

EVOLUTION OF MODERN EDIBLE BIRD NEST INDUSTRY IN MALAYSIA

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Malaysia modern edible bird nest (EBN) industry started to evolve in the early 20th century when major efforts were seen to legalize the industry. Many new systems and technologies were adopted in the building and operating of swiftlet breeding houses making the country a significant world producer of raw unclean EBN in less than 10 years. The ecology factors, e.g. supply of insects, natural habitat availability, remain important limiting factors for good EBN harvest. There are companies that invest aggressively into value adding downstream activities, more so after the recent slumps in international demands on cleaned EBN. To gain recognition from importing country, quality assurance system such as Good Veterinary Hygiene Practice, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point and Veterinary Health Mark were fast adopted and practiced by many downstream premises. Research and development is carried out in several institutions playing key roles to further identify and exploit the EBN health benefits and possible new EBN products to offer to global markets.