

**B-01: Economic performance of smallholder crop-livestock based farming under coconut cultivation**

Sujatha Premaratne, M N M Ibrahim, M A W Malkanthi  
(University of Peradeniya)

The objective of the present study was to assess the economic performance of smallholder crop-livestock based farming under coconut cultivation at Kuliyaipitiya veterinary service range.

Thirty two farmers were selected and interviewed with the help of a questionnaire to gather information on family characteristics, socio-economic status, livestock information, crop information, labour distribution and monthly budget and income composition. The data were entered in Dbase-IV and analysed using db Stat package (Steenstra, 1993).

22% of farmers had less than 0.25 ha of coconut land, whereas 78% farmers had more than 0.25 ha of land. Majority of farmers (94%) kept dairy with coconut whereas 6% of farmers kept pig with coconut and poultry with coconut. Almost all farmers kept cross bred cows. About 57% of farmers practiced only grazing about 3% practiced only cutting whereas 40% of farmers used both grazing and cutting. Most of the farmers (80%) used supplementary feeding to improve the milk production of animals. 97% used artificial insemination, and 46% of the farmers provided housing for their dairy cattle. Major income source was dairy farming for majority of farmers, while 50% of farmers generate more than Rs. 3000 per month from dairying and, 38% of farmers generate more than Rs.3000 per month from coconut. Livestock, has an important role as they contribute substantial income to the family, and income from mixed cropping including paddy were less compared to livestock farming with coconut.

Major constraints faced by farmers in the study area were: high feed cost, unavailability of feed, lack of capital, low price of milk and lack of knowledge.