

FACTORS AFFECTING LOW ADAPTATION OF ORGANIC VEGETABLE FARMING: A CASE STUDY OF KURUNEGALA DISTRICT

W.P. Madushankha and L.P. Rupasena

Department of Agricultural Systems, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.

Although organic farming is associated with ecologically and economically sustainable form of agriculture, its adaptation is extremely low in Sri Lanka. Therefore, this study was conducted to examine factors affecting organic vegetable farming in *Kurunegala* district. A total of 100 farmers representing 50 each in organic and nonorganic were interviewed using a pretested questionnaire. Demographic analysis, binary logistic regression, and Likert scales were used to analyze the data. Demographic analysis showed that the family labor has a strong relationship with the adaptation of organic farming and women are more involved in organic farming (46%) than nonorganic farming (24%). Further, organic farmers are more educated having O/L or above (56%) than conventional farmers (46%). The likelihood ratio statistic of 40.61 is statistically significant ($p < 0.01$) showing that identified ten variables in logic model are major determinants of adaptation of organic farming. Number of family labor ($p = 0.001$), high demand for organic product ($p = 0.012$) and age of the farmers ($p = 0.002$) have positive impact while low yield of organic farming ($p = 0.019$) and farmer experiences in agriculture ($p = 0.001$) have negative impact on adaptation of organic farming. Income and cost of production have no significant impact on adaptation of organic versus inorganic vegetable farming. Nevertheless, a higher productivity of nonorganic farming was reported compared to the organic farming. Likert scale analysis showed that the majority of organic farmers have limited constraints compared to the nonorganic farmers. The problems of supplying of fertilizers, controlling pest and diseases and producing large quantities of organic products were faced by organic farmers at present. In conclusion, low adaptation of organic farming is mainly due to farmers' perception of low yield of organic farming, and lack of financial support to produce organic vegetables. Major recommendations for prompting organic farming are organizing farmer training and provision of credits.

Keywords: Nonorganic, Organic, Sustainable, Vegetable