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# New Challenges Facing Asian Agriculture under Globalisation

Volume I



Edited by

Jamalludin Sulaiman  
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Mad Nasir Shamsudin

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*Editors*

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Malaysian Agricultural  
Economics Association  
(MAEA)

*Persatuan Ekonomi  
Pertanian Malaysia  
(PETA)*

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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

New challenges facing Asian agriculture under globalisation/editors

Jamalludin Sulaiman, Fatimah Mohamed Arshad, Mad Nasir Shamsudin.

ISBN 983-3455-28-X(V.I)

1. Agriculture--Economic aspects--Asia--Congresses. 2. Agriculture  
--Technology transfer--Asia--Congresses. 3. Agriculture and state--  
Asia--Congresses. 4. Sustainable agriculture--Asia--Congresses.

I. Jamalludin Sulaiman. II. Fatimah Mohamed Arshad. III. Mad  
Nasir Shamsudin. IV. Conference of the Asian Society of  
Agricultural Economists (4th: Alor Setar, Kedah)

338.1095

ASIA

HD

2056

495

2002

v.1

Type face : Times New Roman

Font size : 10/12

*Printed by*

Universiti Putra Malaysia Press

43400 UPM Serdang

Selangor Darul Ehsan

Tel: 603-89486101 Ext. 8851/8854

Fax: 603-89416172

## Agricultural Zakat/Tithes: A Source for Agricultural Development in Kedah

Norazlina Abd. Wahab, Mohd Sahandin Shakrani and Abdul Razak Chik

### Introduction

Agricultural *zakat* or tithes is a religious tax collected by Muslim authorities based on the production of basic and non-basic crops such as paddy, palm oil, coconut, rubber, pepper and other cereals. The obligation to fulfil the agricultural *zakat* was stated in the Holy Quran, 141:

*It is He Who produceth gardens, with trellesis and without and dates, and tilth with produce of all kinds, and olives and pomegranates, similar (in kind) and different (in variety): eat of their fruit in their season, but render the dues that are proper on the day that the harvest is gathered. But waste not by excess: for Allah loveth not the wasters.*

According to Article 9 the Rules of *Zakat* and Fitrah 1955, the *Zakat* Committee has a power to establish the Rules of *Zakat* 1962 consisting of 17 Section. Accordingly, the collection for *zakat* in Kedah follows the Rules of *Zakat* 1962. This is in accordance to Clause 4 (iv) and Clause 9 (iii) explaining the power of the committee as follows:

*Clause 4 (iv) "The Committee have to collect zakat according to the Law of Islam."*

*Clause 9 (iii) "It is its responsibility in collecting the zakat padi and other revenue completely."*

Kedah is also known as the 'Jelapang Padi' or the main granary area of the nation. Table 27.1 shows total area, average yield and total production of paddy by state in Malaysia from 1995 to 1999. According to the table, Kedah has the largest planted area and the highest production of paddy compared to the other states.

