

**THE IMPACT OF YAYA PROGRAM ON PADDY PRODUCTION IN SRI
LANKA**

A.P.S. Fernando¹, R.M. Herath², Y.M. Wickramasinghe¹

¹*Department of Agricultural Systems, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.*

²*Socio Economics and Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.*

The *yaya* program is an agricultural extension effort introduced by the Department of Agriculture as a strategy to increase the national average of paddy yields which has been stagnated around 3.5 tons per hectare.

This study investigated the farm level performance and resource use efficiencies of adopters and non-adopters of *yaya* program in Polonnaruwa district. The sample size was 42 adopters and 40 non-adopters selected using a three stage sampling technique.

The simple tabular and graphical analyses revealed that only a few number of farmers adopted the use of straight fertilizers. All adopters used certified quality seeds. Considerable difference was not observed between adopters and non-adopters in the use of organic manure though adoption was poor. Adoption of recommended land preparation methods was also very low.

Costs and benefits showed that the average yield levels, average costs of cultivation and average profits of adopters and non-adopters were not significantly different from each other ($P < 0.05$).

Cobb-Douglas production function was fitted to paddy output which was considered a function of quantity of seed, fertilizer and labour, cost of machinery, agrochemicals and farm size for adopters and non-adopters.

Farm size and seed were the most important input variables with high production elasticities among adopters while, seed, farm size and labour were the most important input variables with high production elasticities of non-adopters. Production functions of both farmer groups demonstrated constant returns to scale.

The allocation of resources by both farmer groups was insufficient. Land was inefficiently used by adopters while it was used efficiently by non-adopters. Fertilizer was highly over used while seed was under used by non-adopters whereas labour was over used by both farmer groups.

Increasing the availability of straight fertilizer and certified seed, increasing the accessibility to farm machineries, strengthening of extension services, making arrangements for cheaper credit facilities and increasing the availability of irrigation water could be recommended for the *yaya* program.

Key words: Paddy, *Yaya* program, Adopters, Non-adopters