

F-13: Sources of output growth in paddy in Sri Lanka

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A study was carried out to find the sources of output growth in paddy in Sri Lanka by examining the time series data for the years 1956-1991. Analytical tools used in the study were additive component analysis and compound growth analysis. The sources identified were evaluated for their potential role in increasing paddy production.

The results indicated the relative role played by land area and productivity as sources of growth. Percentage contribution by yield and by extent were 28.50 and 67.22 respectively between 1959 and 1964. Yield recorded a percentage contribution of 63.15 between 1964 and 1969 when that of extent was 29.07. Between 1979 and 1984 the contribution by yield (94.88) was much higher than that of extent (5.34). This is a result of higher contribution by extent (55.34) than that of yield (34.35) between 1974 and 1979.

Negative growth of output between 1969 and 1974 was due to a reduction in yield while a reduction in extent contributed to the negative growth between 1984 and 1989. Asweddumised area has continued to increase over time. Fertilizer use and the role of modern varieties also contributed to increase in productivity. Cropping intensity for yala has remained constant despite increased land development.

Optimising the use of available asweddumised land and efficient use of inputs and improved cultural practices were found as the possible remedies to the

problem of stagnation as opening up of new lands was not feasible.