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**Evaluation of gaps between farmer organizations and farmers on technology transfer
– a case study in Mahaweli H region**

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Though there are more than hundred farmer organizations in the Mahaweli H region, technology transfer to achieve sustainable agricultural development in the area is poor. Sustainable agricultural development approaches could perform well, bringing solutions to food security issues. A well organized farmer organization can play a major role in bridging the communication & technology gaps between farmers and various organizations involved in technology transfer. A farmer organization is the form of a cooperative to provide new technologies, various inputs, marketing and educational services to enhance socio-economic well-being of the farmers. To satisfy the objectives of the study, three farmer organizations in the Mahalluppallama block in the Mahaweli H region were selected and the social profile of farmer families in the area was developed. Participatory rural appraisal tools were practiced to evaluate the socio-economic well-being of farmers and their perceptions of agricultural development. The secondary data on farmers, government and non-governmental organizations, community groups etc were acquired to further satisfy the objectives. The results indicate that benefits such as training programs, subsidies and innovated agricultural technologies offered by various organizations were unequally distributed due to lack of information transparency, ineffective communication and poor participation in common activities. Women empowerment is significantly debated in technology transfer and should be addressed especially in irrigation based rural farmer groups to achieve gender equality and related millennium development goals by 2015. Though rural farmers have adopted micro-irrigation technologies donated by various organizations, lack of technical knowledge and assistance required for operation and maintenance can be referred to as a knowledge gap and this is essential for technology transfers. The lack of implementation of extension services by various organizations and lack of commitment of officers in-charge have enhanced knowledge gaps between new technologies and farmer communities. It has lessened the socio-economic well-being of farmers and thus a well-established approach in technology transfer in farmer communities is a prerequisite to achieve sustainable agricultural development.