

Implementation Of Cooperation On Halal Product Process Assistance Training for Government Officers in Realizing Halal Ecosystem in Riau Province

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Abstract. The purpose of this study is to explain the implementation of the Halal Product Process Assistant training collaboration for government employees involving collaboration between the Related Agency (BRIDA), P3H UIN Suska Riau and the Halal Product Assurance Organizing Agency (BPJPH) of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. The main objective of collaboration is to produce competent human resources as halal assistants to accelerate the halal certification program, especially through the self-declaration scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). As part of the effort to develop research, innovation, and the halal ecosystem in Riau Province, Sultan Syarif Kasim State Islamic University (UIN SUSKA) Riau through the Center for Halal Product Process Assistance (P4H) has initiated a strategic collaboration with the Regional Research and Innovation Agency (BRIDA) of Riau Province. This collaboration aims to strengthen research collaboration, human resource development, and the implementation of the halal certification program in the region. Over the past six months, the Halal Product Processing Assistance Institute (LP3H) of Sultan Syarif Kasim State Islamic University (UIN SUSKA) Riau has held a series of training sessions to discuss collaboration with the Riau Province Regional Research and Innovation Agency (BRIDA) as a strategic step towards building a strong halal ecosystem in Riau Province. These phased discussions aim to integrate research, human resource development, and halal certification facilitation to support the growth of the regional halal industry. This collaboration is expected to foster synergy between academia and the government in encouraging innovation and expanding access to halal services for micro and small businesses. The scope of the collaboration discussed covers various important aspects, including collaborative research and innovation in the halal sector, training and internships for professionals, knowledge development and dissemination, facilitation of halal business and technology incubation, and more systematic and structured halal certification services. With the full support of university leadership and the local government, it is hoped that this collaboration will make a tangible contribution to the growth of a sustainable halal ecosystem and further strengthen Riau Province's position as a competitive halal industry hub.

Keywords: *Halal Product Process Assistance Cooperation, BPJPH, Training, Halal Ecosystem*

INTRODUCTION

Halal certificate is an acknowledgment of the halalness of a product (goods and or services) issued by the Halal Product Guarantee Agency (BPJPH) of the Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia based on a written halal fatwa issued by the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI). Halal certificate is a guarantee of halalness shown by producers to consumers in order to provide a sense of calm and safety in consuming or using a product. For Muslim consumers, the halal certificate of a product is one of the main considerations in buying or using a product, because it is related to the process of worship with Allah SWT. Therefore, halal certificates can provide added value for producers in increasing their marketing.

Allah SWT says in Surah Al-Maidah verse 88, Allah SWT which means: "And eat clean, good food

from what Allah has provided you with, and fear Allah, whom you have faith in Him." (Surah Al-Maidah: 88) (Al-Qur'an al-Karim, 2005)

According to article 4 of the 2014 JPH Law, products that enter, circulate and trade in Indonesia are required to have a halal certificate. In its journey, the JPH Law came into effect starting October 17, 2019, by placing the main priority for the next five years on food products produced by micro, medium and large-scale industries. This shows that the halal certification process is an important thing for food producers to carry out their business and comply with government regulations (UU-No.33-JPH, 2014).

Actually, halal certification is not new in Indonesia. Previously, the MUI halal certificate was known which was managed by LPPOM MUI during the period 1989-2019. During this period, halal certification is voluntary, meaning that there is no obligation for the food product business unit to take care of it. In line with the development of national and international trade requirements as well as the need for legal force regarding halal certification in Indonesia, halal certification has been regulated through a law which is mandatory for business actors engaged in food products, medicines, cosmetics and consumer goods. Halal certification is currently under the coordination of the BPJPH of the Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia.

The institutions that play a role in the halal certification process are BPJPH, LPH (Halal Inspection Agency), in this case the LPPOM MUI and the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI). According to PP JPH Number 31 of 2019, BPJPH acts as an administrative service, issuing halal certificates, LPPOM MUI acts as an audit team (halal inspection agency) and MUI through the fatwa commission plays a role in issuing a halal fatwa on a product (PP-31-Tahun2019, 2019).

