LAND, PEOPLE AND PROGRESS

SALCRA

50 Est. 1976 SALCRA Sow · Grow · Prosper

Five Decades of SALCRA and Rural Transformation in Sarawak

50 YEARS | 1976-2026





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Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Sarawak Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (SALCRA) on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee. Fifty years is not merely a milestone in time - it is a celebration of vision, perseverance and the enduring partnership between the Government of Sarawak and the people in transforming rural communities into vibrant centres of opportunity and prosperity.

Since its establishment in 1976, SALCRA has stood as one of Sarawak's most successful rural development institutions. Through sound governance, community participation and the responsible development of Native Customary Rights (NCR) land, SALCRA has demonstrated that inclusive development can uplift lives, strengthen families and create lasting socio-economic progress. Thousands of landowners have benefited through higher incomes, better educational opportunities, improved infrastructure and stronger local economies.

The true legacy of SALCRA is measured not only by the hectares it has developed or the volume of palm oil it has produced, but by the lives it has transformed. Behind every estate is a story of hope, behind every net proceed payments is a family's aspiration fulfilled and behind every achievement is a community empowered with greater confidence to shape its own future. This human impact remains SALCRA's greatest success.

As Sarawak advances towards becoming a high-income, developed and sustainable region under the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030, SALCRA must continue to evolve. The future demands greater innovation, digital transformation, environmental stewardship, scientific advancement and stronger corporate governance. Equally important is our commitment to ensuring that economic growth progresses hand in hand with sustainability, so that future generations inherit not only greater prosperity but also a healthy and resilient environment.

Central to SALCRA's continued success is the trust of the Native Customary Rights (NCR) landowners. Development must always be guided by mutual respect, transparency, accountability and the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The confidence nurtured over

the past five decades is an invaluable asset that must continue to be strengthened through genuine partnership and shared responsibility.

I also pay tribute to the Board of Directors, the management team, officers, staff, former leaders and, above all, the thousands of participating landowners whose dedication and commitment have shaped SALCRA into one of Malaysia's most respected rural development institutions. Their collective efforts have demonstrated that when government and communities work together with trust and purpose, extraordinary progress is possible.

As we commemorate this historic Golden Jubilee, let us also look confidently towards the next fifty years. Let us embrace new technologies, strengthen competitiveness, create greater value throughout the palm oil value chain and nurture a new generation of capable leaders who will continue SALCRA's proud legacy. By remaining steadfast to its founding mission while embracing innovation and excellence, SALCRA will continue to be a catalyst for inclusive growth and sustainable rural prosperity throughout Sarawak.

May this commemorative publication serve not only as a record of SALCRA's remarkable achievements over the past fifty years but also as an enduring source of inspiration for future generations to continue building a Prosperous, Inclusive, Sustainable and Progressive Sarawak.

Congratulations to SALCRA on its Golden Jubilee. May it continue to grow from strength to strength in serving the people of Sarawak for many generations to come.

Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.



The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg

Premier of Sarawak

Message

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest congratulations to the Sarawak Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (SALCRA) on its 50th anniversary. Five decades is a long time in the life of any institution and SALCRA has spent them on a task few agencies have taken on: turning native customary rights land into productive estates while the land itself remains with the people who own it.

Since its establishment in 1976, SALCRA has grown from a land consolidation and rehabilitation authority into one of Sarawak's most important instruments of rural transformation. Today it manages more than 54,000 hectares across 20 estates, involving over 21,000 registered participants from some 410 villages and longhouses. Behind every one of those figures is a family whose land was once idle and who now draw an income from it.

The Authority has not stood still. Replanting programmes are renewing its older estates. Cattle integration beneath the oil palm canopy is contributing directly to Sarawak's beef self-sufficiency with feedlot capacity rising from 300 to 800 head as the new centres at Rimbas and Stenggang come on line. Following MSPO certification in April 2026, the Kernel Crushing Plant at Lubok Antu is now able to market palm kernel expeller commercially, with the potential to reduce our maize imports by some RM16.8 million a year. New areas in Sarikei and Sibu are being opened.

This is precisely what the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 asks of us, which is to raise rural household incomes, strengthen food security, and capture value at home instead of exporting it in raw form.

The achievements recorded in this book belong to many hands. They belong first to the participants and landowners who placed their trust in SALCRA, and with them to the employees, partners and stakeholders who have carried the work through fifty years of changing conditions.

As SALCRA begins its next fifty years, I am confident it will remain at the forefront of Sarawak's agricultural development and sustainable land management, so that our rural communities continue to thrive and prosper for generations to come.

On behalf of the Government of Sarawak, I record my gratitude to everyone who has been part of SALCRA's journey. May this book serve both as a celebration of what has been achieved and as an inspiration to those who will carry the work forward.



Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Anak Utom
Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Sarawak

Message

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present this message in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Sarawak Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (SALCRA). Our Golden Jubilee is more than a celebration of five decades of service. It is a tribute to the enduring partnership between the Government of Sarawak, participating Native Customary Rights (NCR) landowners, employees and stakeholders who have transformed rural communities through sustainable development, shared prosperity and responsible stewardship.

Since its establishment in 1976, SALCRA has remained steadfast in its mission to unlock the economic potential of NCR land while safeguarding the interests of its landowners. Beyond developing plantations, we have created opportunities, improved livelihoods, trengthened rural economies and empowered thousands of families to build a better future. Our greatest achievement is not measured by hectares developed or palm oil produced, but by the lives we have transformed and the confidence we have instilled in rural communities.

