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ADOPTION OF VEGETABLE MARKET GARDENING AS CASH RAISING ACTIVITY AMONG THE BIDAYUH FARMERS IN SIBURAN

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the Bidayuh farmers from the Siburan area have gradually moved into vegetable cultivation. Since then, vegetable market gardening (VMG) has become a very important cash raising activity for the Bidayuh farmers residing in the vicinity of Kuching the state capital of Sarawak. In short, VMG which was once dominated by the Chinese has spread to the Bidayuh communities. The growing importance of VMG among the Bidayuh farmers in Siburan had prompted this study to be undertaken. The three main objectives of the study were to (a) examine the diffusion and adoption of VMG, (b) identify the cultivation and crop management technique adopted by the farmers, and (c) investigate the economic aspects of VMG.

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Research Method

This case study was centered in four Bidayuh community, namely Patung, Sekeduk, Payang and Chupak in the Siburan sub-district. These communities are linked to the Kuching-Serian trunk road by gravel subsidiary roads (see Figure 1). The target population of the study comprised a total of 122 household heads in the four communities investigated: 38 in Patung; 35 in Sekeduk; 12 in Payang and 37 in Chupak. The total population of these four communities is approximately 1000. The instrumentation used in the study was structured interview schedule and the data were collected by trained enumerators using personal interview technique. Additional information were collected by means of structured field observation.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

DIFFUSION AND ADOPTION OF VMG

Source of innovation

First let us examine the process by which vegetable market gardening spread to the members of the four Bidayuh communities studied. According to

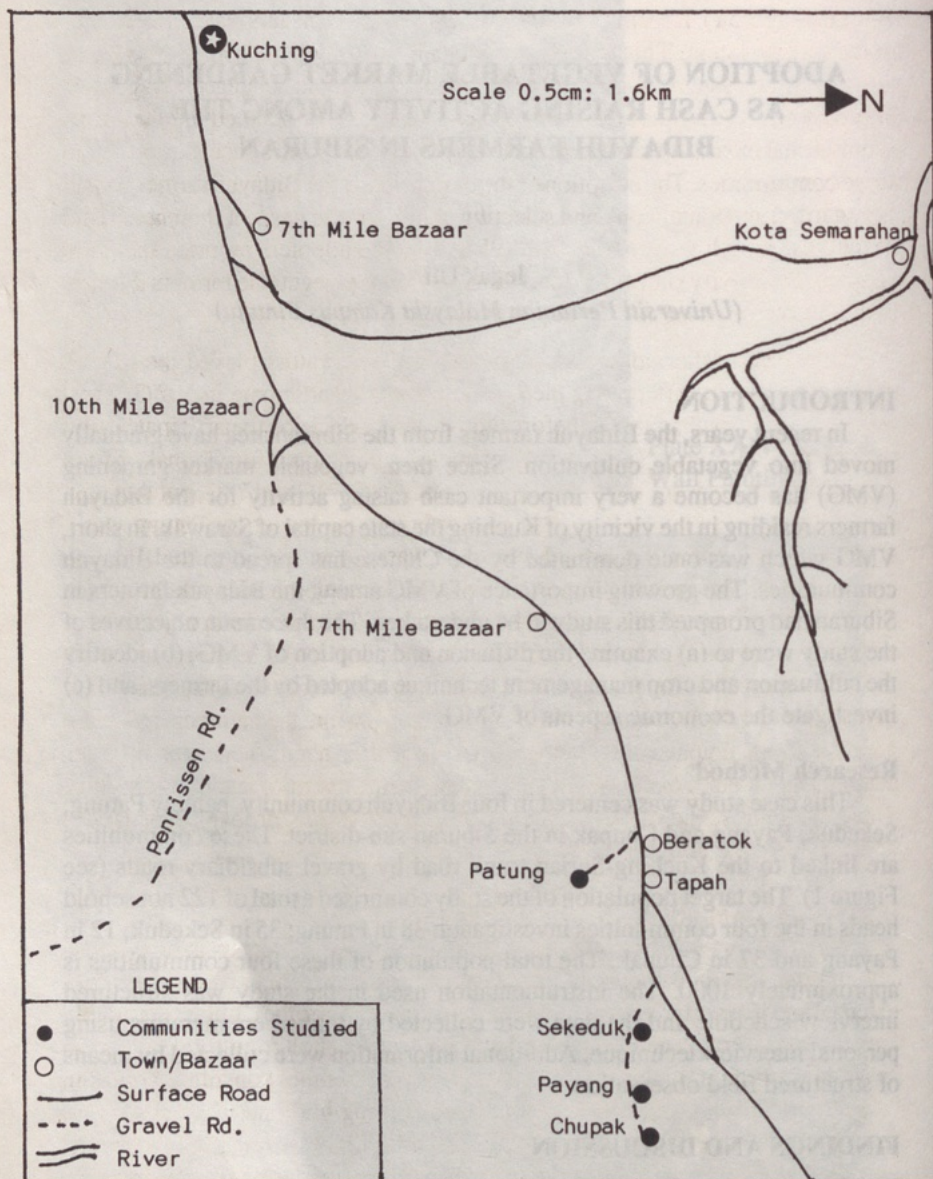


Figure 1. Sketch Map of Research Location.