**Table 27.1: Total Area, Average Yields and Total Production of Paddy in Malaysia by State, 1995-1999**

	1995			1996			1997			1998			1999		
	Area (ha)	Yield (Kg/ ha)	Paddy Production (MT)	Area (ha)	Yield (Kg/ ha)	Paddy Production (MT)	Area (ha)	Yield (Kg/ ha)	Paddy Production (MT)	Area (ha)	Yield (Kg/ ha)	Paddy Production (MT)	Area (ha)	Yield (Kg/ ha)	Paddy Production (MT)
Johor	1,303	2,575	3,355	1,918	3,246	6,226	1,395	2,970	4,143	1,134	3,087	3,501	2,323	2,510	5,831
Kedah	213,356	3,997	852,878	216,644	4,083	844,610	211,944	3,636	770,636	202,126	3,587	724,938	208,410	3,628	756,142
Kelantan	71,437	3,268	233,479	79,349	3,321	263,519	80,689	3,207	258,729	77,743	2,946	229,162	79,179	2,874	227,557
Melaka	3,195	3,038	9,708	2,105	3,113	6,554	1,096	2,112	2,315	726	2,835	2,058	1,261	3,085	3,890
N.Sembilan	1,120	2,924	3,275	668	1,985	1,326	640	3,050	1,952	698	2,580	1,801	1,409	2,033	2,864
Pahang	2,391	2,081	4,975	4,865	3,092	15,042	3,654	2,234	8,164	5,350	2,444	13,075	5,772	1,892	10,923
Perak	73,536	3,228	237,409	70,583	3,506	247,446	82,123	3,374	227,045	82,442	2,933	241,806	81,022	2,966	240,342
Perlis	45,378	4,029	182,820	45,584	3,970	180,947	46,907	3,646	171,022	47,441	3,796	179,974	48,111	4,012	193,008
P.Pinang	28,236	3,165	89,381	26,759	3,943	105,498	28,379	3,769	106,949	28,560	3,949	112,788	28,125	3,648	102,599
Selangor	36,254	4,113	149,102	36,948	4,429	158,617	36,898	4,615	170,268	38,074	4,736	180,333	38,159	4,182	159,564
Terengganu	20,336	3,537	71,930	18,510	3,970	73,485	20,922	3,145	65,792	19,903	3,053	60,756	19,609	2,967	58,173
Sem. Malaysia	496,542	3,702	1,838,310	503,933	3,856	1,943,269	514,647	3,569	1,837,015	504,167	3,471	1,750,192	513,380	3,430	1,760,892
Sabah	53,095	2,703	143,541	52,604	2,875	151,237	49,828	2,898	144,382	42,623	2,190	93,329	47,401	3,101	146,971
Serawak	123,150	1,191	145,421	128,931	1,116	133,983	126,500	1,145	138,218	127,614	926	100,720	131,608	1,045	128,777
T. Malaysia	672,787	3,162	2,127,271	685,468	3,251	2,228,489	690,975	3,069	2,119,615	674,404	2,883	1,944,240	692,389	2,941	2,036,641

**Table 27.2:** Industrial Crops (ha) in 1984-1999

Year	Coconut	Oil Palm	Rubber	Sugar Cane	Coffee
1984	3320	22273	159229	8944	533
1985	3238	16015	198913	9122	553
1986	2859	16015	198913	9230	791
1987	2766	14504	238624	9233	996
1988	3145	19306	245981	10711	1558
1989	3091	25756	244898	10723	1828
1990	3116	26039	249344	11836	2001
1991	3535	26051	249734	12333	1897
1992	3293	26630	245874	13198	1901
1993	2806	27832	256520	12175	1862
1994	2804	21901	250172	12270	1858
1995	9584	26437	244398	12307	187
1996	3039	37672	241256	12501	277
1997	2966	33138	247875	12268	278
1998	2831	35095	265363	12367	282
1999	2793	40350	265363	11908	279

Source: Department of Agriculture Malaysia.

Table 27.2 shows the area of other industrial crops in Kedah from 1984 to 1999. According to this table, there is a downward trend for areas planted for coconut and coffee, whereas the areas planted of oil palm and rubber have increased.

## The Issues

The contribution of the agricultural sector to Kedah's economic growth is significant. In terms of land use, agriculture covers 509,826 hectares or 53.7 per cent of total land area in Kedah; and paddy together with rubber made up approximately 80 per cent of total land used for agriculture in the state.

A study by Azrae Zainol (1994) found that the main source of *zakat* in Kedah before 1990 was mainly from *zakat padi* and after 1990; a larger amount of *zakat* was collected from *zakat harta*. In terms of *zakat* distribution, the three main groups of eligible receivers are the poor and the needy, *amil and fisabilillah*. The study concluded that the sources of *zakat* were limited; the collection was erratic, while the expenditure for *asnaf* was very high.

Mujaini Tarimin (1990) looked at the agricultural *zakat* from two aspects: system and implementation. The study looked at the theory by certain groups and *mazhab* in every period and finally the method of payment and the collection of *zakat*. The study also explained the rationale why *zakat* is collected from dates, paddy, and wheat; and not collected from corn, oil palm and sago. The right *nisab* for *zakat padi* in Malaysia was also discussed in the paper.

Nik Mustapha Nik Hassan (1987) looked at the economic aspect of *zakat* and how *zakat* has enhanced total investment and other aspects of the economy. He also analyzed the various types of *zakat*, such as *zakat al-fitr*, *zakat padi*, *zakat* on businesses, on personal incomes and on gold and silver. Also discussed were total collection and distribution of *zakat* in the various states in Malaysia. According to his study, Perlis and Kedah are the two main contributors of *zakat padi* in Malaysia in terms of total collection.