The consequence of this change in the halal certification management system is the limited information at the community level, especially business actors and the level of knowledge and understanding of management with the new system. Efforts to overcome this are carried out socialization activities, education, assistance by related parties, one of which is universities in the context of community service.

In support of the national policy regarding the implementation of Halal Product Assurance (JPH), BRIDA Riau Province, in collaboration with LP3H UIN Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau, held a Halal Product Process Facilitator (PPH) training. This activity aims to increase the capacity and competence of local human resources in providing halal certification assistance to business actors, particularly MSMEs. The objectives of this halal product process facilitator training for Riau Provincial government employees are: To provide an in-depth understanding of JPH policies and regulations.

- 1) To train participants in the technical and sharia processes of halal facilitation.
- 2) To prepare competent and certified PPH facilitator candidates.

According to data obtained from the Cooperative and Micro Small Business Office, Pekanbaru in February 2020, the number of micro and small business units registered in Pekanbaru City in 2015 amounted to 1,215 business units as indicated by SIUMK owned and originating from 12 sub-districts, namely Pekanbaru, Sukajadi, Payung Sekaki, Sail, Limapuluh, Senapelan, Bukit Raya, Tampan, Marpoyan Damai, Rumbai, Rumbai Pesisir and Tenayan Raya. Until the end of 2019, the total registered business units amounted to 2,101 business units, with a micro business cluster of nearly 94.28% and a small business of 5.7%. This number is estimated to be smaller than the actual number of business units (Dinas Koperasi dan Usaha Mikro Kecil, 2020).

There are several reasons why micro and small business actors have not processed halal certification, namely that many business actors do not understand the importance of halal certification and its impact on their business units, business actors do not understand the process of applying for halal certification of their products, business actors have not Understanding the use of halal certification so that they choose to postpone processing it, micro and small business actors consider the process of obtaining a certificate to be very complicated (Agustina et al., 2019).

As the largest Muslim country, Indonesia is obliged to meet the needs of halal food for citizens who

are Muslim. Along with this, the government has issued Law Number 33 of 2014 concerning Halal Product Guarantee. This law requires all industrial units both in the field of processed food/beverages to have halal certificates. Halal certificate is the requirement to get permission to put halal label on product packaging from the authorized government agency. Halal logo is essential to put on the products label, and we can be noticed whether the products are halal or not. It will help to protect Muslim consumer from non-halal products (Siska et al., 2020).

Based on a preliminary survey conducted by Halal Assurance Agency (LJH) UIN Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau on micro business groups and businesses in the Tampan area in 2019, most of the micro businesses that already have IUMK but do not have halal certification. Similar conditions were also found in the micro business group in the districts of Rumbai Pesisir and Rumbai. With the enactment of the JPH Law as of 17 October 2019, the obligation to be certified halal is one of the requirements that must be met by these micro and small business entrepreneurs.

METHOD

The study was done descriptively to analyze the assistance programs for micro business actors assisted by BRIDA in Riau Province with total of 24 participants. The list of participants is shown in Appendix 1. Speakers of this study consisted of 5 lecturers who are members of the Halal Assurance Agency, UIN Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau. The training took place on Monday–Wednesday, June 23–25, 2025, at the Riau Province Regional Personnel Agency (BKD) Competency Assessment Unit (UPT) in Pekanbaru. Participants came from various backgrounds: academics, extension workers, MSME assistants, and civil servants from relevant agencies recommended by BRIDA and LP3H.

As the programs of assistance for governments officers were done by BRIDA Riau and BPJPH UIN Suska Riau to assist UMKM that would apply for Halal Certification to the government (BPJPH) in the form of:

