

PROFITABILITY OF PADDY PRODUCTION IN THE COASTAL REGION OF THE AMPARA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

This study attempted to show the profitability of paddy production in the coastal region of the Amparai district. This region consists of nine district secretariat divisions and 69% of paddy land areas of Amparai district and produces of 77% of the total district paddy production with the average yield of 4900 kg per hectare.

The information needed for this study were collected through a structured, pre-tested questionnaire for Maha 1999/2000 and Yala 2000. Totally 250 paddy farmers were selected for this study using double stratified random sampling technique. The stratifications were carried out across the extent and the system of irrigation. Considering the similarity in paddy cultivation practices the study areas were combined together and formed into three groups namely Nintavur (ND), Sammanthurai (SD) and Akkaraipattu (AD) divisions with sample size of 50, 125 and 75 respectively.

The study mainly analyses the cost of production (COP), yield, income and Cost-benefit ratios of paddy cultivation. There was no significant difference in COP between two seasons for the farmers from ND & AD in case of SD farmers COP was Rs 2007.00 ± 1,173.00 greater than in Maha season. Based on the analysis on yield, farmers from ND obtained higher yield than the other farmers for both seasons. When the profit was compared, the SD farmers obtained a slightly higher yield than the ND and AD farmers. With regard to total income received from the paddy cultivation ND farmers obtained higher income than the other farmers. During the study period there was no difference observed in selling price of paddy between seasons and also no significant differences obtained in selling price between three divisions. The study also revealed that the farmers obtained low return to their investment due to improper practices used in the paddy cultivation.

Key words: Paddy, yield, cost of production and cost-benefit ratio