The number of *zakat* receivers would significantly depend on the total amount of *zakat* collected. In the case of *zakat padi*, this will in turn depend on the total paddy production that is *zakatable*. In other words, the higher the *zakatable* production, the higher the amount of *zakat* will be collected. Consequently, more will be available for more asnaf or *zakat* receivers.

The main purpose of this paper is about the agricultural *zakat* as another contributor for agricultural development in Kedah. This paper will look at how agricultural *zakat* can enhance the development of agricultural sector; and additionally how it can assist the economic growth of the state.

This paper has underlined three specific objectives:

- i. to understand the method of collecting and distributing the agricultural *zakat* in Kedah
- ii. to analyze the collection of agricultural *zakat* and the distribution of *zakat* from different part/district in Kedah
- iii. to recognize the contribution of agricultural *zakat* on enhancing the agricultural development in Kedah

## Contribution of *Zakat Padi*

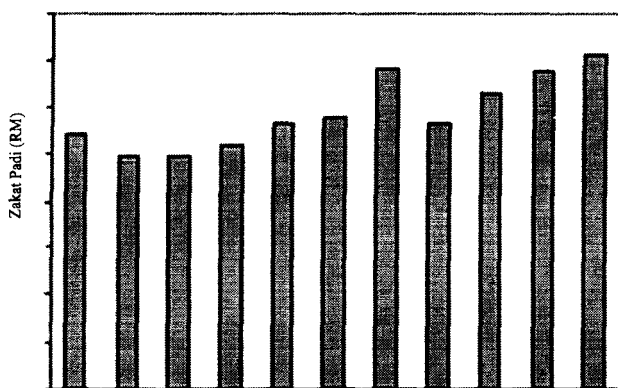
Preliminary findings on the contribution of *zakat padi* in Kedah based on secondary data collected for the period 1990 to 2000 are given in Table 27.3 and Figure 27.1. According to Table 27.3, *zakat* collection has been increasing during the period. In 1990, total *zakat padi* collected was RM1,087,431. In 1995 and the amount increased to RM1,158,479 and in 2000 the amount collected was RM1,417,829. Although collections in 1991 and 1992 were less than that of 1990, nevertheless collection increased again beginning 1993. A possible explanation for the decline was the prolonged draught or a very wet season, which will surely affect overall productions. With less income received by farmers, *zakat* collection is also expected to decrease.

Table 27.4 shows the total cultivated area for paddy and their production. According to Table 27.3 and 27.4, there is evidently a trend between paddy production and *zakat* collection. For example, paddy production in Kedah in 1992 was 763,859 metric tons and the collection of *zakat padi* for that year was RM 994,479. In 1993, paddy production increased to 788,065 metric tons and the collection of *zakat* for that year also increased to RM1,044,138. A similar trend was shown from 1994 to 1999.

**Table 27.3:** Kedah: *Zakat Padi* Collection

Year	<i>Zakat padi</i> (RM)	Growth (%)
1990	1,087,431	-
1991	995,318	-8.47
1992	994,479	-0.08
1993	1,044,138	-4.99
1994	1,134,695	8.67
1995	1,158,479	2.10
1996	1,366,133	17.92
1997	1,130,087	-17.28
1998	1,257,673	11.29
1999	1,357,426	7.93
2000	1,417,829	4.45

Source: Pejabat Zakat Negeri Kedah

**Figure 27.1:** Kedah: *Zakat Padi* Collection**Table 27.4:** Kedah: Padi Area and Production

Year	Area (ha)	Production( Mt)	Production/Area
1990	217,053	754,922	3.48
1991	207,082	722,578	3.49
1992	201,058	763,859	3.80
1993	207,442	788,065	3.80
1994	213,843	870,493	4.07
1995	213,356	852,878	4.00
1996	216,644	884,610	4.08
1997	211,944	770,636	3.64
1998	202,126	724,938	3.59
1999	155,280	639,133	4.12

