

**INFORMATION NEEDS AND SEEKING BEHAVIOR OF MINOR
IRRIGATION PADDY FARMERS TO MANAGE CLIMATE RISKS IN
ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA**

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A significant gap existing between available information of advanced technology in agriculture and what farmers actually practice to mitigate climate risks increases the vulnerability of minor irrigation paddy farming systems. This study aimed to investigate farmers' information needs, the determinants of information utilization and the constraints contributing to information seeking behavior in *Anuradhapura* district. Stratified random sampling method was used to select 200 paddy farmers in minor irrigation systems to conduct the questionnaire survey. Descriptive and quantitative analysis were occupied in data analysis. Descriptive statistics revealed that, majority of the respondents are males (67%), literate (94%) and representing the age group of 51-66 years (46%). The majority (65%) has paddy lands less than 2 acres. The most needed information by the respondents were information on extension services (75%), rain water harvesting methods (74%), climate and weather forecasting (65%), newly improved varieties (59%), weed control techniques (57%) and paddy storage and paddy marketing plans (57%). The Garret's ranking method identified the significant challenges for climate change adaptation as wild animal attacks, lack of access to finance, high cost of adaptation measures, poor access to farm inputs and lack of awareness on information communication technology respectively. According to logistic regression results, respondents' age {Odds Ratio (OR)=0.941}, gender (OR=0.434), education level (OR=23.020), land extent (OR= 1.773) and participation for training (OR= 2.692) are significantly ($P<0.05$) influencing the information seeking behavior of them. Moreover, most severe constraints contributing to information seeking behavior were lack of awareness of information sources (69%), lack of finance (60%), lack of infrastructure (50%), and language barrier (42%) since many information comes in English language. Therefore, the study suggests the need of improvements in private and public extension services to make farmers aware on updated information sources and motivate farmers to seek more information in order to mitigate climate change risks of minor irrigation paddy farming systems in *Anuradhapura* district.

Keywords: Climate change, Information needs, Paddy farming system,