

## CHAPTER V

### LAND OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION

#### 1. Concepts and Definitions:

##### 1. Ownership:

In the strict definition of the word, "ownership" means possessing a legal right to own a property. A person will have legal documents to prove his ownership. In the case of land, he has grants or title deeds to prove that he has legal ownership. For the purpose of this survey, however, we have to relax this strict definition to make allowance for the commonly observed case that a person often does not have grants or title deeds, but by right is the owner of the land. We came across upon quite large number of cases of persons selling their land but do not as yet legally transfer the ownership title. In fact, of course, the land is sold, and the other person has the right to operate the land. To include these cases, therefore, ownership of land is recognised if a person has the right to operate on the land, and that no other person disputes his ownership.

2. The terms "operated and owned", "operated not owned", and "owned not operated" are self-explanatory.

##### 3. Holdings:

A holding is a unit of operation of land. A lot may be divided into several holdings. For example, a farmer owns a lot, and sub-divided it into three distinct units of operation, and according to this definition the farmer has three holdings(1).

##### 4. Non-padi lands:

Non-padi lands here refers to holdings which are not normally cultivated with padi. Most of the non-padi lands owned by the people residing in the four blocks under study are situated outside Sawah Sempadan.

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(1) It must be pointed out that this definition of "holding" is meant to serve the special purpose of this survey. It may not be true in other circumstances. If "holding" is defined in any other way however, the figures in the tables showing the number of holdings may be distorted.

**TABLE 23**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY ETHNIC GROUPS**

ETHNIC GROUPS OWNED & OPERATED		MALAYS	% OF TOTAL PADI HOLDINGS	% OF TOTAL HOLDINGS	JAVA-NESE	% OF TOTAL PADI HOLDINGS	% OF TOTAL HOLDINGS
PADI	OPERATED & OWNED	119	68.4	58.9	134	77.9	61.8
	OPERATED NOT OWNED	44	25.3	21.9	25	14.5	11.5
	OWNED NOT OPERATED	11	6.3	5.4	13	7.6	6.0
TOTAL		174	100		172	100	

NON-PADI	OPERATED & OWNED	26		12.9	41		18.9
	OPERATED NOT OWNED	2		0.9	4		1.8
	TOTAL	28		100	45		100
		6.7%			10.7%		

TABLE 22

**DISTRIBUTION OF LAND OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION  
BY FARMING GROUPS AND SIZE OF HOLDINGS**

F A D I										NON - FADI				
SIZE OF HOLDINGS (ACRES)	OPERATED & OWNED		OPERATED NOT OWNED		OWNED NOT OPERATED		TOTAL	%	OPERATED & OWNED		OPERATED NOT OWNED		TOTAL	
	M	J	M	J	M	J			M	J	M	J		
UNDER 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	
1 & UNDER 2	21	28	8	7	6	6	76	220	8	17	1	3	105	
2 & UNDER 3	7	17	4	4	-	3	35	10.1	9	6	-	-	90	
3 & UNDER 4	86	81	32	14	4	4	221	63.9	2	-	-	1	224	
4 & UNDER 5	2	4	-	-	-	-	6	1.7	-	1	-	-	7	
5 & UNDER 6	3	3	-	-	1	-	7	2.1	6	10	1	-	24	
6 & UNDER 7	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	6.2	-	3	-	-	4	
7 & ABOVE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	

## **2. Total Holdings - (Padi & Non-Padi):**

Table 23 shows that the total number of holdings owned by people residing in the four blocks, E, Q, S and W in 419, consisting of 346 padi-holdings and 73 non-padi holdings. It is noted that there are 459 farm workers(1) working on 346 padi holdings. This gives a ratio of farm workers to total padi holdings of approximately 2 persons per holding. The mean size of padi holdings is 3.5 acres (refer Appendix ).

It is useful to relate the number of households to the number of padi holdings. We find that the 183 households own a total of 346 padi holdings giving an overall ratio of approximately 2 holdings per household. The 97 Malay households own 174 holdings, giving a ratio of 1.8 holdings per Malay household, while the 86 Javanese household own 172 holdings, giving a ratio of 2 holdings per Javanese household.

## **3. Size of Padi Holdings:**

Table 24 shows the distribution of <sup>padi</sup>holdings by size in acres. As noted that the mean size of padi-holdings is 3.5 acres. It is seen that 63.9% of total padi holdings are within the size group of 3 and under 4 acres; 22% within size group of 1 and under 2 acres; and 10.1% within 2 and under 3 acres. Holdings of 4 acres and above forms only 4% of total number of holdings.

