

Economics of seed Paddy production

in

the coastal belt of Ampara District, Sri Lanka

by

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Abstract

One of the most important factors contributing to maximum agricultural production per unit area of land is the use of better seed. Poor seed quality and scarcity of seeds were the major problems in paddy sector.

The study was attempted to assess the requirement and production of paddy seed, and to compare the cost of production and profit margin seed paddy & consumption paddy. An emphasis is also given to find out the problem in seed and the reasons for these conditions.

The data were collected by interviewing a stratified random sampling of 80 normal paddy-cultivating farmers and 40 self-seed farmers and 4 seed paddy enterprises from coastal belt of ampara district.

The major problems associated with seed paddy production were lack of superior quality seeds, poor management, and no incentives to the farmers.

The seed farmers in the coastal belt of Ampara do not show interest in quality assurance of seed paddy by the DOA. This leads to uncertainty of seed paddy.

The problems encounter by farmers in the study area in obtaining seed paddy were the scarcity, poor quality and high price.

The information collected revealed that the majority of the seed-producing farmers adopt the better cultivation practices than non seed- producing farmers. These practices include intensive management, rouging and some special post harvest activities. Hence, these practices increase the cost of production of seed paddy, by Rs.5577.46 per hectare. At the same time these practices increase the quality of seed paddy and there by increase the profit by Rs. 9643.90 per hectare. Therefore, farmers should be encouraged to undertake seed paddy production.

Majority of the farmers shows special interest in selecting their seed paddy. Although the DOA provides quality-certified seed, the farmers were unable to enjoy this benefit due to higher price.

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