

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE PROVISION OF MARKET FACILITIES  
PERTAINING TO PERIODIC MARKET SYSTEMS IN HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT

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One of the most important elements of regional development strategies oriented towards agricultural development is the installation of marketing and warehousing facilities in selected market centres. In Sri Lanka, such investments have been made by Urban, Municipal, Village Councils and even national authorities for many years, yet they are often characterized by dysfunctional designs and uneconomic operation. Despite these facts, periodic markets (Pola) are vital first-hand marketing outlets for our rural folk.

The objective of the study is to assess the provision of market facilities available in the markets and their operational efficiencies. The list of periodic markets provided by the Regional Assistant Commissioner of Local Government in Hambantota is used for the study. There are 31 periodic markets in the list.

The study is based primarily on field data collected through questionnaires and observations.

The present study reveals that the provision of market facilities in the district is very poor and inadequate. Here too, there is a marked variation in the infrastructure facilities of the markets and their management. Only about 60% of the markets surveyed had permanent sheds. In order to obtain maximum benefits and provide efficient services to the society, it is suggested, that the conditions of the periodic market system be improved. There should be an adequate number of buildings of suitable design and other facilities, like water supply, drainage, sanitation etc.,

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