

**EFFECTIVENESS OF ASTROLOGICAL PRACTICES IN CONTROLLING
PEST INCIDENTS IN GINGER AND TURMERIC-
(A CASE STUDY IN WATHURAKUMBURA VILLAGE IN YATINUWARA
DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT)**

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Ginger (*Zingiber officinale* Roscoe) and Turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) which are minor export agricultural crops in Sri Lanka are vulnerable to pest attacks. As a strategy to overcome this problem, the Department of Export Agriculture introduced new agronomic practices including astrological aspects in 2010. This study was aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of astrological aspects in controlling pest incidents in Ginger and Turmeric production in Wathurakumbura village in Yatinuwara Divisional Secretariat. A field survey was conducted to collect quantitative and qualitative data using a pre-tested questionnaire. Key informant discussions and observations were also done. Stratified random sampling was used to select 30 adopted families and 30 non-adopted families. The impact of pest incident, type of the damage, nature of the damage and impact of astrological aspects were measured. About 73% of the farmers believe that pest damages have reduced directly as a result of adopting astrological practices. The main reason for non-adopters for not to practice this method was lack of time. There is no significant difference in the market prices of ginger and turmeric produced by adopters and non-adopters. About 62% farmers stated that they have to face market problem in selling these products. According to the discussions had with farmers it was found that many farmers believe this as a successful method. It is recommended to conduct more training classes and field demonstrations on astrological practices for farmers in the area in order to increase the rate of adoption.

Keywords: Astrological aspects, Eco-Friendly Farming, Ginger, Turmeric