

A preliminary assessment of greenhouse gas emission trends in the production and consumption of food in Malaysia

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Abstrak

In the past decade, a small but growing body of research has drawn attention to the environmental concerns of rising greenhouse gas emissions associated with the consumption and production of food; this is an issue of increasing importance in Southeast Asia where rapid population growth is leading to year-on-year increases in food demand. To date, countries in Southeast Asia have shown little interest in addressing greenhouse gas emissions across the whole life cycle of food—production, processing, transportation, retailing, consumption, and final disposal—despite a growing awareness of climate change and its effects. This paper serves as a starting point to explore the relatively under-researched topic of greenhouse gas emission trends and the production and consumption of food in Southeast Asia, with particular focus on the Malaysian food sector. Previous research documenting greenhouse gas emissions from specific food products and components in the food supply chain has been used to determine the likely greenhouse gas ‘hotspots’ in Malaysia. The paper concludes by recommending the development of an overarching framework for Sustainable Food Systems in Malaysia and identifies specific areas of research to support this framework.