

**B-74 : RAINFED LEGUME AND GINGELLY FOR FALLOW
PADDY LANDS IN THE MAJOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES**
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A considerable extent of paddy lands in Sri Lanka is left fallow during Yala season due to inadequacy of water for cultivation. It has been reported that the extent of these fallowed lands in the system H of Mahaweli Irrigation Scheme ranged from 26 to 74 percent during past 10 years depending upon the water availability. Most of these lands are potentially suitable for cultivation of other field crops.

A study was carried out for three seasons (1986 - 1988) in the farmers' fields of Mahaweli System - H which would otherwise be left fallow, in order to find the possibility of growing other field crops in Yala season with seasonal rainfall. The results showed that it is possible to cultivate legumes (Cowpea, Blackgram, Greengram and Pigeonpea) and Gingelly successfully under rainfed condition using yala rainfalls. This practice would help to increase income of the farmers who fail to get irrigation water for yala cultivation, and it would increase the grain legume production in the country for which the availability of suitable land has been a constraint.