

**F-23 An evaluation of home gardening programme, seed paddy production programme in Matara district**

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The Matara Integrated Rural Development Project and the Department of Agriculture launched a home gardening programme and 2 seed paddy production programmes in the Matara District. There were 2 approaches to the seed paddy programmes: a model paddy plot programme and a *yaya* seed paddy production programme. This study was conducted to investigate the success and sustainability of these programmes.

The data suggest that the nutritional contribution and the average size of the home garden have decreased gradually. According to the major findings of the farmer survey, the households involved in the programme have also decreased year by year. The study reveals that home gardening programme was not a success and the sustainability was marginal.

The study reveals that the total extent cultivated under the model paddy plot programme has decreased after the implementation of the programme. The average Performance Index for the previous 5 seasons of each farmer was calculated separately. Results reveal that only 16% of farmers obtained the 76-100% of target yield (70 bushels/ac) in previous seasons. Further the study revealed that there was no increase in seed paddy production under this programme. According to the major findings of the investigation, the relevant programme was not a success.

While there were 38 farmers at the beginning of the *yaya* seed paddy production programme, 18% of them have left the programme. Farmers have marginal knowledge about the programme, adverse weather conditions and marketing problems were the major reasons for the above situation. Further the study revealed that the average yield of the farmers who continue with the programme and abandoned the programme was not significant. The 2 seed paddy programmes were launched to reduce the scarcity of seed paddy in the district. However, there was no system to certify the produced seed paddy. Further, it was revealed that there was no effective marketing system to distribute seed paddy and the farmers have sold their seed paddy to the rice millers as consumption paddy.