

the local tobacco content in the manufacture of cigarette is about 64%. This level is expected to increase by 2% annually to achieve a target of 85% by the year 2000.

6.1 Research and Development

The Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute will soon introduce to farmers two new tobacco varieties - TAPM 72 and TAPM 26. These varieties are resistant to bacterial wilt and leaf spot diseases. According to Mardi Director General, Datuk Dr. Haji Mohamad Yusof Hashim, the two varieties would give better yields to farmers and produce better leaf quality compared with the earlier TAPM 36 and TAPM 13. In the initial research at the Mardi Station in Telong, Kelantan, and Rantau Abang, Terengganu, the two hybrids proved capable of producing between 1,800 and 2,000 kg of good quality dried tobacco leaves per hectare. Nicotine content of the two varieties is between 1.5 and two per cent. Mardi has also succeeded in introducing granulated urea and new techniques for tobacco curing as well as new types of pesticides and a furrow irrigation system for the planting of tobacco in padi fields. (New Straits Times, 15th November, 1989)

TABLE 9: IMPORT OF UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO, NOT STEMMED/STRIPPED, BLUE-CURED OR THE VIRGINIA TYPE

Country	Quantity	Value
Australia	12018.00	152012
Canada	4000.00	57803
Greece	30748.00	374838
Philippines	30000.00	380000
USA	1031388.00	18403030
TOTAL	1158183.00	20377784

Source: Ibid