As we look ahead, our strategic direction is clear. SALCRA will continue to evolve into a modern, high-performing and sustainable agribusiness organisation by embracing innovation, digitalisation, mechanisation, precision agriculture and strong environmental stewardship. We will also strengthen our position across the palm oil value chain, creating greater value for participating landowners while contributing meaningfully to Sarawak's aspirations under the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030.

This transformation will be driven by good governance, disciplined execution, capable leadership and a committed workforce. On behalf of the management, I extend my sincere appreciation to our Board of Directors, former leaders, employees, participating landowners, government agencies and business partners whose trust, dedication and

collaboration have made SALCRA one of Sarawak's most respected rural development institutions.

As we commemorate this historic milestone, let us honour our proud legacy while embracing the opportunities ahead with confidence and determination. May this commemorative coffee table book serve not only as a record of our achievements over the past fifty years but also as an inspiration for future generations to continue building a stronger, more innovative and more prosperous SALCRA. Together, we will continue to Sow, Grow and Prosper.



Yang Berbahagia Datu Joseph Blandoi
General Manager of SALCRA

Preface

The publication of this commemorative volume marks a significant milestone in SALCRA's history. It is the celebration of fifty years of distinguished service, commitment and achievement. This volume has been conceived as both a historical record and a tribute to the individuals who have shaped SALCRA's journey. Their foresight, leadership and strong commitment have transformed aspirations into enduring accomplishments.

As we reflect upon the past fifty years, we do so with profound gratitude to those whose contributions laid the foundations upon which SALCRA stands today. The pioneers who first envisioned SALCRA's establishment played a crucial role in laying its foundation. The members and staff who dedicated themselves to its mission and shared in its aspirations also made invaluable contributions. Together, they have played an indispensable role in shaping SALCRA's enduring legacy. Their collective efforts have enabled SALCRA to evolve with confidence while remaining committed to excellence and service.

The history recorded within these pages reflects far more than a sequence of events. It is the story of a community united by common purpose and sustained by integrity, resilience and pursuit of excellence. Over the course of five decades, we have witnessed significant changes in society, advances in technology and unprecedented global challenges.

The preparation of this Golden Jubilee publication has been undertaken with great care and respect for the SALCRÁ's rich heritage. Drawing upon archival records, historical documents, photographs and the recollections of those who have been privileged to contribute to its development, this volume seeks to preserve an authentic account of our shared history. Every effort has been made to present a comprehensive narrative of SALCRA's journey. However, no single publication can fully capture the countless contributions, personal sacrifices and individual achievements that

have collectively shaped fifty years of progress. This commemorative volume, therefore, stands not only as a record of achievement but also as an expression of gratitude.

As authors, we have approached this work with both humility and a profound sense of responsibility. It is our sincere hope that this publication faithfully reflects the spirit of SALCRA and honours its distinguished past. More importantly, may it provide future generations with a lasting source of knowledge, reflection and inspiration.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all who contributed to the preparation of this publication. Our gratitude is due to numerous individuals who generously shared their knowledge, personal recollections and archival materials. Their expertise, dedication and meticulous efforts have ensured that this commemorative volume will stand as a lasting testament to fifty years of institutional excellence.

May this book preserve the memories of those who have shaped SALCRA's remarkable journey. May it also celebrate the achievements that define its present. Above all, may it inspire future generations to uphold the values, traditions and aspirations that have guided and distinguished SALCRA throughout its fifty-year history.

Dr Regina Garai
Datu Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat



Introduction

01



RURAL DEVELOPMENT LANDSCAPE: AN OVERVIEW

Sarawak entered the postcolonial period as a land of immense natural wealth but significant development challenges. Much of its population lived in dispersed villages and longhouses, relying on agriculture, forests and rivers for their livelihoods. Yet many rural communities had limited access to roads, communications, education, healthcare and other essential services, while agricultural productivity remained relatively low.

The Sarawak Development Plan (1964-1968) represented an important early attempt to establish a more systematic framework for development. Following the formation of Malaysia in 1963, this planning framework was subsequently incorporated into the broader Malaysian development planning system. The First Malaysia Plan (1966–1970) marked a significant step in this journey, bringing Sabah and Sarawak more fully into the national development planning framework. Investment was directed towards agriculture, land development, infrastructure, education, healthcare and other basic services. In Sarawak, these initiatives laid the foundations for rural transformation by improving connectivity, strengthening agricultural development and creating new opportunities for communities across the State.

Despite these early investments, development during the 1960s continued to be shaped by Sarawak's unique geography. Vast distances, rugged terrain and scattered rural settlements made transportation, communication and the delivery of essential services both difficult and costly. The challenge extended beyond increasing agricultural production. It was about connecting rural communities to markets, public services and the opportunities of a rapidly modernizing economy.

By the 1970s, Sarawak had entered an important phase of transition. As part of Malaysia's broader nation-building efforts, greater emphasis was placed on reducing rural poverty, expanding infrastructure and modernising agriculture. Development was no longer viewed simply as the construction of roads and public facilities but as a means of creating more inclusive economic opportunities for rural communities.

Against this backdrop, rural development became a shared priority of both the Federal and Sarawak Governments. New policies and institutions were introduced to unlock the potential of rural land, strengthen agricultural productivity and improve the quality of life for communities across the State. These efforts laid the groundwork





SALCRA

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