

## AN ASSESSMENT OF FARMER PARTICIPATION IN IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT UNDER TRADITIONAL VILLAGE TANKS IN ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT

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In traditional village tank irrigation schemes, water shortage for cultivation is the most crucial issue which sometimes leads to a complete abandonment of the seasonal cultivation. At present, farmers fail to practice a productive cultivation under traditional village tanks. This study focuses on assessing farmer participation in irrigation management. The study was conducted in Horowpothana and Thalawa Divisional Secretariat Divisions (DSDs) of Anuradapura district based on 10 village tanks. Fifty farmers were selected at random for the study from tank command area. Data of the study were collected by conducting a questionnaire survey.

Inferential statistics and regression were used as tools of analyzing data. Participation for the water saving agronomic practices was assessed during the *yala* and *maha* season. More than 50 percent participation was observed for all the practices irrespective of the season. Compared to the *yala* season participation in *maha* season was high. Furthermore, the determinants such as education level of the farmer, cropping intensity, type of water source, farm location along the main channel were investigated to identify factors contributing total water usage of the farmers. Cropping intensity and location of the farm had significant impact on the total water usage. Negative relationship which was identified between water ways and farm location says that farmers of the first part of the main channel use excess amount of water. Based on the results, it can be concluded that there is a poor participation of the farmers of first part along the channel for the irrigation management during *yala* season.

**Key words:** Village Tanks, Farmer Participation in Irrigation Management, *Yala*, *Maha*