- 1) Conducting Trainings and Assistance on Halal Product Process for Certification . This activity was held at the Building of Uji Kompetensi Pekanbaru on June 23-25, 2025, which was attended by 24 government officers in the Riau Region. This offline activity was opened by the Chairmen of BRIDA Riau with 5 UIN Suska Riau speakers from the Halal Assurance Agency, UIN Suska Riau. The implementation is also carried out offline
- 2) Assistance in Completing Proposed Halal Certification Documents. This activity was carried out by inviting UMKM to attend UIN Suska Riau to fill out the halal certification application form that had been previously prepared by the organizer of the activity. The invited resource for this activity was the Halal Certification Executor from the BPJPH Regional Office of the Ministry of Religion of Riau Province on September 5, 2020.
- 3) Socialization of Halal Supervisor and Issuance of Halal Certificates to UMKM Assisted by BRIDA Riau in the Riau Region. The activity was carried out at the end of July 2025 at UIN Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau, which began with an opening by the host, Vice Rector of UIN Suska Riau's speech, Socialization of Halal Supervisor by Speaker, Prayers and Closing

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

1) Findings

The implementation of cooperation on halal product process assistance training for government officers in Riau Province shows significant progress in strengthening the region's capacity to build a sustainable halal ecosystem. The training program, conducted through collaboration between government institutions, halal certification bodies, and academic partners, has resulted in measurable improvements in officers' understanding of Halal Product Process Assistance (HPPA), standard operating procedures, and halal assurance system requirements.



Picture 1. Opening of Training Activity of P3H Halal for Government Officers



Picture 2. Training Activity of P3H Halal for Government Officers in Pusat Uji Kompetensi

One of the key findings is the increase in government officers' competency related to halal auditing, documentation, and field verification procedures. Participants demonstrated notable improvement in identifying critical halal control points, understanding the role of halal supervisors, and applying national halal standards set by the Indonesian Halal Product Assurance Agency (BPJPH). The program also enhanced officers' ability to guide micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in preparing documents required for halal certification.

Another important finding concerns the improvement in inter-agency coordination. Prior to the training, cooperation between local government units, regional offices, and halal certification institutions tended to be fragmented. After the training, officers reported clearer communication channels, shared responsibilities, and a more integrated workflow for monitoring and assisting MSMEs. This strengthened synergy has accelerated the verification process and reduced bottlenecks in the halal certification system.

Additionally, the training generated increased awareness among officers about the economic potential of the halal industry in Riau Province. Officers acknowledged that the halal sector serves not only as a religious obligation but also as a strategic economic driver aligned with regional development priorities. This awareness motivates officers to be more proactive in assisting businesses to meet halal standards, particularly in the food, beverage, cosmetics, and herbal product sectors.

2) Discussion

The findings suggest that cooperation-based training plays a crucial role in strengthening the institutional foundation required to build a halal ecosystem in Riau Province. The improvement in officers' competencies reflects the effectiveness of a collaborative training approach that integrates regulatory knowledge, technical skills, and practical field simulation. The model used in this program aligns with previous studies emphasizing the importance of capacity building for government personnel in halal governance systems.

The enhancement of inter-agency coordination also indicates that cooperation is not merely administrative but strategic in nature. By encouraging joint planning, synchronized monitoring, and shared

problem-solving mechanisms, the partnership supports Riau's long-term goal of becoming a regional halal hub. The strengthened collaboration mirrors global halal ecosystem frameworks, which emphasize multi-stakeholder engagement including government, industry, academia, and halal certification authorities.

Moreover, the increased awareness of economic opportunities within the halal sector positions government officers as active agents of regional economic transformation. Their improved understanding enables them to better guide SMEs through halal compliance processes, which in turn increases the number of halal-certified products in the region. This aligns with national policies that aim to position Indonesia as a global leader in halal products.

Despite these positive developments, the discussion also highlights some ongoing challenges. Limited digital infrastructure, varying levels of officers' baseline knowledge, and the need for continuous follow-up training remain concerns. An integrated digital monitoring system and periodic refresher courses would help sustain the quality of halal assistance services. Additionally, deeper collaboration with universities and research centers can support scientific verification related to ingredients and production processes.

Overall, the cooperation on halal product process assistance training has made significant contributions to building a robust halal ecosystem in Riau Province. It has strengthened human resources, institutional structures, and economic awareness—three fundamental pillars required to accelerate halal ecosystem development at the regional level.

CONCLUSIONS

The cooperation on halal product process assistance training has made significant contributions to building a robust halal ecosystem in Riau Province. It has strengthened human resources, institutional structures, and economic awareness—three fundamental pillars required to accelerate halal ecosystem development at the regional level.

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