total
0 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	2	0	6
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3	5	6	1	12
3 - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	1	0	5
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 6	0	2	1	3
> 6	0	0	0	0
Total	13	11	2	26

TABLE 20

PIECES OF LAND "RENTED IN"

Ethnic Groups	Block A		Block B		Block C		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Malays	6	6.5	24	26.0	15	16.3	45	48.8
Javanese	13	14.1	4	4.3	10	10.8	27	29.2
Banjarese	6	6.5	12	13.0	2	2.1	20	21.6
Mixed	25	27.1	40	43.3	27	29.2	92	100.00

Note: Percentages are calculated from the total of 92 pieces.

From TABLE 20 we can see that 43.3% of the total pieces "rented in" are found in Block B, while Block C and A have only 29.2% and 27.1% respectively. The majority of pieces rented in by Malays (48.8% or 45 pieces) while the Javanese only 27 pieces or 29.2%. Twenty-four pieces of land are

TABLE 21

RENTED-IN PIECES BY BLOCKS, SIZE AND ETHNIC GROUPS

Acres	Block A			Block B			Block C			Total
	M	J	B	M	J	B	M	J	B	
0 - 1½	2	3	0	5	2	3	7	2	0	24
1½ - 3	3	9	4	17	2	8	6	4	2	55
3 - 4½	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
4½ - 6	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	3	0	7
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6	13	6	24	4	12	15	10	2	92

"rented in" by Malays in Block B, while the Javanese have 13 pieces "rented in" in Block A and Banjarese 12 in Block B.

To get the size of "rented in" pieces we refer to TABLE 21. Of the total 25 pieces "rented in" in Block A, 21 pieces are between 0 - 3 acres each (with 16 pieces nearing 3 acres each). In Block B 27 pieces are of 3 acres each and in Block C 12 pieces, bringing a total of 55 pieces with 3 acres each. Of this 55 pieces 26 are operated by Malays, 15 by Javanese and 14 by Banjarese farmers.

Only 5 pieces of over 4½ acres each are operated by Malays, 5 by Javanese and only 1 by the Banjarese.

As I have pointed out earlier, it is not possible to discover the actual number of tenant farmers. But it is possible to find out those tenant farmers who have no holdings at all, that is, they operate on rented land, and on no other land. Thus, TABLE 22 is drawn up to that specification.

From TABLE 22, we note that 45 farmers have no land of their own. From this we have some idea of the extent of tenancy in this area. This constitutes about 25% of the total number of farms. Blocks B and C have the largest number of such farmers - i.e 17 each, whereas only 11 are found in Block

A. From this table we also see that 20 Malay farmers have no holdings of their own,⁵ 14 Javanese and 11 Banjarese are in the same category. We also observe that most of such tenant farmers operate on lots of 3 acres each.

TABLE 22

FARMERS WITH NO HOLDINGS (TENANT FARMERS)

Size	Block A			Block B			Block C			Total
	M	J	B	M	J	B	M	J	B	
0 - 1½	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	8
1½ - 3	2	4	2	8	1	4	3	1	2	27
> 3 - 4½	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
> 4½ - 6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	4
> 6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Total	4	4	3	9	2	6	7	8	2	45

⁵with reference to holdings in Blocks A, B, C only.