

**PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF  
AGRICULTURAL CROPS IN THE SPECIAL  
PROJECT, INGINIMITIYA**

**By**

**S. M. Saman Bandulasena**

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## ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka is a country where national economy depends heavily on agriculture. In the year 2001, the agriculture sector alone contributed 18.8% to the gross national income of Sri Lanka and employed 35% of the labour. Furthermore, nearly 80% of the population of Sri Lanka lives in rural areas where agriculture is the main source of income. Hence, agricultural development would increase local food supply while generating self – employment opportunities for the rural poor.

Inginimitiya project is one of the major investments on agricultural development and was completed in 1985. Total cost of the project was Rs. 340 million. However, the project has failed to accomplish its objectives satisfactorily and this study attempts to identify the constraints in this project. Relevant information was collected from various secondary sources as well as through a field survey. To gather primary data, a sample of 150 farmers, six traders and relevant officials of various organizations, were interviewed.

Simple tabular methods such as totals, averages, percentages etc, and simple linear regression analysis were the techniques employed in data analyses and processing. Results of the analyses were presented in statistical tables, graphs and charts.

In the study it was found that 1. inadequate technical knowledge among farmers, 2. mal-practices of the officials and 3. poor water management were the main factors contributed to the prevailing conditions of the project area. Profits of agriculture could be enhanced by increasing efficiency of resources allocated to agriculture, strengthening marketing channels, storage of produce for off seasonal market, value addition and cultivation of cash crops.

A better coordination among farmer organizations and state agencies is mandatory in enhancing profitability of agriculture in Inginitiya, as at present there is a minimum level of coordination among these organizations.

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