

**F-03 Impact of activities of Farmers' Organizations on several farming locations in Uda Walawe irrigation settlement scheme: efficiency and equity**

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In canal irrigation systems unequal and unfair distribution of water among various localities and the inadequate maintenance of distributary and field canals are the main problems. Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) is one of the alternatives to solve the problem. The impact of involvement of Farmers' Organizations (FOs) in irrigation water management on several farming locations is examined in this paper.

Murawasihena and Chandrikawewa blocks located in rehabilitated Right Bank command area of Uda Walawe system were selected for the study. Randomly selected 300 farmers were interviewed. The farmers' response towards the quantity of water, timeliness, fairness of distribution, maintenance of canals, illegal access and resolution of the problems were categorized to check whether they were better off or worse off consequent to IMT, using 5 point Lickert scale and farmers were categorized into 3 groups according to location of their fields along the field canals and distributary canals.

Most of the worse off farmers are concentrated in head end areas while worse off farmers in the middle and tail end are very small. However, the percentage of farmers who are in a better position in all aspects is remarkably higher than the percentage of farmers who are reported to be in a worse position.

Both the efficiency and the fairness of water distribution have been increased after taking over the operation and maintenance by the farmers' organizations. Most of the farmers who responded against the FOs were in the head end areas and they have used excess amount of water at the cost of tail end farmers before the FOs came to the arena.