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Any agricultural activity depends mainly on the availability of land and water. As annual rainfall is decreasing, water is becoming a very limited resource in Monaragala District. This situation is likely to have adverse effects on future agricultural activities in the district. This study was designed to investigate the impact of water on future agricultural development activities in the district.

Information on water resources and agricultural activities were collected using anthropological research methods such as field observations, interview, causal conversation, updating base maps and questionnaire surveys. Stratified random sampling was employed to select farmers from each divisional secretary's division. Average a= sample size was thirty farmers per division. A questionnaire survey was conducted among selected farmers.

Threw are eight basins in the district. Total basins surplus of water in the district is estimated as 638.9 million cubic meters per year. But seventy five per cent of this surplus comes during October, November and December. During the rest of the period except March and April, all the basins suffer from water deficit.

More than forty per cent of total agricultural area of 0.1 million hectares has become uncultivable due to scarcity of water. Eighty per cent of cultivated land is occupied by paddy, annual crops and semi-permanent crops, which are the most water demanding towards brands with higher trader margins. Advising farmers to contact an extension agent was not a familiar strategy.

As water is becoming a limited natural resource not only the land use efficiency of agricultural crops, but water use efficiency should also be considered in planning future agricultural activities in the district. Therefore, future agricultural activities should be planned to change the present pattern of water inefficient crops by introducing more water efficient crops such as banana and maize into the district.