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**INVESTIGATION ON RICE CULTIVATION IN THE
BEMINIWATTE APC AREA (ULTISOLS) (A) MONI-
TORING OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES—YALA 1975,
(B) PRELIMINARY FIELD INVESTIGATIONS—MAHA
1975 / 76.**

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The Socio-Economic Survey (1975) conducted by the Agrarian Research and Training Institute reported relatively low yields of 28-35 bu/ac in Maha 1973/74 and Yala 1974 for this area when compared with the district yields (Kegalle). This was despite the use of high yielding varieties, fertilizer and supplementary irrigation in some rice tracts. Therefore, the investigations reported in this paper were carried out with the primary objective of identifying technical constraints for achieving high acre yields.

The results of the monitoring of management practices in Yala 1975 indicate that low acre yields in this area, even with the use of improved varieties, is mainly due to a combination of inadequate and unbalanced use of fertilizer and insufficient knowledge of appropriate management practices. Unless these constraints are eliminated the mere changing over from traditional village varieties or old improved varieties eg. H₄, H₈ etc. to new improved varieties eg. Bg 11-11, Bg 34-8 etc. is unlikely to achieve substantial increases in acre yields. The data did not reveal any serious technical constraints attributable for the low yields reported.

Field experiments in cultivators' fields in Maha 1975/76 revealed that yields in the range of 80-100 bu/ac could be obtained with the variety Bg 11-11, and the current fertilizer and management recommendations of the Department of Agriculture. There were however, strong indications that substitution of concentrated super phosphate in place of the recommended Rock Phosphate could further increase yields.