## **4. Distribution of Padi Holdings by Blocks:**

Table 25 shows the distribution of padi holdings by blocks. There are 84 holdings in block E, of which 78 are owned by persons residing in the block itself and 6 holdings are owned by persons not residing in the block. There are 115 holdings in block Q, of which 25 are owned by persons not residing in the block. In block S, there are 111 holdings, and 24 are owned by persons not living in the block. While out of total of 36 holdings in block W, only 10 are owned by persons residing in the block itself.

This gives us a total of 265 holdings or 76.6% of total padi holdings are owned by in-block residents and 81 holdings or 23.4% of total padi holdings in the four blocks are owned by non-block residents.

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- (1) Farm workers include the three categories, farmers, odd-job workers, part-time farmers and farm helpers.



**TABLE 25**

**DISTRIBUTION OF PADI HOLDINGS BY BLOCKS**

<b>HOLDINGS BLOCKS</b>	<b>TOTAL NO. OF HOLDINGS</b>	<b>NO. OF HOLDINGS OWNED BY PERSONS NOT RESIDING IN BLOCKS</b>	<b>NO. OF HOLDINGS OWNED BY PERSONS RESIDING IN BLOCKS</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Q</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>W</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>265</b>
		<b>23.4%</b>	<b>76.6%</b>

**TABLE 26****NATURE OF OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION  
OF PADI HOLDINGS**

<b>NATURE OF OWN. &amp; OPER.</b>	<b>HOLDINGS</b>	<b>NO. OF HOLDINGS</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>OPERATED &amp; OWNED</b>		<b>253</b>	<b>73.2</b>
<b>OPERATED NOT OWNED</b>		<b>69</b>	<b>19.9</b>
<b>OWNED NOT OPERATED</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>346</b>	<b>100</b>

**TABLE 27****OWNERSHIP & OPERATION OF TOTAL HOLDINGS**

	<b>NO. OF HOLDINGS</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>MALAYS</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>48.3</b>
<b>JAVANESE</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>51.7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100</b>

**TABLE 23****OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF PADI HOLDINGS**

<b>ETHNIC GROUPS</b>	<b>HOLDINGS</b>		
	<b>NO. OF PADI HOLDINGS</b>	<b>% OF TOTAL PADI HOLDINGS</b>	<b>% OF TOTAL HOLDINGS</b>
<b>MALAYS</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>41.5</b>
<b>JAVANESE</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>41.1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>82.6</b>

## 5. Nature of Ownership and Operation of Padi Holdings:

Ownership and operation of both padi and non-padi holdings are classified into three categories; namely, operated and owned holdings, operated not owned, and owned not operated. Table 26 shows that, out of 346 padi holdings, 253 holdings or 73.2% are operated and owned; 19.9% operated not owned, and only 6.9% are owned and not operated. The most common type of holding is therefore, the operated and owned holding.

## 6. Distribution of Land Ownership and Operation by Ethnic Groups:

Table 27 shows that of the total of 419 holdings (padi and non-padi) 202 holdings or 48.3% are either owned or operated by Malays, and 217 holdings or 51.7% are either owned or operated by Javanese.

Of the 346 padi holdings only, we see that 174 holdings or 50.3% are either owned or operated by Malays, and 172 holdings or 49.7% are either owned or operated by Javanese (Table 28).

Table 23 shows the distribution of ownership and operation of holdings by ethnic groups and by nature of ownership and operation. Of the total of 174 padi holdings either owned or operated by Malays, 68.4% are operated and owned holdings, 25.3% operated not owned, and only 6.3% owned not operated holdings. Of the total of 172 padi holdings either owned or operated by Javanese, 77.9% are operated and owned, 14.5% operated not owned, and 7.6% owned not operated.

Of the total of 28 non-padi holdings either owned or operated by Malays, 26 holdings are operated and owned, and 2 holdings operated not owned. Of the total 45 non-padi holdings either owned or operated by Javanese, 41 holdings are operated and owned, and 4 holdings are operated not owned.

We see therefore, that large percentage of holdings are in the category of operated and owned. The Javanese, however, have slightly higher percentage of operated and owned holdings while the Malays have slightly higher percentage of holdings operated but not owned.

The categories "owned but not operated" and "operated not owned" padi holdings are less common in this area. These two categories make up a total of only 26.8% of total padi holdings. From this we gather that the majority of the people living in these four blocks are operating their own padi holdings. The problem of tenant farmers operating on land of absentee owners is not serious. We can safely say that most of the farmers have the satisfaction of working on their own land. This gives them incentive to work harder and improve the productivity of their land to achieve higher yield.