

**WILLINGNESS TO ADOPT GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES
(GAPs) BY VEGETABLE FARMERS IN ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT,
SRI LANKA**

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Vegetables are an essential component in food production and consumption. Farmers tend to obtain a higher yield by adopting improper agricultural practices which are not recommended by the Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka, leading to high cost of production and many health issues. Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) have been introduced to vegetable farmers to mitigate the adverse effect of improper agricultural practices and increase profit. This study aimed to identify the level of adoption and the factors affecting the use of GAPs by the vegetable farmers in *Anuradhapura* district. A sample of 120 vegetable farmers from four DS divisions: *Thambuththegama*, *Galenbindunuwea*, *Rambewa*, *Medawachchiya* were selected using two stage purposive sampling technique. Semi-structured pre-tested questionnaire was used to collect information on demographic, production and cultivation factors. Level of adoption (LADOPT) of GAPs was calculated based on the numbers of GAPs adapted by farmers. Farmers were categorized as good, moderate and poor level of GAPs practitioners based on the LADOPT scores. Data were summarized using descriptive methods and multiple linear regression model was used to identify the relationship between LADOPT scores and other variables. Results showed that 28%, 40% and 32% of respondents practice good, moderate and poor LADOPT respectively. Good adopters have a higher income compared to the moderate and poor level of adopters. Sixty percent of vegetable farmers were willing to practice GAPs if they receive required the knowledge and information. Results further revealed that adoption of GAPs was significantly related with education level ($p=0.0489$), farming experience ($p=0.0340$), awareness on GAPs ($p<0.0001$), unit cost ($p=0.0096$) and unit income ($p=0.0086$). Awareness is a crucial factor for adopting GAPs by vegetable farmers. Appropriate training, extension and awareness programs are needed for popularizing the GAPs among vegetable farmers in *Anuradhapura* district, Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Adoption level, Good agricultural practices, LADOPT scores, Vegetable farmers