

CONTRIBUTION OF DIARY FARM VILLAGE PROJECT (DFVP) ON HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY

S.M.C.B. Samarakoon, A.P.S. Fernando and G.A.S. Ginigaddara

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

This study was conducted to analyze the impact of the DFVP on food security, income, consumption expenditure and consumption of milk and milk based products by project beneficiaries using a sample of 60 project beneficiaries and 60 non-beneficiaries. A survey was conducted to collect data pertaining to project outputs in three Divisional Secretariat areas namely Mihintale, Galenbindunuwewa and Kahatagasdigiliya in Anuradhapura district. A semi-structured questionnaire was used as the tool of collecting data. Thus, the analysis was performed on the basis of with and without project. Food security of two samples was analyzed using economic vulnerability method and the outcome showed all the farmers under the study is food secured and significant difference was not observed in food security levels between the two samples ($p > 0.05$). Income as a measure of affordability to food was compared between two farmer groups and it was also explored that difference in the total income and income from dairy based products were not significant ($p > 0.05$). In addition to the income levels, difference in consumption expenditures was also tested for their statistical significance between the two groups. It was revealed that none of the total consumption expenditure, consumption expenditure on milk and milk based products and expenditure on non-milk protein sources (cereals and legumes) were significant ($p > 0.05$). In terms of physical access to milk and milk based products it was observed that beneficiaries had quick access over the non-beneficiaries ($p < 0.05$). Thus, beneficiaries demonstrated quick access to market places that sell milk and milk based products. Based on the results it can be concluded that both farmer groups are food secured irrespective of the beneficiary category. Both groups have equal affordability to food, milk, milk based products and other protein sources. However, beneficiaries have more physical access to milk and milk based products compared to non-beneficiaries. Therefore, it is evident that, some of the aspects of food security like accessibility, availability of some processed products and marketing facilities has been increased owing to the project. Hence, suggestions are made to make necessary alterations in future projects in order to accomplish left over aspects of food security in the present project.

Key words: Consumption, DFVP, Economic vulnerability method, Food Security, Milk products