Source: Pejabat Zakat Negeri Kedah

**Table 27.5:** Kedah: Industrial Crops within District, 1999 (ha)

District	Industrial Crops							
	Rubber	Coconut	Oil Palm	Cocoa	Coffee	Paddy	Sugar Cane	Tobacco
Baling	48,572	277	6,940	10.8	168.0	1,951	6.8	9.7
Bandar	12,754	64.5	7	-	0	1,597	3.5	-
Baru	12,364	489.9	7,735	-	-	6,802	492.5	13
Kota Setar	38,670	407	5	-	-	13,442	40	111.8
Kuala	24,688	325	77.1	-	13.1	6,528	1,121.7	526.9
Muda	31,896	68.2	8,225.	-	1.4	1,859	9.8	-
Kubang	4,755	552	3	-	8.4	2,707	16	-
Pasu	21,181	64	445.4	-	-	6,018	10,207	3.8
Kulim	21,944	170	13,941	-	27.5	8,246	1	-
Langkawi	29,540	134	.3	-	-	1,691	5.5	9
Padang	1,511	241	-	-	52.5	2,289	4	
Terap			178.8		8.0			
Pendang			521					
Sik			2,236					
Yan			49					
Total	247,875	2,792.6	40,350.1	10.8	278.9	53,130	11,907.8	674.2

Source: MADA, Kedah

Table 27.5 shows the total cultivated areas of industrial crops in Kedah in 1999. According to the table, total area for rubber dominated other crops, followed by oil palm and paddy. The Kuala Muda district has the largest paddy area (13,442 hectares) followed by Pendang (8,246 hectares) and Kota Seta (6,802 hectares). Although it can be assumed that the district with the larger paddy area would collect a greater amount of *zakat padi*, nevertheless, available data showed otherwise.

Table 27.6 represents the collection of *zakat padi* from the different districts in Kedah for the period 1991 to 1999. The table indicates that although the district of Yan has smaller paddy area compared to Kuala Muda and the Kota Setar districts, yet the *zakat padi* collection in Yan was the highest, followed by the districts of Kubang Pasu, Kuala Muda, Kota Setar and Pendang, respectively.

Table 27.7 shows the distribution of *zakat* in Kedah from 1990 to 2000 and Table 26.8 provides some indication on how *zakat* have been distributed to the poor and needy in the different districts in Kedah for the period, 1990 to 1999. According to the table, the Kota Setar district has been the highest receiver every year. This was followed by Kuala Muda, Kubang Pasu and Yan districts.

Table 27.6: Kedah: *Zakat Padi* Collection (RM)

District	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Ibu pejabat	-	12515.47	10016.97	53254	25517.2	1363.9	60	-	-
Kota Setar I	54995.6	38101.52	37530.72	45607	69423.36	62544.15	164418.1	170663.3	213234.7
Kota Setar II	34560.66	47105.59	34280.63	36847	32844.54	32981.93	-	-	-
Kota Setar III	76298	84734.21	87222.54	77030	97.36.9	118647.1	-	-	-
Pendang	82704.89	73992.07	83105.77	75133	95449.7	128075.1	89567.54	107131.1	112330.7
Kubang Pasu	228774.5	217101.1	224503	238991	234063.2	262536.8	255576.4	256161.9	304442
Yan	259588.4	228430.6	261123.4	278540	329295.8	380029.8	307859.8	451466.4	419720.4
Kuala Muda	153924.2	146506.2	161335.5	184914	185759	215233.1	185355.7	163985.5	172502
Baling	15730.13	15302.45	12046.72	10694	8802.5	15294.6	7807	5270.06	6889.49
Padang Terap	27471.38	76364.75	65961.61	67736	27796.77	65724.2	50222.48	44458.75	55080.59
Langkawi	34768.38	40028.08	35934.15	46494	43160.75	41518.83	35950.68	34607.03	35261.7
Kulim	15646.93	18369.87	18185.4	11905	14605.15	14292.7	14014.18	9779.1	29303.4
Bandar Baharu	7361.2	4732.8	10844.85	4570	1551.5	11425.55	18875.6	13884.8	8261.7
Sik	3468.44	1583.1	1843.01	2982	546	783	380	265	400

Source: Pejabat Zakat Negeri Kedah

**Table 27.7:** Kedah Distribution of *Zakat* (1990-2000)

Year	Distribution (RM)
1990	2,761,799.33
1991	2,130,480.30
1992	4,025,375.15
1993	4,419,977.00
1994	2,608,500.88
1995	3,118,273.01
1996	4,020,035.45
1997	5,050,802.72
1998	9,864,436.33
1999	7,704,483.64
2000	7,812,366.93

