

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

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The intensity of 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. The high population density and man-land relationships have given rise to a variety of farm structures, tenurial complications and numerous related problems. Amongst them had been the high incidence of farm fragmentation and the consequent presence of farms of minute size with a number of parcels scattered everywhere. 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 structure problems and the impact on farm operations.

A questionnaire was administered in 9 cultivation officer areas in the Galle District and the information so gathered was analysed and tested using chi-square statistics.

The findings reveal a few notable dimensions of the farm structure problems in the Galle District such as the incidence of excessive fragmentation accompanied by the complicated tenurial arrangements in the paddy growing areas. The impact of this state of affairs on farm operations has been found to be statistically significant at the tested level.

References

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