

7.0 TANNING INDUSTRY

Mardi Director General Datuk Dr Mohd Yusof Hashim described the Malaysian tanning industry as 'backward' and 'small'. However it has the potential to grow and become a major money-spinner, especially in view of the anticipated increase in the number of cattle and sheep bred in the country in the next decade. Mardi has made provision in its Sixth Malaysia Plan proposal (1991-1995) to assist the development of the local tanning industry, with emphasis to be placed on efforts to achieve the use of new technology in two or three years time. Currently the local tanning industry is confined to a handful of people using traditional processing methods. Most of the existing tanneries are backyard industries passed down from generation to generation. They are also facing inconsistent supply of hides, most of which are of low quality. Nevertheless the government has taken steps to change the face of the industry. The move to send experts from Mardi abroad is aimed at adopting the latest methods used by countries such as Italy, Australia and France.

TABLE 10: IMPORT OF WHOLE HIDES & SKINS OF BOVINE ANIMALS, PRESERVED

(Quantity: Kilogram Value: M\$000'CIF)

Country	1988	
	Quantity	Value
Australia	85310.00	273091
Brunei	72103.00	145273
Hong Kong	868161.56	1671793
Indonesia	13000.00	3900
Japan	11850.00	20291
Netherlands	10.00	101
Singapore	39775.00	119325
TOTAL	1090209.56	2233774

Source: Ibid