

Qualitative Review on Impact of Technology for Sustainable Entre-Agriculture (Special Reference to Uva Province)

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Sri Lanka being a tropical country, with an agricultural based economy, development and expansion through sustainable technological knowledge is a vital necessity. Hence, this study was carried out to explore the impact of technology on entrepreneurial agriculture. A cross sectional qualitative analysis was carried out with a random sample of 50 entrepreneurial farmers in 5 areas in the Uva Province. The data were collected through an interviewer administered questionnaire and analyzed through thematic analytical method. Impact of technology was assessed based on; input gaining ways, method of using fertilizer, interaction with the foreign technologies and growth of the harvest through years. A majority (51.1%) of farmers purchase plants from private sectors and majority of them (73.8%) use chemical fertilizer, which they purchase through private companies and only 16.3% receive subsidies. Out of total expenses, 80% is allocated towards pesticides, which is largely driven by the lack of knowledge with regards to weed control. Though the farmers spent much of their time on cultivation, only 3% of farmers were able to meet their basic needs. As a result, farmers are not motivated to search knowledge or for new technology. This situation is further exacerbated by the lack of proper outreach by the government to enhance the knowledge of farmers. During an agricultural season, farmers sacrifice their time and finances to purchase basic inputs, fertilizers and pesticides but do not gain satisfactory income. They also do not use technology due to lack of guidance and knowledge about available technologies and lack of support from the government. Practices such as continuous training sessions, acknowledge and guidance to interact with technology are recommended.

Keywords: Technology, entre-agriculture, sustainability, satisfaction, Uva Province