

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF PADDY
CULTIVATION IN NANATTAN DIVISIONAL
SECRETARIAT, MANNAR**

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ABSTRACT

Rice is the staple food and principal crop in Sri Lanka. It is the staple food for 21 million population of Sri Lanka. Paddy production in Sri Lanka for 2011/2012 recorded a high production of 4.869 million metric tons in two main cultivation seasons. The low yield of paddy is a major problem in Mannar District. The total land area in Mannar District is 554720 acres out of which 57710 acres are cultivable lands. The majority of population in Mannar District depends on income derived out of agriculture production. The objectives of the research were to identifying the major problems of paddy cultivation in the District, and to suggest appropriate measure to solve the problems of paddy cultivation in the District for maximizing the yield. Narivilikulam village area of Mannar District was selected as the study site. Fifty households were randomly selected from the village and a structured questionnaire was used to study the problems of paddy cultivation. Information was obtained from interviews with household members, direct observation and some secondary data from other sources such as Department of Agriculture, Meteorological Department and statistical branch of Mannar Kachchri. According to the findings, the major problems of paddy cultivation in the Mannar District are fetch low price for paddy due to lack of market facilities, water scarcity during the “Yala” season, pest and disease problems, lack of storage facilities and threshing floor facilities, Inadequate supply of pure seed paddy, inadequacy of labour, use of low organic matter and wild animals are some problems. The remedying of these problems will helps local people to fulfill their socio economic needs in several ways. To request the Government through Government Agent to improve the market facilities and implement paddy based industries in order to absorb excess yield during harvesting period by maintaining reasonable price level. An attempt was made to assess the management of major and minor irrigation system as a common pool resource and to identify the constraints on paddy cultivation and the feasibility of rehabilitation of minor and major irrigation tank could increase the storage capacity of tank during rainy season and help for “Yala” cultivation and animals need. Proper management practices should be implemented with proper time of sowing, fertilizer application, usage of pesticides and weedicides and harvesting to reduce pest and disease problem. Request the Agricultural Service Center to provide with suitable and appropriate pure seed paddy. Animal damages could be minimized by erecting fences and making a group of people from farmer for security purpose. Contribution of more family labour would be another solution to make paddy cultivation profitable. This will reduce the socio economic problems of paddy cultivation, to improve their livelihood, education of the children, poverty alleviation and also it will lead to achieve self sufficiency in rice in the country.