

Services in Batticaloa District

T. Geretharan^{1*}, C. Sivayoganathan² and M. M. Mahusoon³

¹ *Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka*

² *Department of Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka*

³ *Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka*

This paper examines the access and benefits of cattle farmers on the veterinary extension services provided by veterinary offices in Batticaloa district. The population of this study consisted of cattle farmers from two veterinary ranges (Kaluwanchikudy and Chenkalady) in Batticaloa district. A total of 120 cattle farmers were randomly selected for this study and personal interview method was employed to collect data. Secondary data necessary for the study were also collected. The study revealed that majority of respondents were in the age of 36 – 50 years and males (96.7%) were dominant in farming activities than females. Most of the respondents had farming experience from 06 years to 10 years and majority of them (72.5%) had herd size ranging from 1 to 10 animals. Around 85% reared only local breeds and reared cattle for dual purpose, milk and meat. All respondents expressed that they were provided with Artificial Insemination services and improved grasses. Also, favorable responses were obtained for the provision of drugs for livestock farmers and caring of livestock diseases. 91% of the respondents reported that the extension/technical assistance was not available to them on a regular basis. Most of the farmers (75%) in the district had their membership with some livestock organization. By having membership farmers were able to get a wide range of benefits like buying agricultural supplies at lower prices, commercialization of products, and representation in the sector.