SEJARAH PENANAMAN KOPI DI SELANGOR

HISTORY OF COFFEE CULTIVATION IN SELANGOR

Kopi merupakan salah satu jenis tanaman kontan yang terdapat di Tanah Melayu. Pada awalnya, tanaman kopi Liberia dipercayai berasal dari kawasan benua Afrika. Tanaman kopi ini diperkenalkan di Selangor oleh pelabur-pelabur Eropah dari Ceylon (Sri Lanka) di antara tahun 1879 hingga 1881. Pada tahun 1890, peraturan tanah telah diperkenalkan di Selangor dan Residen British Selangor iaitu W.E. Maxwell turut mempelawa konsesi luar untuk terlibat dalam penanaman kopi secara besar-besaran. Kemasukan konsesi British telah mewujudkan komoditi kopi di kawasan Lembah Klang iaitu pembukaan ladang Weld's Hill oleh R.B. Downall (Kuala Lumpur) dan Batu Caves Estate selepas penutupan operasi Rawang Tin Mine pada tahun 1886. Ladang Weld's Hill bermula dengan 19 hingga 36 ekar pada tahun 1886 dan meningkat kepada 55 ekar sehingga tahun 1889. Pada tahun 1888-1889, Batu Caves Estate pula mengusahakan ladang kopi sebesar 12 ekar.

Coffee is one of the cash crops that can be found in Malaya. In the beginning, Liberian coffee was believed to originate from an area in the African continent. This coffee plant was introduced to Selangor by European investors from Ceylon (Sri Lanka) from the year 1879 to 1881. In the year 1890, land laws were introduced in Selangor and the Selangor British Resident, W. E. Maxwell invited foreign concessions to be involved to cultivate coffee on a large scale. With the entry of the British concession, it created a coffee commodity in Klang Valley which is the opening of Weld's Hill farm by R.B. Downall (Kuala Lumpur) and Batu Caves Estate after Rawang Tin Mins stopped operating in 1886. Weld's Hill farm started with 19 to 36 acres in 1886 and increased to 55 acres until the year 1889. Meanwhile, from 1888-1889, Batu Caves Estate operated a 12 acre coffee farm.



Pada tahun 1893, selepas kejatuhan industri kopi Ceylon, terdapat tiga buah ladang kopi di daerah Klang iaitu Melegum Road (476 ekar), Tremelbye Estate (65 ekar) dan Telok Pulai Road (67 ekar). Selain konsesi British, tanaman kopi di Telok Pulai diusahakan oleh orang-orang tempatan di mana terdapat 81 orang etnik Jawa, 35 orang Melayu dan 25 orang Cina terlibat dalam penanaman 67 ekar kopi, 284 ekar kelapa dan 34 ekar tanaman lain. Penglibatan orang tempatan secara komersial boleh dilihat melalui sinergi Dato' Haji Mohamed Tahir bin Haji Mahmud. Beberapa akhbar berbahasa Inggeris menggambarkan beliau:

"An old resident's report gives exact details of the beginning of coffee in Selangor..."; "Hj Tahir, who with extraordinary energy for a native, has drained his land, and planted up a portion with coffee..."

Dato' Haji Mohamed Tahir juga menggunakan teknik mengeringkan tanah terlebih dahulu sebelum menanam kopi dan membahagi-bahagikan tanahnya kepada beberapa blok sewaan (3-5 ekar per blok dengan harga 50 sen per ekar) kepada orang Cina dan Melayu dagang untuk penanaman kopi. Pada tahun 1894, beliau telah melelong sebanyak 3,810 ekar tanah hutan dara kepada orang awam pada harga $1 per ekar dengan keluasan setiap blok dari 259 hingga 376 ekar di sekitar Jugra.

SEJARAH PENANAMAN KOPI DI SELANGOR

HISTORY OF COFFEE CULTIVATION IN SELANGOR

Kemajuan industri kopi di Selangor dibantu oleh tiga faktor iaitu setiap ladang dibekalkan oleh buruh import berpengalaman dari Ceylon yang diupah sehingga $27 sen (2,400 orang pada tahun 1896), ladang-ladang ini mempunyai sistem pengairan yang sistematik serta kesesuaian iklim di Selangor. Dalam The Fall and Rise of Klang, 1867-1900, kemajuan penanaman kopi di Klang begitu popular sehingga dilabelkan sebagai 'Coffee is King of Klang' dan 'coffee planting craze'. Namun, pada tahun 1890-an, kopi dari Klang mengalami penurunan harga yang teruk akibat munculnya kopi-kopi dari Brazil dan aktiviti mencampuradukkan kualiti kopi di gudang-gudang Singapura sebelum dieksport. Hal ini juga mengakibatkan ladang-ladang seperti Klang Land Estate (183 ekar) dan Weld's Hill telah dilelong kepada umum untuk dijadikan ladang komoditi baharu iaitu perusahaan getah. Pascamerdeka, kopi muncul semula sebagai komoditi menguntungkan di Selangor. Pada tahun 1961, kopi yang ditanam di daerah Klang (945 ekar) masih yang terbaik di Tanah Melayu dan menjadi buah mulut di Singapura. Hal ini dinyatakan oleh Zakaria Abdul Raof (Pegawai Pertanian Klang) iaitu "The price of coffee at the moment is $90 per picul, the best price in several years."



In the year 1893, after the fall of Ceylon coffee industry, there were 3 coffee farms in the Klang district such as Melegum Road (476 acres), Tremelbye Estate (65 acres) and Telok Pulai Road (67 acres). Other than the British concessions, coffee plantations in Telok Pulai were cultivated by the locals which consisted from 81 ethnic Javanese, 35 Malays and 25 Chinese involved in the cultivation of 67 acres of coffee, 284 acres of coconuts and 34 acres of other crops. The involvement of locals commercially can be seen through the synergy of Dato' Haji Mohamed Tahir bin Haji Mahmud. A few English papers describe him as:

"An old resident's report gives exact details of the beginning of coffee in Selangor..."; "Hj Tahir, who with extraordinary energy for a native, has drained his land, and planted up a portion with coffee..."

Dato' Haji Mohamed Tahir also used the drying the land technique before planting the coffee and divided the land into a few rental blocks (3-5 acres per block at 50 cents per acre) to the Chinese and Malays to plant coffee. In 1894, he auctioned off as much as 3,810 acres of virgin forest land to the public at 1$ an acre, with the area of each block ranging from 259 to 376 acres around Jugra.

The advancement of the coffee industry in Selangor was aided by three factors : the land was supplied with experienced imported workers from Ceylon who were paid 27 cents (2,400 people in 1896), the land had a systematic canal system as well as the suitable climate in Selangor. In the book 'The Fall and Rise of Klang, 1867-1900' the advancement of coffee plantations in Klang were so popular that it was labelled as 'Coffee is King of Klang' and 'coffee planting craze'. However, in the 1890s, coffee from Klang suffered a severe price drop due to the emergence Brazilian coffee and the activity of mixing the quality of coffee in Singapore before it was exported. This also led to farms like the Klang Land Estate (183 acres) and Weld's Hill being auctioned to the public to be turned into a new farming commodity, namely the rubber industry. Post-independence, coffee reemerged as a commodity that benefited Selangor. In 1961, coffee that was planted in Klang (945 acres) was still the best in Malaya and highly regarded in Singapore. This was stated by Zakaria Abdul Raof (Klang Farming Officer) as "The price of coffee at the moment is $90 per picul, the best price in several years."