

Dry Fish Production in Trincomalee District: Status and Prospects

Dayaani Harold and Krishnal Thirumarpan

Department of Agricultural Economics,

Faculty of Agriculture

Eastern University, Sri Lanka

E-Mail: dayaas.varsha@gmail.com

Abstract

In Sri Lanka, increasing population create higher food demand and scarcity of local food production. Fisheries were believed to support the livelihoods of over 10% of the population in many coastal areas directly. Fish represent a major source of animal protein in Sri Lankan diet. However, it is more susceptible to spoilage than other animal food. This study attempted to determine the socio-economic status of dry fish producers, the factors affecting production of dry fish and to identify the problems in dry fish production in Trincomalee. Proportionate sampling was done and from Kinniya, Trincomalee Town and Gravets and Kuchaveli D.S. division altogether 80 samples were collected. Results revealed that mean household size was 4.3 while average family income per month was Rs.21200.00. Mean cost of production of dry fish was Rs.152.09 per Kg. Average selling price of dry fish 433.50 Rs/Kg. Nethali dry fish was produced in high amount due to higher demand. OLS regression results revealed that fish purchasing cost, Hired labour cost, producer's experience in dry fish production, and household size had significant impact on income of producer. A unit increase in the producer experience will lead to 4.9% increase in the income ($p < 0.01$). If fish cost will increase by one the income will reduce by 1.8%. The rainy period affected the drying of fish and 28.75% of producers hadn't storage facilities. The results of this investigation indicate that there are avenues to improve the dry fish production to meet the high demand. Therefore policies should be formulated to support the dry fish producers to overcome their problems and to sustain the productivity.

Keywords: Income, dry fish, production