

6.0 THE MALAYSIAN SAWMILLS

The sawmills in Malaysia are classified into three types :

- i) Class A : No restriction regarding log diameters and sawn-timber destination.
- ii) Class B : Limited to process logs of only 16" (41cm) and below; production can be sold on both export and local markets.
- iii) Class C : Licensed to process logs of 16" (41cm) and below, however sawnwood production must be used in the manufacturing of end products. (e.g furniture, pallets, boxes).

Grouping the industry according to sawmill categories and inherent production capacities, three main types of production units can be identified :

- a) The typical Malaysian sawmill consisting essentially of a small, manually operated, bench-type bandsaw used for both breakdown and resawing operations. The installed capacity is about 7 ton/8 hr - shift ($10\text{m}^3/8\text{hr}$ - shift).
- b) The partly mechanized sawmill equipped with a breakdown bandsaw (headrig) combined with an average of 6 small band resaws of the type mentioned above. The installed capacity is approximately 60 ton/8hr - shift ($85\text{m}^3/8\text{hr}$ - shift).
- c) The fully-automated timber complex consisting of breakdown bandsaw, pony rigs (both with fully-automatic carriages), resaws with power feed, edger and trimmer. The installed capacity for one production line is about 40 ton/8hr - shift ($57\text{m}^3/8\text{hr}$ - shift).

There are other combinations of machinery including the use of horizontal bandsaws, circular twin and resaws or gang (slash) saws for blockboard production. However, essentially it is the three above mentioned sawmill types that characterizes the Malaysian sawmill industry.