

IMPACT OF FARM-STRUCTURE AND RELATED PROBLEMS ON AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN THE PADDY GROWING AREAS OF THE GALLE DISTRICT

The exploitation of paddy lands is largely determined by the nature of man-land relationships. This is particularly applicable to the comparatively densely populated coastal districts falling within the wet zone of Sri Lanka where the paucity of capital restrains the application of improved techniques. Paddy farming in the wet zone is therefore not scale-neutral as expected. The high population density and adverse man-land relationships have given rise to a variety of farm structures, tenurial complications, diversity of arrangements and related problems. Amongst them has been the high incidence of farm fragmentation and the consequent presence of farms of minute sizes with a number of parcels scattered throughout. As an immediate consequence of this situation, the efficiency of farm operations is hindered and farm supervision is made difficult and time consuming.

The objective of this study is to examine the nature of farm structures and related problems and their impact on farm operations. A questionnaire was administered to the farmers of nine cultivation officer areas in the Galle District and the information so gathered was analyzed and tested using chi-square statistics.

The findings revealed a few notable dimensions pertaining to farm- structures and related problems in the Galle District. Among them were the incidence of excessive fragmentation accompanied by the complicated tenurial arrangements in the paddy growing areas. The adverse impact of these problems was the recurrent wastages in the use of inputs such as seeds and fertilizer. These problems eventually lead to low productivity, low yields, and dwindling profitability. The study found most of the above findings to be statistically significant at the tested levels.

References

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