

DIFFERENT LIFT IRRIGATION METHODS ADOPTED IN JAFFNA PENINSULA
FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

BY

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ABSTRACT

This survey was conducted in four Agrarian Service Centre divisions namely Mallur, Pulloly, Chavakachcheri and Puttur in the Jaffna Peninsula which is located in the northern part of Srilanka. The basic study objectives are described and the selection of methodologies are discussed.

The Socio Economic characteristics of the farming community are also discussed and analysed even though it is not the primary objective of this study. High literacy rates were observed in all the study locations. More than 80% of the farmers were identified as full time farmers. Farming experience, Number of family members involved in farming, Average holding size and land use and type of soil are also discussed under the Socio Economic characteristics.

The observed Lift irrigation methods at the study locations are analysed. The present percentages of the different irrigation methods are compared with that in the past to assess the degree of adaptation of new methods. It is evident that more than 95% of the farmers are presently using either kerosene or electric water pumps. The well sweep which once characterized the agricultural landscape of this region is now considered inefficient. Presently kerosene and electricity are the main sources of power for irrigation pumps. Unavailability of electricity supply at the field level is found to be limiting the use of electric pumps. Information collected to estimate the cost of irrigation using kerosene pumps show that the rates are now at a high level reflecting the recent increases in fuel prices.

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