

B-07: Vegetable production in the district of Kandy

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A one year study commencing May 1990 was undertaken to identify the distribution and cropping systems of the different types vegetables cultivated within the Kandy district. Data was obtained by a questionnaire distributed among field extension workers and personal communication with farmers and observations.

The study revealed that in terms of total area, the Kandy district ranked fifth in the island with beans, tomato, cabbage, okra and gourds being the main vegetables. It also revealed that 75% of this extent was confined to one continuous area comprising the extension ranges of Talathuoya, Marassana, Manikhinna and Teldeniya. The climate that prevails in this area is different from that of the rest in term of total rainfall received, rainfall distribution during cropping season and also diurnal temperatures.

The main cultivation season here is Yala, beginning from March to August. During this 6 months period 2 to 3 successive crops are grown on the same land. During Maha, September to February, vegetable cultivation is confined to the highlands. The data collected showed that 80% of the produce from the district enters the Kandy wholesale market: 10% being sent to Colombo and the rest sold at local markets by the producer himself.