

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF FARMING SYSTEMS  
IN THE KANDY DISTRICT

H.M.G. Herath, S.K.D.F.F. Niranjana  
Dept. of Agricultural Econ. & Ext., University of Peradeniya.

The objective of this study is to identify differences in major farming systems in the Kandy area and suggest methods of improving farmers well-being.

A field survey was carried out in three selected villages for this purpose. Highland and lowland formed the main components of the farming systems in these villages. The three villages showed similarities as well as differences in cropping. At Mahakanda the highland had minor export crops, other perennial crops, and dairy farming and no lowland cultivation. At Pahingamuwa, the system had lowland paddy in Maha and annual crops (vegetables) in the Yala season. Minor export crops, perennial crops, and dairying was observed in the highland. At Pilimatalwa, the farming system consists of dairy farming minor export crops, perennial crops, fruit crops and timber in the highland. The lowland had paddy in Maha and vegetables in Yala.

The relative importance of the different aspects of the cropping systems differed in the three villages. These differences were due to agro-climatic factors, soil type and the landscape.

Though each system is made of a unique combination of enterprises, institutional factors such as marketing and credit were available for a few of these, and these had a discernible influence on farmers well-being.

The productivity of the systems is low. To improve productivity in all three cases additional incentives such as credit and better prices are required. Capital rather than labour was in short supply and technical knowhow was low. Any improvement of farming in these areas should focus on these aspects.

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