Source: Pejabat Zakat Negeri Kedah

Tables 27.9, 27.10, and 27.11 represent *zakat* receivers according to the different job categories, based on a sample of 100 receivers, for Kota Setar, Kuala Muda and Kubang Pasu districts, respectively, for the years 1998, 1999, and 2000. It can be observed that most of the receivers were unemployed. Some were employed in very low-income jobs such as shop assistant, trishaw puller, rubber tapper and farmer. For example, Table 27.9 shows that in 1998 out of the 100 sampled for Kota Setar, four of the receivers worked as rubber tappers while one worked as a farmer. In 1999, out of the 100 sampled, five worked as rubber tappers while the other 4 worked as farmers.

Table 27.10 shows the *zakat* receivers for Kuala Muda. In 2000, out of the 100 sampled, one worked as a rubber tapper. Table 27.11 shows the *zakat* receiver for Kubang Pasu. According to the table, in 1997 and 1998, out of the 100 sampled, two of the receivers were farmers. In 1999, four of the receivers worked as rubber tappers and five of those sampled worked as farmers. Overall, there were only 25 receivers of *zakat padi* from the agricultural sector.

Table 27.12 represents the assistance given by *Pejabat Zakat Negeri Kedah* (Kedah *Zakat* Office) through a program known as *Bantuan Jaya Diri*. The assistance includes giving them an amount of capital to start a business, to build a store or workshop or to help them repair their houses and similar purposes. Also, according to this table, there was some amount of assistance provided by the *Zakat* Office to help in developing the agricultural sector. For example, in 1992 there was one participant who was given RM1,000 to assist him in his fruits selling business. In 1993, the number of participants increased to three with total amount distributed amounted to RM4,330 involving activities such as selling vegetables, planting vegetables and selling fruits. While in 1994, an aid of RM250 was given to plant vegetables and in 1999 an aid of RM1,950 was given to buy a multi-purpose vegetable cutter machine. Such incentives would certainly assist agricultural development in Kedah. However, the demand for this type of assistance is often small.

**Table 27.8:** Kedah: Distribution of *Zakat* to the Poor and Needy (1990-1999) (RM)

District/Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Kota Setar	156690	175520	232050	317640	385740	458260	549350	659600	844650	1143975
Pendang	46900	45200	64500	77050	87630	99680	119200	149200	170300	259725
Kubang Pasu	87350	83250	121050	139500	163840	165430	196400	252350	287100	424050
Yan	55000	57200	93450	125350	143110	161630	197300	239050	276800	399225
Kuala Muda	73530	84590	107000	125400	145750	175080	217050	272400	331050	492525
Baling	23510	23580	33000	422900	54150	67060	89550	121500	151100	232800
Padang Terap	30030	31580	51100	54280	69000	102610	99450	128350	34400	229200
Langkawi	25780	30000	38500	46280	60320	64630	75450	99100	90450	187125
Kulim	23570	35890	45000	50500	46440	49530	64900	82450	99200	132075
Bandar Baharu	11370	15760	21000	24800	22000	26580	29250	37400	42300	65925
Sik	3720	3790	5750	73400	19170	30290	36950	45200	53850	74250

Source: Pejabat Zakat Negeri Kedah

**Table 27.9:** Kota Setar: *Zakat* Receiver Based on Jobs Category (1998-2000)

Type of Job	1998	1999	2000
Hired labour <sup>a</sup>	13	4	1
Self employed	2	5	4
Rubber tapper	4	5	-
Farmer <sup>b</sup>	1	4	4
Factory worker	5	7	7
Security guard	1	-	-
Shop assistant	1	-	3
Small business	7	5	-
Trishaw puller	-	1	-
Unemployed <sup>c</sup>	66	69	81
Total	100	100	100

**Table 27.10:** Kuala Muda: *Zakat* Receiver Based on Jobs Category (1998-2000)

Type of Job	1998	1999	2000
Hired labour <sup>a</sup>	3	1	7
Self employed	-	-	2
Rubber tapper	-	-	1
Farmer <sup>b</sup>	-	-	-
Factory worker	-	1	2
Security guard	-	-	-
Shop assistance	-	-	-
Small business	1	-	-
Trishaw puller	-	-	-
Unemployed <sup>c</sup>	96	98	88
Total	100	100	100

