

B-08: Economic evaluation of cattle farming in the Batticaloa district

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Improvement of the productivity of dairy sub-sector is vital to meet the rapid growing national milk demand. A survey was carried out to perform economical evaluation of cattle farming and to identify the socio-economic condition of cattle farmers in the Batticaloa district. The study was conducted in 3 selected Divisional Secretariat (D.S) divisions out of 12 in the district. The names of all recorded cattle rearing farmers were collected and pooled. From that, 60 sample farmers were selected using the simple random sampling technique and were personally interviewed with the use of a structured questionnaire. Information

on animal numbers per farm, average yield of a farm, average income of a farmer, average cost involved in the industry and the farming system practised were obtained from field studies.

Mainly middle aged farmers were engaged in the industry practising extensive management system. The cost of production of one litre of cow milk was estimated as Rs. 6.76 and the average income from one litre of milk was Rs.10.79 (which was derived from selling of fresh milk and culled animals). Marketing of milk was mainly done through milk collection centres, middlemen and direct selling to local consumers.

The study concludes that the cattle farming is a profitable enterprise in the Batticaloa district. However, the degree of profitability is low mainly due to low production of milk which can be enhanced by improving the cattle farming techniques, facilities and support services available to the farmers.