

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SEASONAL TANK FISHING ON PEASANTS IN THE DRY ZONE (THUNKAMA)

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Ministry of Fisheries started a pilot project for fish farming in the Dry Zone seasonal tanks, in 1979, at Thunkama in the Ratnapura district. Presently, seasonal tank fish farming has spread widely in the Dry Zone with success being recorded both technically and in socio-economic terms.

The Fisheries Master Plan (1979-1983) has a production target of 50,000 tons of fish through the inland fisheries. Since a fair extent of water bodies are seasonal tanks, the output of these may be useful to study its economic impact on peasants in those areas.

By visiting the project areas and making participation observations of peasants in Thunkama, the researcher found that it generated additional employment and village level economic activities which can be helpful in raising the socio-economic standards of peasants in the seasonal tank areas.

References

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