

**A STUDY ON FARMER'S KNOWLEDGE AND ADOPTION OF
GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN RAMBUTAN
CULTIVATION: A CASE STUDY IN KALUTARA DISTRICT**



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ABSTRACT

This study explores the knowledge and adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) among rambutan farmers in the Kalutara District, Sri Lanka. GAP is a set of principles aimed at ensuring sustainable agriculture, food safety, and environmental protection. The main objective of this research was to assess the level of awareness, understanding, and implementation of GAP among selected rambutan cultivators. Using a qualitative approach, primary data were collected through face-to-face interviews guided by a structured interview guideline with six certified farmers. Thematic analysis was used to analyze the responses. Findings reveal that while most farmers had a basic understanding of GAP, their knowledge was primarily shaped by agricultural officers and training programs conducted by the Department of Agriculture and affiliated institutions. Key GAP components such as record-keeping, proper pruning, orchard hygiene, and responsible pesticide use were partially adopted, with varying levels of commitment. Farmers experienced notable benefits such as improved yield quality and quantity, though challenges remained particularly in marketing, price fluctuations, and lack of technical equipment. Furthermore, the study found low awareness of value-added opportunities like processed rambutan products, though farmers expressed interest in such initiatives if proper guidance is provided. The results emphasize the need for continuous farmer training, better market access, and policy support to enhance GAP adoption. This research contributes to understanding the current status of GAP in rambutan cultivation and provides insights for strengthening sustainable agricultural practices in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Rambutan cultivation, Sri Lanka

TABLE OF CONTENT

DECLARATION.....	iv
DEDICATION.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	vi
ABSTRACT.....	vii
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	viii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	x
LIST OF TABLES.....	xi
ABBREVIATIONS.....	xii
CHAPTER 01.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.3 Research Gap.....	4
1.4 Objectives of this Study.....	5
1.4.1 General Objective.....	5
1.4.2 Specific Objectives.....	5
1.5 Interview Guidelines.....	5
1.6 The significance of the Study.....	6
1.7 Organization of the Study.....	7
CHAPTER 02.....	8
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	8
2.1 Over view of rambutan cultivation.....	8
2.2 Introduction to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).....	15
2.3 Farmer's Awareness and Knowledge on GAP.....	17
2.4 Adoption of GAP among farmers.....	18
2.5 Identified research gap.....	19
CHAPTER 03.....	20
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	20
3.1 Introduction.....	20
3.2 Research Design.....	20

3.3 Study Area.....	21
3.4 Sample Selection.....	22
3.5 Data Collection	22
3.5.1 Interview Guidelines	23
3.6 Data Analysis	24
3.7 Ethical Considerations	24
CHAPTER 04	25
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	25
4.1 Introduction.....	25
4.2 Socio-Demographic Profile of the Respondents.....	25
4.3 Farmers’ Knowledge on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)	26
4.3.1 Awareness and Introduction to GAP.....	27
4.3.2 Sources of GAP Information and Training	28
4.4 Adoption of GAP in Rambutan Cultivation.....	29
4.5 Impacts and Benefits of GAP Adoption	30
4.5.1 Supports Available for GAP.....	31
4.6 Challenges Faced in Adopting GAP	31
4.7 Summary of Key Findings	33
CHAPTER 05	34
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	34
5.1 Introduction.....	34
5.1.1 Findings of the Study	34
5.3 Conclusion	35
5.4 Recommendations.....	35
5.5 Suggestions for Future Research.....	37
5.2 Limitations of this Study.....	37
REFERENCES	39
ANNEXURES	42