

Evaluation of Malaysia's Food Balance of Trade Plan: Achievement Rates

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Malaysia has always been a net food importer in the last four decades. In 2007, the deficit in the food trade stood at RM9.7 billion (USD2.9 billion). In 2002, Malaysia implemented a policy towards achieving a surplus balance of trade in food of RM1.2 billion (USD352 billion) by 2010. This paper evaluates the policy in terms of the achievement rates of the plan. The study utilises trade data (SITC rev. 3, Div. 2-9) from 1990-2006. The analysis shows that the intended targets are not met; in fact the deficit grew bigger with time. While the objective was commendable, the targets, rationales and strategies for such a plan require a serious rethinking.

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