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Ganoderma* Disease of Oil Palm in Sabah

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Palm oil is the most important export commodity for Sabah. It now ranks the single largest revenue earner for the state government, generating RM8 billion worth of export and around RM450 million from levies of CPO. Ganoderma is a potential threat to the survival of the industry. In some of the older plantations, severe yield reduction was experienced due to the disease. The modes of spreading of BSR and USR were examined and preliminary findings from pattern analysis on disease distribution were discussed. The control measures available include sanitation, surgery, soil mounding, chemical injection and the use of biological agents. Sanitation by shredding, excavating and removal of roots and stumps of diseased palms by digging 2x2x1.5 m pit is crucial in minimising the disease incidence in replanted palms. Breeding of resistant progeny to Ganoderma infection is the long term solution to this problem. Collaborations between MPOB/UMS and the industry are necessary to expedite the research programme of Ganoderma control in Sabah.

Keywords: *Ganoderma, upper stem rot, Trichoderma, oil palm, mycorrhiza.*