**Table 27.11:** Kubang Pasu: *Zakat* Receiver Based on Jobs Category (1998-2000)

Type of Job	1998	1999	2000
Hired labour <sup>a</sup>	-	5	6
Self employed	-	-	1
Rubber tapper	-	-	4
Farmer <sup>b</sup>	2	2	5
Factory worker	1	-	-
Security guard	-	-	1
Shop assistance	-	-	-
Small business	2	1	-
Trishaw puller	-	-	-
Unemployed <sup>c</sup>	95	92	83
Total	100	100	100

**Table 27.12:** Program of Bantuan Jaya Diri by Pejabat Zakat Negeri Kedah

Year	Receivers	Distribution	Agricultural Sector	RM
1986	5	1900	None	None
1987	5	9010	None	None
1988	3	6500	None	None
1989	8	4200	None	None
1990	3	7279.50	None	None
1991	3	3543	None	None
1992	16	8850	1 <sup>a</sup>	1000
1993	15	13065	3 <sup>b</sup>	4330
1994	16	7680	1 <sup>c</sup>	250
1995	13	14093.90	None	None
1996	15	12152	None	None
1997	8	8350	None	None
1998	15	19079	None	None
1999	18	12300	1 <sup>d</sup>	1950

Table 27.13 represents the lands owned by *Pejabat Zakat Negeri Kedah*. These lands are now owned by *Pejabat Zakat Negeri Kedah* after the department had paid debts of their original owners. The *Zakat* Office rents out the 15 paddy areas and the revenues received are distributed to the poor and needy the usual way.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

Some conclusions and recommendations can be made based on information drawn from in Tables 27.1 to 27.13. The collection of *zakat padi* especially in Kedah can be increased through various methods. The introduction of mini estate for paddy will help the farmers increase their production more systematically. Integrating the small paddy areas will encourage better management of the paddy lands. Using a modern and systematic method, the cost of production can be further reduced. With the mini estate system, the production of paddy is expected to increase and therefore, the *zakat padi* collection.

Although Paddy is one of the largest crops planted in Kedah, there are still paddy farmers, particularly in some districts, who do not pay *zakat*. More effort is therefore required by the authorities to encourage these farmers to fulfil their obligations.

The collection of *zakat* is managed by an appointed *amil*. The *amil* will first make a census on the paddy area and the status of the property, whether it is owned by the farmers or are rented. *Zakat padi* will be collected if the *nisab* of the production is more than 1,300.49 kilogram. The rate of *zakat* that have to be paid is 10 per cent of the production. The census data need to be updated frequently so as not to miss those who are eligible to pay *zakat*.

**Table 27.13:** Lands Owned by Pejabat Zakat Negeri Kedah

Name of Places	Acres	Feet	Condition
Jalan Menanti, Alor Setar	-	20	House
Jalan Menanti, Alor Setar	-	30	House
Jalan Baru, Tambang Bedak	-	-	Village
Jalan Baru, Alor Setar	-	20	Village
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Sungai Gelugor, Sungai Pasir	-	1600	Business
Peremba, Mukim Pengkalan Kundur	55	-	Paddy field
Derga	1	-	Business
Jalan Limbong Kapal	-	1600	Building
Jalan Limbong Kapal	-	1600	Building
Pengkalan Semeling	2	20	Paddy field
Kulung Beranam, Semeling	5	-	Paddy field
Semeling	4	40	Paddy field
Semeling	3	40	Paddy field
Semeling	5	40	Paddy field
Pematang Katung, Kuala Muda	25	-	Paddy field
Naga, Kubang Pasu	25	-	Paddy field
Sala Besar, Padang Lumut	83	38	Paddy field
Sala Besar, Padang Lumut	56	22	Paddy field
Sala Besar, Padang Lumut	59	57	Paddy field
Alor Melintang, Gunung	70	-	Paddy field
Pengkalan Kundur	51	-	Paddy field
Padang Lumat, Yan	40	43	Paddy field
Mukim Jeram, Kubang Pasu	46	12.25	Paddy field

Source: Pejabat Zakat Negeri Kedah

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ISBN 983-3455-28-X



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TN 2201186 LCCN 2009318459  
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